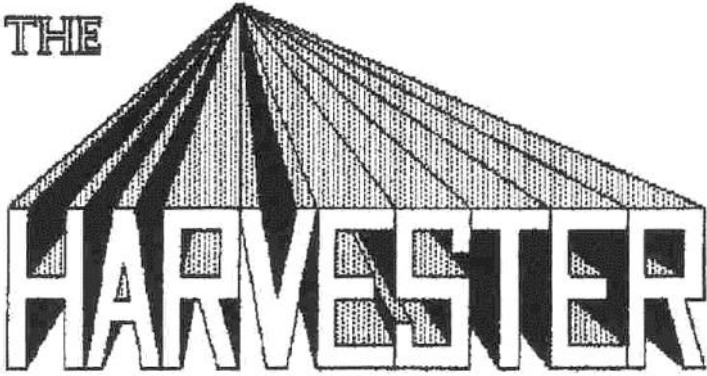


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

August 2013

No. 332

TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY

When taken very seriously that beloved hymn, by Stebbins and Longstaff, "Take Time To Be Holy," can be very provocative to the point of causing one to consider their walk before Almighty God. We are commanded by our Holy Father to sing with the proper attitude and to be stirred emotionally.

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (Eph. 5:19).

In Colossians 3:16 we carefully note that we

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are to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16).

We teach each other the mind of God by singing scriptural hymns. We are to learn the mind of God by reading and studying the Bible. However, the song service in the assembly of the Lord's church is sanctioned by God as a method of teaching and learning as well.

We are to take time to be holy. We are not born holy. Thus, being holy is not an innate or built-in quality. It is something that we must choose to do and work at. The inspired Apostle Peter vividly expounds,

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:15,16).

We are to pursue holiness: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 2:14). Holiness is to be perfected:

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1).

Since we are to work at being holy, what does the word "holy" (hagios) mean? *Strong's Dictionary* defines "holy" as sacred (physically pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially consecrated): (most) holy (one, thing), saint.

Put simply, to be holy means that we are to be morally pure saints. Have you ever heard a

child of God say "I'm no saint"? Please allow me to be forthright. If you have been baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38) and you are walking in the seven Christian graces (faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity) as found in 2 Peter 1:5-10, then, my friend, you are a saint.

Next, let's consider how we are to perfect holiness. In the first stanza of the hymn under consideration we read,

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy
Lord; Abide in Him always, and feed on His
Word. Make friends of God's children, help
those who are weak, Forgetting in nothing
His blessing to seek.

We can perfect our holiness by speaking often with our Lord via the medium of prayer. It is such a blessing, as a child of God, to be able to pray through our High Priest, Jesus Christ, to our Heavenly Father (Heb. 4:15,16). Jesus was tempted in all like points as we are. Yet, He never sinned. Jesus knows what it is like to be a human. He understands our passions, sicknesses, problems, and temptations. He wants us to come boldly before His throne so that He may help us with our needs.

We must feed on His word. From 2 Timothy 2:15 we see that we are to consider or "study" how we may approve ourselves before the Lord so that we won't be ashamed. This is done by rightly dividing His word, the Holy Scriptures. Our faith comes from studying, understanding, and believing God's Holy Word (Rom. 10:17). And, without faith we cannot please God (Heb. 11:6). Perfecting holiness can also be accomplished by helping those who are weak (Stebbins and Longstaff). We are to "bare the infirmities of the weak" (Rom. 15:1). We are to help widows and orphans (James 1:27). The child of God is

to visit the sick, clothe the naked, visit those in prison, take in strangers, feed the hungry, and give the thirsty something to drink (Matt. 25:35-40). In so doing we will inherit the kingdom of God: *"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"* (Matt. 25:34).

Will we take the time to be holy? As the hymn under consideration points out "the world rushes on". We live in a very fast-paced society. We have climate controlled homes with running water. We don't have to build a fire and go to a spring and carry in water. We have gas powered automobiles to transport us where we need to go. We don't have to catch a horse and feed it so that we can go to town. We have jobs. We are not hungry like so very many people in the world are. Yet, many times, we think we don't have the time to be holy by praying, studying the Bible, and helping others. We use excuses like "I have band or ball practice", "I'm so very tired when I get home in the evening", "I have so many chores" and on and on the excuses go.

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, if we truly want to be holy before Almighty God we will put Him first in all things and find the time to be holy. In taking the time to be holy "like Him thou shalt be". As we noted earlier, Peter teaches us to *"be holy: for I am Holy"* (1 Pet. 1:16). Lastly, in taking time to be holy "thou soon shall be fitted for service above". Without pursuing holiness in our Christian lives, we will not see God: *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord"* (Heb. 12:14).

TIMOTHY ELDRIDGE
(Woodland, AL)

Take Time to Be Holy

Take time to be holy,
speak oft with thy Lord;
abide in him always,
and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children,
help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing
his blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy,
the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret
with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus,
like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct
his likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy,
let him be thy guide,
and run not before him,
whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow,
still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus,
still trust in his word.

Take time to be holy,
be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive
beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit
to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted
for service above.

Text: WILLIAM D. LONGSTAFF, 1822-1894
Music: GEORGE C. STEBBINS, 1846-1945

APOLOGIA

QUESTION: Why did God fail to kill Satan as for sure God knew Satan's purpose is to spoil His people?

ANSWER: Satan was a created being (Ezekiel 28:15) who with his fellow disobedient angels rebelled against God and was cast out of God's presence into the earth (Revelation 12:7-12). In 2 Peter 2:4 we are informed that they are "*reserved unto judgment,*" in Revelation 12:12 that "*he knoweth he hath but a short time,*" and they knew that their destiny was to be tormented (Matthew 8:29). While the devil and his fellows were indeed restricted, their time for being cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10) had not yet come, nor has it even until now.

In the meantime, God has provided for His people protection against "*the wiles of the devil*" (Ephesians 6:11). Jesus used such protection in Matthew 4:1-11 when tempted by Satan three times He answered each temptation with a quotation from God's word, "*It is written.*" We are assured in 1 John 2:5, "*Whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected.*" We gain strength in knowing, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*" (James 4:7).

God certainly could have removed Satan and every other obstacle which would hinder the Christian's walk, but then we would be unproven and no more than a puppet. James explains,

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Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him (Jam. 1:12).

HARRY COBB
(Wedowee, AL)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. During Jacob's struggle with the angel, the hollow of which part of Jacob's body was touched and put out of joint?
 2. How long did Jonah say it would be before Ninevah was to be overthrown?
 3. Who was appointed to replace Judas Iscariot as a disciple?
 4. Who promised the "gift of power to tread on serpents and scorpions"?
 5. Who was Paul with when he wrote the letter to Philemon?
- ...and remember last month's questions?
1. How old was Sarah when her son Isaac was born? 90 (Genesis 17:17)
 2. Which of David's sons rebelled against him? ABSALOM (2 Samuel 15)
 3. "Everyone that is proud in heart" is what to the Lord? AN ABOMINATION (Proverbs 16:5)
 4. Where did Jesus find Zacchaeus, the tax collector? UP A TREE (Luke 19:4)
 5. Which apostle was a Pharisee? PAUL (Acts 23:6)

Gospel Meetings

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
July 28 - August 2	Napoleon Napoleon, AL	Tim Eldridge (Woodland, AL)
August 9 - 11	Mt. Carmel Road Gay, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
August 16 - 18	Fayetteville Road Fairburn, GA	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
August 16 - 18	New Bethel Cullman, AL	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 25 - 30	Fairview Fairview, KY	Hunter Bulger (Fort Deposit, AL)
August 26 - 28	Hopkinsville Hopkinsville, OH	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)

EDITORS' NOTE: Because the main computer crashed last month, we lost address changes since March. Hopefully we have recovered those changes but may have overlooked an email or note. If you know of anyone on the list who did not receive *The Harvester* this month, please notify us. Thank you for help and encouragement through the past 27 years. Grace be with you all.