

The
Burden Made Light

By
ALFRED DOERFFLER

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TO MY SHUT-INS

Meditations and Prayers for Sick, Convalescents, Invalids, and Afflicted Seeking Comfort,
Strength, Encouragement, Hope, and Peace in the Glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, Our Savior
and Friend



“Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

God sometimes shuts the door and shuts us in,
That He may speak, perchance through grief or pain,
And softly, heart to heart, above the din,
May tell some precious thought to us again.

God sometimes shuts the door and keeps us still
That so our feverish haste or deep unrest
Beneath His gentle touch may quiet, till
He whispers what our weary hearts love best.

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The Book of Books

Thy Word have I hidden in my heart. — *Ps. 119, 11.*

The greatest treasure in the world is the Bible. The Bible is the oldest book, and yet it is the most up-to-date book because it fits your condition and mine. There is no other book in the world which has directed the thoughts of men and influenced the human race like this Book.

God claims this Book, the Bible, as His own. God tells us that He has given this Book by inspiration. With the word *inspire* God means to tell us that He has given the Bible to the human race by a special, unique inbreathing. This method of inspiring is limited to certain men, to the prophets in the Old Testament and the apostles in the New Testament.

These writers were moved to speak by the Holy Ghost. “Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost,” 2 Pet. 1, 21. David says: “The Spirit of God spake by me, and His Word was in my tongue,” 2 Sam. 23, 2.

God claims that all of this Book, every word, is His own. Therefore the writers did not include their own ideas and took no credit for any part of the Bible as their own. The Bible does not merely contain the Word of God, but *is* His Word.

God claims that nothing else is authoritative in religious matters. All that God reveals to man He has spoken through this Word. Therefore the Bible is complete. We are not to expect any new revelations. All that we need to know is found in the Bible.

Therefore this Word is final. Whatever the Bible states is unchangeable and infallible. God has nothing more to say. Therefore the Bible speaks with authority on all questions of doctrine and morals.

This Bible is *your* Book. “Thy Word have I hid in my heart.” As you are a Christian, this Treasure Book is to be in your home, in your life, and in your heart. This Book serves as a touchstone. From this Bible you will learn to know what is true and what is not true, what you should do and what you must not do, what you are to believe and what you are not to believe.

This Book serves you as a guide. It leads you into the narrow way and guards you against the pitfalls of sin. It is a lamp that lights up the way, the beacon-light that points to the harbor of heaven.

This Book serves you also as a companion. It cheers you as you meet with disappointments and failures. It assures you that the Lord is your Shepherd and that Jesus is your Savior. As companion it comforts you in your sorrows and dries your tears. As companion it fills you with hope. There is no condition in life in which it has not a message for you.

That is why the Bible is a real Treasure Book, and only God could give it to us. Therefore hide it in your heart; that is, read it, believe it, love it. Follow its instructions and hold fast to it as God’s message to you.

Prayer

Lord God, merciful Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast revealed Thyself unto me in the Scriptures and hast made me wise unto salvation through this glorious Gospel, which can save to the uttermost. Let this

Thy Word be hid in my heart that I may love it and read it daily and find in it strength and comfort and help. Let nothing in the world be dearer to me. May I see in it the one thing needful. Grant that no one will have power over me and cause me to question the truthfulness of Thy inspired Word, but that I may believe with childlike faith every word that Thou hast spoken.

Let this Word reach the ends of the earth, and let it bring peace to thousands even as it brings peace and hope to my heart. Forgive me every sin and keep me and all mine in Thy saving grace. May the study of Thy Word be our daily delight! I ask this because of Him who is the living Word from heaven, Christ Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

Greater than Mother-Love

Can a woman forget her sucking child that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yet, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. —*Is. 49, 15.*

God uses here the love of a mother to illustrate His love. Mother-love is a picture of God's love, great and glorious, but not so wonderful. The rose painted on the canvas is never as beautiful as the rose-bud in the garden. Yet God sees fit to compare His own love with that of a mother. As He seeks to demonstrate to sinful man how much He loves us, God tells us that He loves us *more* than a mother.

Can a mother forget her sucking child? Yea, she may forget. Mothers have abandoned their children. It is inhuman for a mother to forget. But even though she may forget, yet God never forgets us. God's love never ceases to flow toward the sinner. God's love never lets us go. That is why Paul says in Romans 8: "I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

No matter how great our troubles and how trying our sufferings, God knows, and He cares. God always brings to pass the events of our lives in such a way that in the end we praise Him for His wisdom and grace. Therefore we should delight in waiting upon the Lord and diligently study His promises as they are found in His Word. Clinging to these promises, we cannot despair. God, who is from everlasting to everlasting, knoweth our downsitting and our uprising and is acquainted with all our ways. Therefore it is better to trust in the Lord than to put our confidence in man. Each morning we hope anew because the Lord of hosts is with us and the God of Jacob is our Refuge.

Let us, then, write into our discouraged and anxious hearts this promise of God: "Yet will I not forget thee."

Prayer

Thou hast promised to me, gracious Father, Thy presence day after day. Therefore I lift up mine eyes unto Thee, from whom cometh my help. Thou knowest all things and art acquainted with all my ways and with all my struggles and problems. With these I come into Thy throne-room, petitioning Thee to give me strength and help. Show me, O Lord, the way that I should go. Guide me and keep me safely every hour of the day.

Give to me the grace to remember daily Thy great, wonderful love toward me and all mankind, which is so great that Thou didst send Thine only-begotten Son to redeem me that I might be Thine own. In Thy tender love blot out all my sins and remember them no more. Fill me with Thy heavenly peace.

Bless this our home with Thy divine presence. Let each one of us know that Thou art very near. Fill each with contentment and patience and love. Remove from us all the worries and cares that want to beset us. We ask this because of Him who in His great love laid down His life for us all, Christ Jesus. Amen.
