GRACE! ‘TIS A CHARMING SOUND

Hymn Devotion-August 6

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10

Ephesians 4:7

Grace, ’tis a charming sound,   
Harmonious to mine ear;   
Heaven with the echo shall resound,   
And all the earth shall hear.

Grace first contrived the way  
To save rebellious man;   
And all the steps that grace display  
Which drew the wondrous plan.

Grace led my roving feet  
To tread the heavenly road;   
And new supplies each hour I meet,   
While pressing on to God.

Grace all the work shall crown,   
Through everlasting days;   
It lays in heaven the topmost stone,   
And well deserves the praise.

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Grace leads our roving, often off the path feet to tread the heavenly road and we meet with new supplies, new energy, hope, love etc while pressing on to God, to heaven.

Our everlasting crown will be awarded because of grace not by our own efforts – this grace lays in heaven the topmost stone and it deserves the praise.

The inability to understand and accept the grace of God keeps some people from accepting Jesus as their Savior – grace is so contrary to human nature – something for believing – no effort needed only faith!

Accept today the grace God so freely gives in faith and praise His name!

1. Grace is unmerited favor.

How is grace described?

1. How is it to the ear?
2. What happens in heaven?
3. Where is it heard?
4. Verse 2: A definition of contrived is planned so carefully as to seem unnatural.

What was grace first contrived to

do?

1. What are there to grace?
2. What was drawn?
3. Verse 3: What led roving feet?
4. Where did it lead our feet?
5. What is met each hour?
6. While doing what?
7. Verse 4: What crowns all the work?
8. How long?
9. Where does grace lay?
10. What as?
11. What does grace deserve?

O LOVE DIVINE, THAT STOOPED TO SHARE

Hymn Devotion – August 7

Scripture: Ephesians 2:12-13

Psalm 119:151

O Love divine, that stooped to share  
Our sharpest pang, our bitterest tear!  
On Thee we cast each earthborn care;  
We smile at pain while Thou art near.

Though long the weary way we tread,  
And sorrow crown each lingering year,  
No path we shun, no darkness dread,  
Our hearts still whispering, “Thou art near!”

When drooping pleasure turns to grief,  
And trembling faith is changed to fear,  
The murmuring wind, the quivering leaf,  
Shall softly tell us Thou art near!

On Thee we fling our burdening woe,  
O Love divine, forever dear!  
Content to suffer while we know,

Living and dying, Thou are near!

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)

The theme of this hymn is God’s love divine is with us no matter what HE IS NEAR! What a comforting thought to know God is near, we can unload our burdens on Him and He is stooping down to hear, give hope and help! God is not only the God of creation but He also shares in our burdens and pain – What a wonderful divinely loving God.

1. How is love described?
2. What does this love share?
3. What do we cast on Him?
4. What do we do at pain?
5. How can we do that?
6. Verse 2: How is the way we tread described?
7. What happens to each lingering year?
8. What is not shunned?
9. What about darkness?
10. What do we still whisper in our hearts?
11. Verse 3: How is pleasure described here?
12. What does it turn to?
13. How is faith described?
14. What does it change to?
15. How are the wind and leaf described?
16. What do they tell us?
17. Verse 4: What do we fling on God?
18. How is Love divine?
19. What are we content to do?
20. When is God near?

LO! COMES, WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

Hymn Devotion- August 8

Scripture: Revelation 1:5-7

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,   
Once for favored sinners slain;   
Thousand, thousand saints attending,   
Swell the triumph of His train:   
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him  
Robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Shall the true Messiah see.

The dear tokens of His passion  
Still His dazzling body bears;  
Cause of endless exultation  
To His ransomed worshippers;  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore Thee,  
High on Thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory,  
Claim the kingdom for Thine own;  
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!  
Everlasting God, come down!

Originally penned by John Cennick

Adapted by Charles Wesley

Embellished by Thomas Oliver and

Martin Madan

If we are Christians this should be our desire to see the Savior and to have His return quickly – very soon – for those who are not Children of God this will be a frightening and fearful time – it will also be that for Christians as well the unknown is always difficult but with Jesus as our Savior – He will see us through! Praise the God with endless exultation for what He has done for us!

1. The definition of lo is to call attention to an amazing sight.

What is the amazing sight described?

1. What happened once?
2. How many saints?
3. What do these saints do?
4. What are the words of praise?
5. What will God do?
6. Verse 2: What shall our eyes do?
7. How will He be robed?
8. What did those people do?
9. What will they be doing?
10. What shall be seen?
11. Verse 3: What does His dazzling body bear?
12. What do these cause His ransomed worshipers to do?
13. Rapture here is ecstatic delight.

What do we do with this rapture?

1. Verse 4: Yea, yes – amen so be it.

What is this affirming?

Where?

1. What are we saying to our Savior?
2. How are we asking for God to come?
3. How is God described?
4. What are we asking God to do?

ALMIGHTY GOD, THY WORD IS CAST

Hymn Devotion – August 9

Scripture: Matthew 13:3-5, 7-9, 23

Almighty God, Thy word is cast

Like seed into the ground;

Now let the dew of heave’n descend

And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man

This holy seed remove,

But give it root in eve’ry heart,

To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world’s deceitful cares

The rising plant destroy,

But let it yield a hundredfold

The fruits of peace and joy.

Oft as the precious seed is sown,

Thy quick’ning grace bestow,

That all whose souls the truth receive

Its saving pow’r may know.

John Cawood (1775-1852)

We know that God’s word is cast, scattered upon earth in many ways and that the Holy Spirit waters the seed that is what makes the seed grow – we are only called upon to scatter the rest is up to God – we are asking that Satan is not allowed to remove the seed or the unhealthy cares of the world don’t destroy the plant but that the seed is allowed to grow and produce fruits of love, peace and joy. That everyone that receives the truth will realize through the grace of God the saving power of Jesus. Amen.

1. How is God described?
2. How is God’s Word cast?
3. What is asked to descend?
4. What to abound?
5. Verse 2: Who is the foe?
6. Who is the foe against?
7. How is the seed described?
8. What are we asking to happen to the seed?
9. What to bring forth?
10. Verse 3: How is the world cares described?
11. What are we asking not to happen?
12. How much yield?
13. What are the fruits?
14. Verse 4: How is the seed described?
15. What is bestowed?
16. What do souls receive?
17. What will they know?

O WORD OF GOD INCARNATE

Hymn Devotion -August 10

Scripture: Psalm 119:33-37

John 1:14

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
We praise You for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
A Lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The Church from You, our Savior, received the Gift divine,  
And still that Light is lifted over all the earth to shine.  
It is the sacred casket where gems of truth are stored;  
It is the heaven drawn Picture of Christ, the living Word.

The Scripture is a banner before God’s host unfurled;  
It is a shining beacon above the darkling world.  
It is the chart and compass that over life’s surging tide,  
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands, to You, O Christ, will guide.

O make your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,  
To bear before the nations Your true light as of old.  
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,  
Till, clouds and darkness ended, they see You face to face.

William Walsham How (1823-1897)

It is interesting that the hymnist did not include himself in the Church – the ones who will ultimately see Christ face to face – through faith we will be among those that see God face to face.

1. How is the Word God described?
2. What is from on high?
3. What is unchanged?
4. What is the Light of?
5. What do we praise God for?
6. What is God’s Word to our footsteps?
7. How long does it shine?
8. Verse 2: What is God to the church?
9. What was received?
10. What is lifted over the earth to shine?
11. What are the two descriptions of God’s Word?
12. How is the Living Word described?
13. Verse 3: How does the Scripture float?
14. How does it shine?
15. The definition of darkling is in the dark; in the night.

What is the state of the world?

1. What is the Word of God to the world?
2. How is life described?
3. What are some other of life’s problems?
4. What does God’s Word do?
5. Verse 4: What are we asking for God to make us – His Church?
6. What are we to bear before the nations?
7. Who are to be taught?
8. How can God’s Word be used?
9. What will end?
10. How will they see God?