ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

WE REJOICE

Commendation is always in order for those who are sanctified, or set apart, to the Lord’s service (I Cor. 1:2). Paul wrote to the Philippians, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice” (Phil.4:4).

Christians are not a people without difficulties or daily challenges. Paul was in a Roman prison when he wrote to the Philippian church. He knew what real trials and persecutions were all about! Yet, he said we should rejoice, being in Christ. Christians are a people who have their faith to strengthen them on a daily basis (Rom. 10:17; II Cor. 5:7). They are, therefore, those who walk in this life looking to their Lord for help, guidance, and protection. What a privilege it is to call on our Heavenly Father in prayer (I Thess. 5:17). We can have confidence in the Lord’s character, law, and promises, and are helped by these sources of strength. And, above all this, we have hope of everlasting life beyond the grave (I Jn. 2:25).

When you are feeling sad or when life throws you a curve, think on these things. We are to keep ourselves in the love of God, “looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” (Jude 21). Jude further writes, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen” (Jude 24-25).
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at makes your heart sing? Or, are you among those who really find nothing to sing about? So many today view life only in “discord” and being “out of tune” with God; they do not seem to think that they have much to sing about. In their pursuit of the world rather than their pursuit of Heaven, these have either never enjoyed the blessings of obeying God, or they have forgotten the joy of their salvation (Psa. 51:12) and their reason to sing! The apostle to the Gentiles reminds us that “we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh (a worldly life). For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die (spiritually); but if ye through the Spirit (His teaching) do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Rom. 8:12-13).

Why God Commanded Singing
When God commanded singing in the church, He knew that His people had an abundance for which to be thankful! He therefore gave singing as a means to express our gratitude. To the church at Thessalonica Paul wrote for them to “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (I Thess. 5:16-18). Also, he instructed the church at Ephesus to “Speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:19-20).

What Fills Your Heart?
Let us in this brief series of articles examine the things that fill the Christian’s heart, causing them in natural response from this melody of joy and happiness in the heart to vent itself through the lips in singing.

The Christian sings because he has developed a deep and abiding faith in God by hearing His Word! (cf. Rom. 10:17). From His Word we learn that we are not able to please Him with our own thinking, and that what pleases us may not please Him, but that we must abide in His Word, which instructs us in the faith that pleases Him (Heb. 11:6). We know by faith that “he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;” that all “should seek the Lord,” knowing that He is “not far from everyone of us;” and realizing that “in him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:25-28). And, as we walk by faith and not sight (II Cor. 5:7), “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (:8), since “we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (II Cor. 5:1). Hence, in these things the Christian not only believes that God is but that “he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

Saved by Hope
Paul wrote, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1). When a man has no faith in God, he has no hope of Heaven! Paul also said that we are saved by hope and that this “hope maketh not ashamed” (Rom. 5:5).

This hope, or expectation with desire to have the promises of God, is safeguarded in Christ and will not disappoint us nor shall we ever be ashamed for walking in this hope!

Then Sings the Christian’s Soul . . .
The Christian sings because he knows that, if God be for us, no one can successfully be against us and our eternal welfare (Rom. 8:31). This is the faith that upholds hope supreme, as through the eye of faith we see the eternal life promised in Heaven. Peter would have us to know of the “inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (I Pet. 1:4-5). This is one of the blessings that causes the child of God to sing with a heart full of thanksgiving (Col. 3:16-17).
Creation Fact #39
Evidence from Genetics

“It would take thousands of carefully directed changes to the genes of an eyeless creature for it to possess a crude light-sensitive patch or a compound eye. It would take countless more to turn a light-sensitive patch or compound eye into a fluid-filled eyeball. Since an eye that is not fully developed does not provide sight, any mutation not providing some advantage would be useless. These mutations would be eliminated by natural selection rather than developing in a step-by-step manner into the complex eye. So how did the eye develop?

“Neither living nor fossil animals show any evidence for the gradual development of an eye. Every known creature either has a fully developed compound eye, a fluid-filled eyeball, or a light-gathering spot. No adequate mechanism has been proposed how anyone of these types of eyes could have turned into another by random step-by-step mutational changes.

“There are no adequate mechanisms explaining how an eyeball developed and no examples in the fossil record indicating that it has ever happened. The most reasonable scientific conclusion is that there is a Creator who designed and created each type of eye.”

Creation Fact #40
Evidence from Anatomy

“Our eye's lens is truly a marvel of chemistry. It contains a very high concentration of protein molecules in a transparent water solution. This discovery amazed scientists, because protein molecules in water solutions are not transparent, but opaque. However, for the lens of the eye to work properly, it must be transparent. After much research, scientists discovered that the concentration of protein molecules in the lens of the eye is so high that they pack together like the molecules of window glass. This results in the normally opaque protein solution becoming transparent.

“For how many years was an evolving creature forced to stumble around half-blind before random mutations happened upon the perfect protein, in the perfect concentration, to pack together in exactly the right way, to make his eye lens transparent? Why didn't natural selection drive the creature to extinction before the lens developed properly? Once again creation makes sense while evolution leaves us questioning its logic.”

—A Closer Look at the Evidence

Sharpening The Sword

IMPORTANT GETWELL BULLETIN NOTICE

In an effort to update our bulletin mailing list and to streamline our bulletin mailing process, we are offering Good News From Getwell in .pdf format by e-mail. If you have not yet replied, please indicate below your preference for receiving the Good News From Getwell bulletin and cut and return this portion of the page to Getwell Church of Christ, 1511 Getwell Rd., Memphis, TN 38117-7299, or fax to 901-743-2197, or e-mail to Brenda@getwellchurchofchrist.org.

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Name: ___________________________ Address: ___________________________ City: ____________ State: _____ Zip: ________
I WAS SICK AND YE VISITE ME
(MATT. 25:36)

Please remember in your prayers June Barringer as she has returned Baptist Hospital DeSoto (no visitors please) and, also, Wynona Murray as she undergoes knee surgery this week (on 8/14) at St. Francis Hospital. Please remember those of our number who are home bound or in nursing homes: Hazel Bizzell, 3910 Stuart Rd. Apt. 701, 38111, 452-2679; Nell Brandon, Quince Nursing and Rehab Center, 6733 Quince Rd., Room 2006A, 38119; Emma Brotherton, Landmark of DeSoto, 3068 Nail Rd. W., Room 310B, Horn Lake, MS 38637; Frances Collins, 4779 Amboy Rd., 38117, 682-6917; Mary Haynes, 274 S. Highland, Apt. 808, 38111, 327-2127; Addie Nelms, 4007 Dunn Ave., 38111, 743-7554; Skipper Schulz, 139 Magnolia Dr., 38117, 683-3049; and Minnie Wayne, Gallaway Healthcare Center, Room 106, 435 Old Brownsville Rd., Gallaway, TN 38036, 317-4590.

SYMPATHY
We extend our love and sympathy to our former member Mary Ray in the passing of her brother in Alabama.

THANK-YOU NOTES
Notes of appreciation from June Barringer and from the Comstock family are posted on the bulletin board.

BAPTIZED
Megan Brown (3)
4097 Barr Ave., 38111
901-216-7305

SPIRITUAL SWORD GIFTS
Gifts for THE SPIRITUAL SWORD have been received from Will and Louise Day (Memphis), Annie Bryant (NM), and H. P. Roberts (OH).

Dedicated To The Restoration Of New Testament Christianity

Address Services Requested
Memphis, TN 38111-7246
1511 Germantown Road
Gethsemani Church of Christ