**Christ is All!**

James Smith

*"Christ is all!"*[Colossians 3:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Col%203.11)

The Gospel is the *revelation of Jesus Christ*, as . . .
the manifester of God,
Savior of his people,
and the sufficient portion of all who believe on his name.

He possesses in himself, every conceivable excellence — and communicates to his people, every real good. He is exhibited to our view in a variety of *characters* — and pressed upon our attention by a variety of *figures*. Indeed, the Holy Spirit, in glorifying Jesus, has seized upon everything in nature calculated to . . .
enlighten the understanding,
impress the memory, and
furnish the judgment —
with right views, and just ideas of his excellence and glory. So that having Christ set before us in almost every object that presents itself to our view — we might have our *meditations*filled with him, and our *faith*exercised upon him. Being prone to forget him — the Spirit uses almost every object to remind us of him. Everywhere and by all things, we are instructed "in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ," and are reminded of his excellencies and suitability to poor sinners. We cannot take a walk — but a vast number of things conspire to remind us of Him, of whom Moses in the law and the Prophets wrote; and if our minds were spiritual — we would be constantly deriving "instruction" and "edification" from nature and art, in reference to him whom we love and adore.

I propose therefore that you should accompany me, and that we should take a short walk together, in order to notice just a few of the *objects*which speak unto us of Jesus, in the immediate vicinity of our homes.

Come Holy Spirit, shed your light,
The love of Christ reveal;
Unfold the Savior to our sight,
Let us your influence feel.

***~~Christ, the WAY~~***

The moment we commence our undertaking, at the very first step, we cast our eyes downward and think we hear him say, "I am the WAY." The *road*preaches to us Jesus — as the medium by which we escape wrath and obtain mercy. This highway leads us from sin — to holiness, from self — to God. It supports us in our approaches to the throne of grace, and enables us to enter into the holiest, by his precious blood. It conducts us *directly to God*, as being reconciled to the Father, and furnishes us with motives for gratitude at every step.

It is a **living**way — refreshing, strengthening, and enlivening the weak and timid traveler; thus rendering journeying pleasant and delightful.

It is indeed precious and profitable to *come*to God by Jesus Christ — we have not only safety but peace; "peace which passes understanding." Every cause of fear is removed. God provided the *road*that we may approach, and has sent us his *invitation*, saying, "Come boldly unto the throne of grace, that you may obtain mercy, and find grace to help you in every time of need!"

***~~Christ, the STONE~~***

But see, before us lies a STONE — it may be an occasion of stumbling; it was refused by yon builders, and is now cast away. O my Savior, who was "despised and rejected of men;" the foolish "builders rejected" you, and many have stumbled at you since!

Some stumble at the glory of your *Divinity* — and some at the low estate of your *Manhood*.

Some are offended with your *doctrines* — and some reject your *precepts*.

Some deny your *atonement* — and others would *join*their performances with your perfect righteousness.

But few . . .
perceive your glory,
embrace your salvation,
and triumph in your name!

On this STONE, we may rest from legal labors!

On this stone, we may build for "eternal life."

It is . . .
as *firm*as the pillars of Heaven,
as *durable*as the days of eternity,
and as *strong*as the arm of God!

But *why*do so many *stumble*at Jesus — instead of building upon him? "The god of this world has blinded their minds" and hardened their hearts! They do not see his excellencies — the light of the glorious gospel is prevented shining into their hearts — and therefore they refuse the only provision which the God of mercy has made for their needs. Unhappy creatures! Miserable state! Those who reject Christ now — shall be rejected by him forever.

O how wondrous the grace which . . .
opened my eyes,
sanctified my will, and
controlled my affections!

But for grace, Jesus would have been "a stone of stumbling, and rock of offence," to me! I also would have stumbled at the Word, and he whom I now adore — would have been refused and rejected by me. Join me, you highly favored souls, to whom Christ is precious, who are daily coming to him "as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men — but chosen of God, and precious;" join me in giving glory to the *riches of sovereign grace!*Join me in praising the blessed Comforter, who *revealed*Jesus to our hearts — and *formed*him in us the hope of glory.

***~~Christ, the VINE~~***

On the side of this house, grows a fruitful vine. Jesus is the TRUE VINE — and all his people are *branches*in him. They are united to him by faith and love — and derive from him all their verdure, beauty, fruitfulness, and life. Could they be separated but one moment from Jesus — they must droop, fade, and die. He is the *stem*which supports them, and the *root*which supplies them. They bear fruit in him, fruit of the same nature as the vine to which they are united — good fruit. They are entirely dependent upon him, and separate from him — they can do nothing. God expects to find *fruit*on every branch that professes to be united unto the living vine; and every branch that bears no fruit, is taken away and cast into the fire.

The *fruit-bearing*branch is *pruned*; sanctified trials and troubles are employed, to detach it from earth — and to lead it unto closer fellowship with the Lord Jesus. The gracious influences of the Holy Spirit — like the wind; the communications of Jesus' grace — like the rays of the sun; and the rain of the Father's blessing — unite to make these branches fruitful and beauteous.

True and living "VINE," let me realize union to you, live in real dependence upon you, derive all my nourishment from you, and bring forth much fruit to your praise and glory! I would . . .
possess your nature,
cheer your people,
ornament your house,
and be grateful to yourself!

Is he a vine? His heavenly root
Supplies the boughs with life and fruit;
O let a lasting union join
My soul, the branch, to Christ the Vine!

***~~Christ, the TEACHER~~***

"I am the Lord your God, who *teaches*you what is good for you — and leads you along the paths you should follow." [Isaiah 48:17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2048.17). He teaches all his people the true nature, and awful consequences of sin; and instructs them "to flee from the wrath to come." His teaching makes them wise unto salvation — and holy in heart and life. Under his instructions, they . . .
withdraw from the world,
enjoy private devotion,
unite with the saints, and
abound in every good work.

"Behold, God is exalted in his power. Who is a teacher like him?" [Job 36:22](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Job%2036.22). The truth he unfolds to the *understanding* — he impresses upon the *heart* — and the gospel becomes the engrafted word, able to save our souls. His scholars learn to imitate him — and publish in every direction the honors of his name.

Untaught by him we are . . .
vain, ignorant, and wicked;
estranged from God, and
hastening to eternal perdition!

To His divine teaching — we owe all that we know of self, sin, salvation, and eternal felicity. He teaches *freely*and *variously* — but always *effectually*. His children cry, "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing!" [Psalm 143:10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%20143.10). He graciously answers, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you shall go! I will guide you with my eye."

Reader, are you taught of God? Has he taught you . . .
to hate sin — and flee from it,
to know Christ, and love Him,
to discover the beauty of holiness, and pant to possess it?

"Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior." [Psalm 25:4-5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%2025.4-5)

Teach us the knowledge of the Son,
And may our souls with him be one;
Teach us to love and walk with thee,
Until we your face in glory see.

***~~Christ, the WALL~~***

Behold on our left hand is a WALL. The evangelical prophet preaches Jesus to us by this figure, [Isaiah 25:4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2025.4), "a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall." He is "THE WALL." Behind this, we may stand while the pelting storm blows over and escape uninjured.

The metaphor is of eastern origin, where a wall would be considered under some circumstances as no small mercy. But even we can understand its meaning, and derive profit from the idea. The wall interposing between us and our foes — makes us *safe*.

Just so, Jesus will be "a wall of fire round about" his people, and will be the glory in the midst of them." He will interpose between the sinner and his God, when he appears to be a consuming fire. He will prevent the *arrows of divine justice*from penetrating the conscience, and "the fiery darts of the wicked" from destroying the soul. He will stand between the believer and every malicious foe, and preserve the soul that trusts in him, from real harm. Nothing shall by any means hurt them. "And we know that all things shall work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose."

Gracious Savior! Be my shelter from the pitiless storm — and my shadow from the scorching sun! Interpose between me and every danger, and may I find that when the blast of the terrible one is as a storm — that you are "THE WALL."

Let my soul in danger prove
That you, O Lord, are higher,
Compassed by almighty love,
As by a WALL of fire!

***~~Christ, the MAN~~***

Behold the amazing condescension of Jesus, who for our salvation, came down from Heaven. How truly dignified is THE MAN, Jehovah's fellow! How deeply humbled — he was "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief," yes, "a worm and no man;" He bore an accumulated weight of misery, that his people may enjoy an "eternal weight of glory." He wept, and labored, and wearied, and hungered, and suffered all manner of privations; and for what? "That he might bring us to God," raise us to glory, and fill us "with joy unspeakable." Behold how he loved us! His love "passes knowledge."

Sinner, behold the man! In him there is salvation, and righteousness, and strength. He *died*to save, and *lives*to bestow unspeakable blessings. He knows . . .
the weakness of manhood,
the weight of sin,
the power of temptation,
and the wrath of God.

He has felt the same. He is able and willing to deliver you therefrom. He *feels*for sinners, and says, "Come unto me ... and I will give you rest." He *sympathizes*with believers, and says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." He has the same heart in Heaven, as he had on earth; it is tender, kind, and generous; he will give grace and glory, and "no good thing will he withhold from those who walk uprightly." O "Son of Man," be . . .
my friend in every trouble,
my companion through earth's gloomy wilderness,
and the object of my everlasting admiration!

Clothing himself with mortal flesh,
He flies to our relief;
Sorrows his chief acquaintance were,
And his companion grief.

***~~Christ, the RESURRECTION~~***

Before us is the grave yard — it reminds us of the *entrance*of sin, and of its *consequence*, our mortality. Here is the end of all people. Here lie the rich and the poor — for all go to one place. Shortly we also must put off these earthly tabernacles, and they must mingle with their *fellow earth*. But will they lie here forever — will they be remembered no more? O no, the Lord will call — and we shall answer him, and he will have respect unto the work of his hands. Jesus is here set before us as "*The Resurrection, and the Life*." "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ — shall all be made alive." Our Christian brethren who are *slumbering*here, "shall rise again." Jesus has overcome death, and triumphed over the tomb. He was dead — but is alive again; and behold he has "the keys of Hell and of death." He shall quicken our bodies by his Spirit which dwells in us.

Let us not indulge in melancholy, as we travel towards this house appointed for all living — but let us remember that the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance. The saint cannot be forgotten, though he slumbers in the dust for a thousand years — for his witness is in Heaven and his record is on high. Let us then rejoice in this, that our names "are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." And being entered in that imperishable volume, they shall be mentioned with honor when "this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." We rise into communion with God — by faith in Jesus now; we shall rise "in the likeness of his resurrection," and be filled with all the fullness of God — by union to Jesus then. Savior! Live in me on earth, that I may live with you in Heaven! Raise my affections from earth and fix them on "things which are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God."

Believers, hail your risen head,
The first begotten from the dead;
Your resurrection's sure through his,
The endless life and boundless bliss.

***~~Christ, the BREAD OF LIFE~~***

Rest your eye into yonder bakery shop, there stands a silent preacher of your beneficent Redeemer. It reminds you of his gracious saying, "I am the Bread of Life." Grace gives us an appetite — and Jesus is the only object which will satisfy it. Receiving Christ into our hearts by faith, strengthens us within our souls; and enables us to . . .
work for his glory,
conquer our foes, and
run the race set before us with readiness and delight.

The bread from the bakery must be purchased — but Jesus is freely given; that bread will perish with the using — but "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and to day, and forever." That bread belongs to one person — but "the bread of life" is the common property of all who "believe on his name." I must have bread — or starve; I must have Christ — or perish; "Bread of Heaven! feed me until I want no more."

Is he compared to wine or bread?
Dear Lord, my soul would thus be fed;
That flesh, that dying blood of thine,
Is bread of life, is heavenly wine.

***~~Christ, the SUN~~***

The sun has just burst forth from behind yonder cloud, directing us to that gracious promise. "Unto you who fear my name, shall *the SUN of righteousness*arise with healing in his wings." How delightful, how cheering are those rays — but how much more delightful the sweet manifestations of a Savior's love! The *clouds of error*are dispersed, and the *cold vapors of unbelief*are exhaled and scattered. A new *aspect*is put upon everything, and the soul sings,"O Lord, I will praise you, though you were angry with me, your anger is turned away — and you comfort me." The graces of faith, love, and humility gather strength; and are exercised to the glory of God, the honor of religion, and the good of the soul.

Just as the world is dependant upon "the sun" in its glorious orb — I am reminded that my Savior is infinite; his name is above every name, the glory of Jesus, my Glorious Redeemer is above Heaven, while the earth is full of his praise. Gracious Immanuel! Be my "SUN and shield". Invigorate, refresh, and comfort my poor desponding heart — with the rays of your *mercy*, *love*and *grace!*

He is a Sun — his beams are grace,
His course is joy, and righteousness
Nations rejoice when he appears
To chase their clouds, and dry their tears.

***~~Christ, the SHOWER~~***

"He shall come down like *rain*upon the mown grass: as *showers*that water the earth." How quickly the dust is scattered, and the streets are cleansed! So when Jesus descends upon my soul by the influences of his Spirit — he scatters the dust of sin within me, and cleanses me from all my filthiness and idols. I am quite another man, I enjoy purity of heart, and in the vision of faith I see my God. My heart is softened and drinks in the falling blessings; my soul is enriched and becomes fruitful; holy desires, true penitence, and concern for the divine glory springs up; and I say without hesitation, "I am the Lord's." A *stream of gratitude*flows from my soul to the God of all my mercies — and I cannot but bless him for all the tokens of his distinguishing love, and the proofs of his unmerited favor. Jesus, Savior! Come down upon my soul thus more frequently, come unto me as the former and latter rain upon the earth; and let there be *showers of blessings!*

As rain on meadows newly mown,
So shall he send his influence down;
His grace on fainting souls distills,
Like heavenly dew on thirsty hills!

***~~Christ, the GUIDE~~***

See that poor blind man — another *leads*him by the arm, and conducts him safely. He would be in danger without a *guide*. How sweetly does he remind us of the language of the Lord by the prophet, "I will *lead*the blind by ways they have not known — along unfamiliar paths I will *guide*them. I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them." [Isaiah 42:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2042.16)

Jesus is our *unerring GUIDE*, he leads us in the way of righteousness in the midst of the paths of judgment. His leading preserves us from the snares of *Satan*, and the bewitching influences of the *world*. He leads us . . .
to his *throne*for prayer,
to his *cross*for pardon,
to his *church*for company,
to his *word*for direction, and
to his *ordinances*for food and pleasure.

He leads us safely, prudently, and kindly.

"For he who has mercy on them shall *lead*them, even by the springs of water shall he *guide*them." We as much need his guidance — as the poor blind man needs a companion. Except for his leading — we would run into sin, sorrow, and danger.

Our *loving leader*guides us . . .
to holiness,
to happiness,
and to Heaven!

"You shall guide me with your counsel — and afterward receive me to glory!"

Your Spirit,
your providence,
and your presence —
shall lead me right and bring me safely home. They shall lead me to fountains of living waters, and I shall feed in green pastures. "Lead me in your truth, and teach me — for you are the God of my salvation; on you I wait all the day."

Be my Guide in every peril,
Watch me hourly night and day;
Else my foolish heart will wander,
From your Spirit far away!

***~~Christ, the LADDER~~***

At yonder building, the workmen are employed, and there I behold an *emblem*of my Master again. See that *ladder* — does it remind you of the weary patriarch's dream at Bethel? "He had a dream in which he saw a *ladder*resting on the earth, with its top reaching to Heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!" [Genesis 28:12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%2028.12). Jesus himself explained this to Nathaniel when he said, "Hereafter you shall see Heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Here is the *medium of communication*between God and man, heavenly fellowship is opened again. I can ascend to God in my thoughts, affections, and in the exercises of faith, and hold delightful fellowship with him. *Jesus unites Heaven and earth.*Here stands the sinner, before him the Savior, above him Jehovah; and he is invited to draw near to God; yes, "to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus." This *ladder*was prepared for sinners — its steps are plain, close, and firm. We are sure of safety and acceptance — when we venture ourselves entirely upon Jesus and his perfect work!

We must ascend *step by step*, leaving earth, aiming at Heaven, looking to Jesus. He will *support*us, by his merit, work, grace, and power — and *introduce*us honorably into the presence of our God with exceeding joy.

See that *laborer*ascending with his load, he rises, he leaves it on the top and descends lightened and free; go you and do likewise. Take all your burdens up this LADDER — even Jesus, and roll them upon your God! So did Hannah, and her countenance was no more sad. So did David, "I called upon the Lord in distress: the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place." So should you, "Cast your burdens upon the Lord — and he will sustain you; he will never allow the righteous to be moved." O my soul, expect no fellowship with God — but through Jesus the Son of his love. Carry all your cares to your God — and leave your burdens there. Be constantly ascending to him for communion, supplies, and peace!

Cast, he says, on me your care,
'Tis enough that I am nigh;
I will all your burdens bear,
I will all your needs supply!

***~~Christ, the CORNER-STONE~~***

The workmen are placing a CORNER-STONE — such is Jesus. And as such, he is the beauty of that building, which is to be a habitation for God through the Spirit. He unites and binds every part of the building together, and keeps it firm and secure. He not only unites part to part — but every part to God. There could be no union with God enjoyed by sinners — unless for this adorable Savior. He removes every impediment out of the way, and gives us to know the Father in his everlasting love, paternal relation, and gracious designs towards us — and then we have fellowship with him, rejoice in him, and walk in holiness of life before him.

Being united to God — we derive strength, beauty, and glory; we have nourishment ministered, and "increase with the increase of God." Bound together in an unalterable relation, and by indissoluble ties — we grow up a "holy temple in the Lord," to the honor of his wisdom, grace, and sovereign love. O the blessedness of the union of the saints to God; "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief *corner-stone!"*

Hail, sacred union, firm and strong,
How great the grace, how sweet the song,
That rebel worms should ever be
One with incarnate Deity!

This sacred tie forbids their fears,
For all He is, or has, is theirs
With Him as Head, they'll stand, not fall,
Their Life, their Surety, and their All.

***~~Christ, the BUILDER~~***

The *Master Builder*superintends the whole work, and regulates the proceeding in every part. Likewise does Jesus, in the building of His Church. It was long ago predicted that "he shall *build*the temple of the Lord, and he should bear the glory!"

He chooses the *materials*from the quarry of nature, and squares and fits them for the places they are to occupy — by his providence, word, and Spirit. And when they are *fitted*for their places — then they are removed to the building. The *smallest stone*is necessary and useful in its place, and the weakest Christian has a place in our Redeemer's Church.

His *wisdom*appears in fitting such rough and unsightly materials to be ornamental parts of his building below! "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." His *patience*is unequaled in bearing with them, and using one means after another, until he has accomplished his gracious design. Indeed, every perfection of his nature, will shine forth in unrivaled luster, when the temple of Jehovah is completed, and the topstone is brought forth with shouts of "Grace, grace, unto it!"

Builder of your church below, let me occupy a place immediately beneath your eye, where I shall shine to your praise, until removed to your building above! O bring many more stones, and use me in the work of squaring and fitting them to show forth your praise!

In this blessed building, may my soul,
A *living stone*appear;
And he the *builder*of the whole
Shall all the glory bear!

***~~Christ, the LAMB~~***

On our right, the butcher has just hung out a LAMB — its blood has been shed, it is intended for food, and it is exposed for sale. "Behold the *Lamb of God*, who takes away the sin of the world!" This Lamb was "Foreordained before the foundation of the world," promised from the evening on which Adam fell, expected for four thousand years, and manifested in these last times for us. He was the victim mercy provided — and justice engaged to accept. Our sins were laid upon him, he died "the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God." "Who his own self bore our sins in his own body on the tree." He . . .
made reconciliation for iniquity,
blotted out sin, and
procured peace by his death.

He died as our Surety, and claims believers as his property. "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and lives — that he might be Lord both of the dead and living." His shed blood . . .
made my peace,
procured my pardon,
cleanses my soul,
silences my conscience,
confounds my foes,
satisfies my God, and
entitles me to eternal life!

Precious blood!

More precious Savior!

Let me view you as set forth by this sweet figure, and live with you, in time and through eternity. Lovely, harmless,*"Lamb of God!"*I would . . .
imbibe your Spirit,
imitate your example,
trust in your atonement, and
glorify your name in every thought, word, and action!

You were "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens!"

Jesus the King of Glory reigns
On Zion's heavenly hill
Looks like a lamb that has been slain,
And wears his priesthood still!

***~~Christ, the PHYSICIAN~~***

There goes the Physician! See the blinds of yonder house are drawn, the knocker is muffled, the carriage stops, the physician enters. Some afflicted sufferer is there.

Sin has introduced a host of *evils*into our world! Sin has . . .
robbed us of health — and introduced disease,
deprived us of pleasure — and has filled us with pain!

It is not only the *body*that is diseased — but the *soul*labors under a fatal malady! "Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness — only wounds and welts and open sores!" [Isaiah 1:5-6](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%201.5-6). On this account, Jesus came into the world as the Great Physician. He is Jehovah-Rophi, the Lord that heals all our diseases. He brings us health and cure, and brings it all *gratis*. The *dispensary of grace*is always open for our reception! Advice is given and medicines are administered — without money and without price.

No case is desperate if application is made to him; none need despair of a cure, or doubt his kindness. His only question is, "Will you be made whole?" If the sinner answers *yes*, he says, "I will restore health unto you, and I will heal you your wounds!" He is as *tender*as he is *skillful*; as *ready*as he is *able* — and over his door is always written, "I will in never cast any out" "Whoever will — may come." Glorious Physician! Heal my sick soul, restore me to sound soul health; and enable me to show forth the wonders of your skill and kindness. To you will I look for healing, even as Israel of old looked to "the brazen serpent Moses had made" and every one of them were healed! There is a *"Balm in Gilead" —*and you are *"the Physician"*there!

Jesus heals the broken-hearted,
O! how sweet the sound to me
Once beneath my sin he smarted,
Groaned and bled, to set me free.

By his sufferings, death, and merits,
By his Godhead, blood and pain,
Broken hearts or wounded spirits
Are at once made whole again.

***~~Christ, the CHILD~~***

See that "babe" carried in his mother's arms. Can you look at him and not be reminded of the Prophet's joy, who seven hundred years before the incarnation, sang of that wonderful event. "For to us a *child*is born, to us a *son*is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end!" [Isaiah 9:6-7](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%209.6-7)

Remember what was written of the shepherds, that "they came with haste and found Mary, and Joseph, and the *babe*, lying in a manger." It was a *mystery of mercy*that God should become man, that "the Ancient of days" should become an *infant*of a span long; and yet for us, and for our salvation — this actually took place! *God*in all the might of his majesty, and *man*in all the weakness of his humility — becomes *united*and constituted *one person*. That we may know him; as our Redeemer, and may enjoy him. He passed through all the states of infancy, youth, and manhood — to be a Savior!

To us a child is born from Heaven,
To us the Son of God is given;
The government of worlds he made,
Upon his shoulder shall be laid!

***~~Christ, the FRIEND~~***

But let us call on a *Friend*who lives near this spot. How sweet is friendship! How it sweetens life, and the very mention  of the word reminds us of that "*Friend*who sticks closer than a brother."

His heart is tender,
his hand is strong,
his resources boundless,
and his promises are sure!

He has engaged to be to us — all that a friend can be, and all that our souls could wish for. He will *. . .
strengthen*us,
and *help*us,
and *protect*us,
and will *supply*all of our needs!

He always *welcomes*us to tell our troubles to him, and when we bring our requests to his throne. His bosom is friendship's permanent dwelling place, and he delights to show himself friendly. Hear him say, "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me!" "He shall deliver you in six troubles: yes, in seven there shall no evil touch you."

Precious *Friend*of poor friendless sinners! You plead our cause in Heaven — having bled for our ransom on earth. He is still saying, "I will come unto you, and I will bless you!" "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you!"

How sweet to be allowed to call
The God whom Heaven adores, my Friend,
To tell my thoughts; to tell them all,
And then to know my prayers ascend.

My Father's wisdom cannot err,
His love no change or failure knows;
Be mine his counsel to prefer,
And acquiesce in all he does!

***~~Christ, the DOOR~~***

This *gate*which leads into my friend's garden, becomes our teacher too, it is low, it is narrow; and "strait is the *gate*, and narrow the way, that leads unto life, and few there are who find it." We pass through it, and are preserved by it from intrusion; nor can we enter into the church of God, or pass into the world of glory — but by Jesus. "I am *the door*: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

This *door*excludes all who reject God's method of salvation, who trust in self-righteousness, or indulge in sin. It admits every penitent, broken-hearted sinner, who flies to it for refuge from the wrath to come. "The door" is . . .
too *narrow*for the Pharisee,
too *low*for the proud,
and too *pure*for the unholy.

O "*Door*of the sheep!" Daily admit me to the pastures of your love, and let me drink of the rivers of your pleasures!

He is The Door! I'll enter in;
Behold the pastures large and green.
A paradise divinely fair,
None but His sheep have freedom there!

***~~Christ, the ROSE~~***

Let us tarry a little in the *garden*, for we shall meet with emblems of Jesus here. This *rose*, how beautiful and sweet — reminding us of*"The Rose of Sharon."*The *beauty*of the Redeemer appears in the unsullied holiness of his character. He possessed every grace in perfection; and it shone forth in every part of his conduct. "He went about doing good." He was kind to the unholy and unthankful.

The *fragrance*of his sacrifice sprang from the perfection and dignity of his person; he "offered himself without spot to God," "a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor." His *work*of atonement perfumes both our persons and our prayers, and obtains for them acceptance with a holy God. His *presence*revives the drooping hearts of his chosen, and his beauty fills them with admiration and delight; they *feast*upon his charms, and are *delighted*with his love, and exclaim, "He is the fairest among ten thousand, the altogether lovely One!"

*"Rose of Sharon!"* Perfume my spirit and delight my soul; let me be delighted with your beauty, and ravished with your love! Be . . .
my constant companion,
the object of my faith, and
the subject of my meditation!

May I ever . . .
find you precious,
prove you gracious, and
live to glorify your adorable name!

Christ like a rose of beauteous bloom
In Sharon's field is found;
He sheds a fragrance through the air,
And sweetens all around!

***~~Christ, the LILY~~***

The *lily*is an emblem of *Jesus*also, he is "The *LILY*of the Valley!" Planted in the *valley of poverty*in this our miserable world — he grew in wisdom and in stature, in favor with God and men. Spotless *purity*and *beauty*appeared in him; he lived dependent upon his Father's providence, and was adorned with all the virtues required in his Father's law. We not only feast our eyes on his beauty — but our souls are healed by his precious communications.

*Lovely Lily!*I would view you as the emblem of *humility*and *sweetness*.

Watered by his care,
guarded by his power,
and tended with his hand — *I*would seek to shine also in purity, and by example and conduct, benefit others around me.

This Lily lives no more to die,
The joy of Paradise;
And all His seed, bye and bye,
To those fair mansions rise!

***~~Christ, the APPLE TREE~~***

The Apple Tree laden with fruit, sets forth my Savior too. "Like an *apple tree*among the trees of the forest — is my beloved among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste!" [Song of Songs 2:3](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Song%202.3).

Here is *shelter*from the storm and a covering from the sun — for Jesus shelters the poor sinner who flies to him, from the wrath of God and man; he covers his head in the day of battle, gives him "the shield of his salvation" and his gentleness makes him great.

Here is plenty of *fruit* — for in Jesus there is plenty, all fullness dwells in him. Here is a hearty *welcome*, for "whoever will may come." We may enjoy its shade, and taste its precious fruits.

Beloved Lord! Let me always dwell under your shadow, and feed upon your fruits — so shall I be safe from my foes, and be happy in my soul!

Jesus, a name to sinners dear,
The *fruit*how rich, the *leaves*how fair,
I'll make my only boast of thee,
For you are life's fair healing tree!

***~~Christ, the HABITATION~~***

But let us enter the *Habitation*of my Friend, calling to mind the prayer of the Psalmist, "Be my strong *habitation*, whereunto I may continually resort. You have given commandment to save me; for you are my rock and my fortress!" Jesus is not only a Habitation for *comfort* — but for *security*. He "is a *Strong Tower*into which the righteous run and are safe." In him we dwell *safely*and are quiet from fear of evil. All our needs are anticipated and provided for, and everything necessary for our comfort is here supplied.

This is the believer's *rest* — this is the Christian's *home*. Here he feels free and enjoys his liberty; holds communion with God, smiles at the storm, and rejoices in the hope of the glory that is to be revealed. Here is rest, and peace, and plenty; he is made to inherit substance, and God fills his treasures.

Delightful Habitation! Jesus, may I abide in you — and you with me! Be my habitation, and dwelling place forever and ever!

Jesus the everlasting God,
You are your people's safe abode;
In every storm their *refuge tower,*The same 'til time shall be no more!

***~~Christ, the FATHER~~***

My Friend is a *Father*, he has one of his children in his arms. Here is Jesus again, he says I "will be a *Father* unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." He has a father's *compassion —*and manifests a father's *care*. "Like as a Father pities his children — so the Lord pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust." He knows his children's *needs* — and has made plentiful provision for them. He hears children cry — and withholds no good thing from them. He . . .
carries the weak,
comforts the sick,
defends the assaulted,
supplies their necessities,
gratifies the obedient,
receives the prodigal, and
makes all his goodness pass before the different branches of his family.

How sweetly he addresses us in reference to the weakness and fears of *old age*, "Even to your*old age*and gray hairs I am he — I am he who will sustain you. I have *made*you and I will *carry*you; I will *sustain*you and I will *rescue*you!" [Isaiah 46:4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2046.4). Precious Savior! Surely your people will from this time cry unto you, "My Father, you are the guide of my youth!" And when approaching the throne of mercy, I will draw near with confidence crying, *"My Father."*

What more can be said to comfort us in the journey of life — or to cheer us when entering the gloomy winter of old age? Jesus will be then a Father unto us, and will deal with us as tenderly and as kindly as in the infancy of our spiritual existence; "He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the *lambs*in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will *gently*lead the mother sheep with their young!" [Isaiah 40:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2040.11)

As a little child relies
On a care beyond his own,
Let me thus with Christ abide,
As my Father, Guard, and Guide!

***~~Christ, the HUSBAND~~***

This house is the abode of *marital love*. Here hearts are united, interests blended, "they shall be one flesh." Do you hear the voice of inspiration again, saying, "For your Maker is your *husband*; the Lord Almighty is his name; and your Redeemer the Holy One of Israel. The God of the whole earth shall he be called." Jesus not only assumed our nature — but he *married his people!* And we are now bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. No earthly Husband ever felt such love to, or took such interest in his bride — as Jesus takes in us! He "*loved*the church, and *gave*himself for it." We are now espoused to him, and soon it will be said, "The marriage of the Lamb has come, and his *Bride*has made herself ready." He has gone to prepare *mansions*for our reception, and has promised, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

He cannot love us *more* — for he loves us with an infinite affection! He will not love us *less* — for his love is immutably the same. His whole heart is set upon us, and his whole time is devoted to us! He *gives*us all things which pertain to life and godliness, and he will present us to himself arrayed in immortality and glory, "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing!" His Bride cannot be neglected, for he rejoices over her to do her good. "There will be heard once more, the sounds of joy and laughter. The joyful voices of *bridegrooms*and *brides*will be heard again. They will sing: Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for his faithful love endures forever!" [Jeremiah 33:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Jer%2033.11)

***~~Christ, the MASTER~~***

The *servant*coming in for his orders, brings to our remembrance the saying, "One is your Master — even Christ." He not only *loves*us — but *employs*us also. He was once the *servant*of his Father for our sakes, and we are now his servants to perform his pleasure. But his "yoke is easy" and his service is perfect freedom; he not only gives the command — but promises us *wisdom*and *strength*to enable us to obey!

We do not work for eternal life — this he has freely given us. But our comfort and his glory are involved in our obedience, and therefore we cheerfully obey him. He meets with those who work righteousness and rejoice in his ways; and in keeping his commandments there is great reward. Our best services spring from *gratitude*for his favors bestowed. He only commands that which, if we were wise — we should naturally perform.

He is the *kindest master*that ever gave a command! All his servants *love*him, and desire to *live*forever with him. He *freely pardons*when they err, and *generously rewards*whenever they do well. His commandments are not grievous — but they . . .
prove our sincerity,
exercise our graces,
and honor his name.

He works in us to will and to do — while we work to his praise and glory. Sweet service, the effect of love! Blessed *master* — you do all things well!

Jesus, my Master, now I call,
And consecrate to you my all:
Lord! let me live and die to thee,
Be your through all, eternity.

***~~Christ, the FIRE~~***

That fire reminds us of the saying of the Prophet. "He is like a *refiner's fire*." He purges away our *dross* — and makes us choice ones in the furnace of affliction. If he puts us to pain — it is to do us good. The flesh dislikes the purifying process; but he will proceed with his work — until he can see his own image on every faculty of the soul. He chastens us for our profit — so that we may be partakers of his holiness! He will never relinquish his right to us, or turn away from doing us good.

***~~Christ, the REST~~***

In this *chair*my friend seeks rest when returning from his daily occupations. Jesus kindly invites, "Come unto me all you who are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you *rest*." His perfect work, precious promises, cleansing blood, and infinite love — cause the weary and ladened ones, to rest.

The *poor sin-sick soul*who has been laboring for life at the law, or seeking help from other quarters and has felt grievous disappointment — finds it a precious rest indeed.

The *poor backslider*who has been wandering upon every mountain and upon every hill, and has forgotten his resting place; may here find again repose, peace, and satisfaction.

His *rest*is glorious! All the perfections of God shine upon it with sweet refreshing rays, and it reflects back everlasting glory upon his divine government and name. My wandering soul has gone astray like a sheep that is lost; but has now returned to its rest. "Rejoice O my soul; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you!" He will give you rest from trouble, and land you at length where the wicked cease from troubling, and wearied believers forever rest!

Dear friend of friendless sinners, hear
And magnify your grace divine;
Pardon a *worm*that would draw nigh,
That would his heart to you resign;
A *worm*by self and sin oppressed,
That pants to reach your promised rest!

***~~Christ, the HOME~~***

But we must think of returning to our home, sweet home — there is no place like home. The real Christian can find no *home*but in the presence of Jesus. When the light of his countenance is lifted up, and the sense of his love is enjoyed — the believer is at *home*indeed.

His willing soul should stay,
In such a frame as this;
And sit and sing herself away,
To everlasting bliss!

All places are alike — if Jesus is present and precious; his love cheers us in the most gloomy scenes, and fills us "with joy unspeakable and full of glory!" But if his presence is denied us — a paradise would be a wilderness, and even sweet *home*loses all its charms.

O my Savior! May your presence be my portion, your blessing my lot, and the covering of your wings my delightful dwelling place! Here let me rest, and wait, and work — until mortality is swallowed up of life!

The thought of *home*our spirit cheers,
No more we grieve for troubles past,
Nor any future trial fears,
So we may safe arrive at last.

Jesus! on you our hope depends,
To lead us on to your abode;
Assured *our home*will make amends
For all our toil while on the road.

***~~Christ, the FOUNDATION~~***

See yonder workmen, they are laying a *foundation* — my God speaks again. "So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure *foundation*; the one who trusts will never be dismayed!" [Isaiah 28:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2028.16). "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ!" [1 Corinthians 3:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor%203.11). On this foundation I build for present peace and eternal safety. Here I may . . .
rely without fear,
depend without doubt, and
trust with unshaken confidence.

His sacrifice is perfect,
his atonement is infinite,
his work is complete.

This *foundation*bears the weight of the whole fabric of mercy; and bears up above wrath, sin, and the law — every poor soul who builds upon it.

Building on this foundation — we are eternally safe!

The *storms*may beat,
the *waves*may roar,
the *enemy*may attack —
but we are safe because founded on a ROCK!

O*Foundation*of my faith, hope, and confidence! On you alone I rely!
To your *eternity*I look as the duration of my happiness,
to your *immutability*as the ground of my security, and
your *omnipotence*as the support of my soul.

On you alone I depend now, and on you alone will I rely in the immediate prospect of death!

Christ is the sure foundation stone,
Proved by the saints who hence are gone;
Could we converse with them they'd say, *This precious stone did not give way!*

***~~Christ, the SANCTUARY~~***

See before us the *Sanctuary*, where the Lord's people meet, to worship him "in the beauty of holiness." It is written for the comfort of the Lord's captives, as the language of a gracious God: "Yet will I be unto them as *a little sanctuary*in the countries where they shall come." The evangelical prophet Isaiah says of Jesus: "And he shall be for a *sanctuary."*Yes, in *Jesus* — God meets his people and holds fellowship with them. Through his all-perfect sacrifice — he accepts their prayers and their praises, and pours down upon them the blessings of his love. Here he smiles favorably, every word is gracious, every look is love. Here he says, "Ask — what I shall give you!" Here he promises to meet with them, to bless them. Here he . . .
heals the disorders of the mind,
hears the complaints of the soul,
grants the desires of the heart,
gives grace and glory, and
will withhold no good thing from them that walk uprightly.

Sanctuary of my soul! To you will I flee for help, safety, comfort, and supply; and expect to find all I need in you!

Jesus, you are my resting place,
The fountain-head of sovereign grace;
In all my conflicts may I see,
You will my Sanctuary be!

***~~Christ, the DEW~~***

But the *dew*begins to fall around us — and Jesus gently whispers to us, "I will be as the *dew*unto Israel." He comes down in the communications of his grace, as *silently*and *unobserved*as does the *dew* — refreshing the soul and causing it to bring forth and bud. Like the dew — so *gently*does he bestow his favors, and so *tenderly*does he proceed in his work — that he never breaks a bruised reed, or quenches smoking flax. However weak our faith, or feeble our desires — he carries on what he has begun — until he brings forth judgement unto victory.

He can work efficiently in the soul *without observation*. He does not cry out, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. He wins over the heart to himself, he fixes our affections on his adorable perfections, and leads out the mind to rest upon his vicarious work. There is a perfection, majesty, and glory, about all that he *performs* — and all that he *communicates*. May this soul softening *dew*descend on my spirit, that I may be among the people as a *dew*from the Lord — a blessing to all around.

Thus come; Lord Jesus, come,
In blessings ever new;
And, until we meet in Heaven above,
Be to us *the dew*.

***~~Christ, the SHEPHERD~~***

The shepherd is driving home his flock, that they may rest through the night. Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep!" [John 10:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2010.11). He does not *drive*them before him — but *draws*them after him. "He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young!" [Isaiah 40:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2040.11). Our Shepherd has . . .
a *quick eye*to see danger,
a *kind heart*to help and feed, and
a *strong arm*to defend and save!

He leads them into green pastures — and beside the still waters. Beneath the shadow of a great rock, he causes them to rest at noon. He leads them on as they are able, and does not allow one to be over-driven or neglected. He is as *gentle*as a summer's eve, and as *careful*as the kindest nurse. He calls all of his sheep by their names, and leads them in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Beneath his care they are safe, happy, and honorable! He will give unto them eternal life — and will not allow one of them to perish.

His honor is engaged to save,
The lowest of his sheep;
All that his heavenly Father gave,
His hands securely keep.

***~~Christ, the CAPTAIN~~***

A soldier meets my eye, and directs me to think of Jesus as the great "*Captain*of their salvation." He has conquered Satan and has overcome the world. He obtained this victory for me, and has said to me, "In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer — I have overcome the world!" He may allow . . . *men*to rise up against me, *Satan*to oppose me, and *corruption*within to harass and distress me

 — but in him I shall have peace. He will arise and have mercy upon me, he will show himself *"a man of war" —*and I shall be more than a conqueror through him who loved me!

He "will beat down his foes before his face," and will give me *strength*and *courage*to equal my day, and "set me on high, because he has known my name." When surrounded by foes, and fearful in heart — it is my mercy to remember that the battle is not mine, but the Lord's. And though tempted to doubt in reference to the outcome, I am warranted to shout, "Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ!"

He who was conquered *for*me, will conquer *in*me. He is given to be a *leader*and *commander*unto his people, and he goes before them into the field, saying unto them, "Follow me!" Pointing to their foes, he admonishes them to "resist steadfast in the faith;" to "fight the good fight;" holding out to their view "a crown of glory;" and promising every *overcomer*that he shall sit down with him on his throne! He leads them on from conquering to conquer; and when he leads them to face their *last*, often dreaded foe — he will give them the victory, and enable them to shout, "O *death*, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?" Victory, victory through "the blood of the Lamb!"

Aspire, my soul, to glorious deeds,
The Captain of salvation leads;
March on, nor fear to win the day,
Though death and Hell obstruct the way!

Should earth and Hell and powers unknown,
Put all their forms of mischief on,
I shall be safe; for Christ displays
Salvation in more sovereign ways.

***~~Christ, the CROSS~~***

Upon yonder building there is a *cross*placed. While some admire the *sign* — may we be interested in the thing signified*: The Perfect Work of Christ.*He "made *peace*by the blood of his Cross;" he *conquered*our foes upon it; and still works wonders by it.

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world!" [Galatians 6:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gal%206.14)

In *the cross*we see . . .
the rights of divine *justice*maintained,
the designs of divine *mercy*revealed; *sin*appearing exceeding sinful;
the *law*magnified and honored, and
the *law-breaker*pardoned and delivered.

At *the cross,* God and sinners meet — and a *reconciliation*takes place. Here *man*drops the weapons of rebellion — and *God*lays aside the sword of divine displeasure. Here the *works of Satan*are destroyed — and the *gates of paradise*are thrown open. Here the creditor is discharged, his every crime is atoned for, and everlasting righteousness is completed! Here God is "just, and the justifier of him who believes in Jesus." Here . . .
Mercy takes the throne,
justice guards her rights,
holiness maintains her prerogative,
the sinner has hope, and
iniquity is forever atoned for!

At *the cross*. . .
we are stripped of self — and clothed with Christ;
we lose our fears — and obtain the sweetest comforts;
we defy our foes — and enjoy the company of our friends;
we find paradise restored — and a foretaste of glory is bestowed; *Jehovah*is revealed as the sinner's friend; *death*is destroyed as the believer's foe; *Satan's*. . .
folly is published,
designs are frustrated, and
character is exposed to perpetual shame.

At *the cross*. . .
all the truths of revelation center,
all the perfections of Deity unite,
and the way to eternal life is opened!

The Cross of Jesus! May it be . . .
the emblem of my faith,
the subject of my song,
the antidote of my sorrows,
and the glory of my soul!

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world!" [Galatians 6:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gal%206.14)

I cling to *the cross*, here I see my Salvation,
'Tis finished complete, I'm redeemed from all woe;
I read and rejoice there is "no condemnation"
To those in Christ Jesus, O never, O no!

***~~Christ, the LIGHT~~***

The lamps are lighted, bringing to our remembrance that saying of Jesus, "I am *the light*of the world: he who follows me shall not walk in darkness — but shall have the Light of life." Our world was plunged into the deepest ignorance, superstition and folly; we knew not our danger nor the way of escape; we knew not ourselves nor God! "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has *the light*shined."

The gloom is removed and cheerfulness is introduced, we can see our way, avoid dangers, recognize friends, and proceed with comfort to our homes. When Jesus shines into our hearts . . .
we escape from eternal death,
enter and walk in the "path of life,"
enjoy the fellowship of the saints, and
with cheerfulness hasten to our "Father's house" above.

This also reminds us of that sweet promise which has comforted many when looking forward to death and the grave, "that at *evening time*it shall be Light." Thousands of the Lord's people have found this promise fulfilled in their experience —
the *gloom*has been removed from the grave,
death has been stripped of its terror,
and the last hours have been the best.

The living testimony has been confirmed by a dying one, and the *chamber of death*has been made like the suburbs of Heaven. Come, fellow travelers, let us walk in the light of the Lord:
in the light of his *truth* — which banishes ignorance;
in the light of his *love* — which chases away our fears; and
in the light of his *salvation* — which fills us with joy and peace in believing.

***~~Christ, the END~~***

Before us is *home*, which completes our walk, and preaches Jesus as *THE END*. "For Christ is *the end*of the law for righteousness to every one that believes." In receiving Christ — we are released, and liberated from the law; and are put in possession of all that the law requires. Entering into Christ, we are safe, the law can demand nothing for our justification; nor can justice pursue us with a hostile design. We are in a justified state, possessing a perfect righteousness, and "we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." "He is able also to save to the uttermost — those who come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them."

The avenger of blood could pursue the manslayer into "the city of refuge" — but the moment he stepped over the threshold, the pursuit was given over. Just so, *justice*may pursue the sinner to Jesus — but the moment we sink into contrition at his feet — we are safe, and justice becomes our friend. God is more glorified by our coming to Christ, and receiving salvation from him, than he can possibly be by any acts of obedience we can perform.

Jesus is *the end*of God's requirements — and *the end*of the sinner's fears; here we renounce ourselves and are "made the righteousness of God in him."

Jesus is *the end*of our empty desires and hopes. "I shall be satisfied, when I awake with your likeness;" "in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

It is a blessed *end,*when we come to Jesus on the throne of grace; at the end of a career of sinning; an end of our darkness, misery, and distress. And it will be a glorious end when we go to Jesus on the throne of his glory, that will be *the end*of all our follies, fears, complaints, conflicts, and trials. If we end thus — we shall certainly end well; then there will be no more sin, sorrow, disappointment, grief, or woe — but holiness and honor will be our portion forever! We shall see his face, and his name will be on our foreheads; we shall be without fault before his throne forever. May this be my end, when the journey of life is completed! May it be your end my reader; and may we in glory meet that Jesus, who is thus constantly preached to us.

Come saints, and see what Jesus wrought,
To make a worm his friend;
See how his hands fulfilled the Law,
And thus became its *End*.

***~~Christ, ALL IN ALL~~***

But time would fail to notice *everything*that preaches Christ to us! But, our ungrateful hearts, our treacherous memories, and our busy minds — are apt to forget this glorious, ever-present savior. He is . . .
the head that guides,
the hand that guards, and
the consolation that cheers us all our journey through.

He is the breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the lord, under whose shadow we shall live in this desert. He is . . .
our *advocate*that pleads our cause;
the *witness*whose testimony we can trust;
our *counselor*that advises us in trouble;
our deliverer in circumstances of danger;
our forerunner in the heavenly road;
our standard around which we assemble;
our portion in the land of the living; and
our hope when time shall be no more!

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." He is immutable! He has all we want, he is all we can need, and he will give us all that is necessary for life and godliness.

*On*him we depend, *from*him we receive, *to*him we are going, and *with*him we shall be forever and ever.

Jesus is all that . . .
God can give,
man can possess,
or eternity can unfold!

**"Christ is All!"** [Colossians 3:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Col%203.11)

If asked, what of Jesus I think?
Though still my best thoughts are but poor,
I say, He's my meat, and my drink,
My life, my strength, and my store;
My Shepherd, my Husband, my Friend,
My Savior from sin and from thrall;
My hope, from beginning to end,
My portion, my Lord, my ALL IN ALL.

***~~Believing Encouraged~~***

"God has appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ." "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil." It will be a most solemn season! A dreadful time for poor unprepared sinners!

I beseech you to *examine yourself*. On what are you resting for life and salvation? Where is your dependence placed? Is Jesus your only hope? He is the Only Savior, and He is mighty to save. He is God, as well as man, He possesses . . .
Unlimited Authority,
Omnipotent Power,
Infinite Discernment,
Unsearchable Wisdom,
Boundless Grace,
Unutterable Love —
all which brings to the great work of salvation.

His blood is infinitely meritorious — and his righteousness is unspeakably glorious. He cleanses from all sin — and covers all deformity. He is Prophet, Priest, and King; he fills each of these offices perfectly and perpetually. He pardons freely, justifies fully, and saves eternally — all who believe in his name, who venture wholly upon him, and trust in his sacrifice alone. He saves the *greatest*sinners, and never will refuse to save one who is willing to be saved by him, on his terms. The merit and efficacy of his blood are infinitely superior to the demerit of our sin, and through His *Perfect Work*he can save us with the greatest ease. He promises to save all who *call*upon his name — all who *come*to him — all who *believe*in him!

He is as *willing*to save — as he is *able*to save. He delights in mercy, and always is ready to forgive. He only requires . . .
that you renounce all others — but Himself;
that you come to Him as a poor, wretched, miserable sinner;
that you receive Him as a perfect, complete, and all-sufficient Savior; that you take Him to be . . .
your Priest, to atone for your sins;
your Prophet, to instruct you in the mysteries of his grace;
and your King, to rule over you and in you forever.

In so doing, you deny self, renounce the world — and take Jesus to be. . .
your *all in all*;
the object of your love,
the Rock on which you build,
the Bread on which you live,
the garment you wear, [Romans 3:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%203.14),
the Friend you trust, and
the God you worship — whose honor and glory you seek.

Have you renounced self, the world and sin? Have you received Christ thus? Is he your All In All? O "flee from the wrath to come!" Flee to Jesus, who says, " Come unto Me — and I will give you rest."

But should these lines be read by one who is convinced of sin, distressed on account of it, and filled with fears. O fear not, Jesus says to you, "Look — and be saved." *Satan*may tempt you, your *heart*may misgive you, *fears*may rise within you, *doubts*may distress you, and *despondency*may fill you with gloom — but Jesus is greater than all. "A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench."

He loves you now — and he will comfort you by and by. His grace is sufficient even for you. He will be gracious to you.

Seek him earnestly,
cry to him continually,
read his word daily,
rest upon his promise implicitly,
and you must be happy eventually.

His word is immutable, and cannot change; it must be made good, and you shall find it so. Jesus will not reject you, he cannot despise you — he is too holy, too loving, and too full of pity to do so. He may *delay* — but he will not *deny*. He must be gracious, or his nature would change. "Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation." He will save you, if you come to him — but to doubt his ability is to question his Divinity; he died to save us, and he lives for the same purpose. "He was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

Poor sinner why are you cast down and desponding,
Since Jesus has died to redeem you from woe?
Hear the heart-cheering accents of Calvary sounding
Believe, and from bondage immediately go!

He will not, he cannot, reject or deny you,
However polluted or base you may be;
Believe and recline on the promise he made you,
And you shall with pleasure his countenance see.