JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Hymn Devotion – February 11

Scripture – Mark 8:34-35, Matthew 16:24

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition, all I’ve sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition! God and Heaven are still mine own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue.
And while Thou shalt smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me, show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, ’twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me; heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, ’tis not in grief to harm me while Thy love is left to me;
Oh, ’twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Haste then on from grace to glory, armed by faith, and winged by prayer,
Heaven’s eternal day’s before thee, God’s own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;
Hope soon change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

 Through all the earthly trials if we are armed by faith and winged by prayer we will see heaven’s eternal days when faith becomes sight and no more need for prayer but only praise.

1. What is the action in the first line?
2. What state is the follower left in?
3. Who have we put our all into?
4. What all will perish?
5. How is the condition of the person? Why?
6. Verse 2: What is the follower allowing the world to do?
7. Who also are they leaving?
8. What deceives?
9. How is God NOT like man?
10. God smiles upon us with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. Foes may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and friends may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
12. What happens when God “shows His face”?
13. Verse 3: Man may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me.
14. What happens then?
15. Life’s trials press hard but what will heaven bring?
16. The next four lines explained: The grief felt by following God is not meant to harm because love is left and the joy in God is not to charm, the blessing of following God is to our advantage.
17. Verse 4: What does it mean to move from “grace to glory”?
18. We are armed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and winged by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
19. When do “eternal days” start?
20. By whose hand are we guided?
21. What shall soon close and swiftly pass?
22. Fruition is the realization of aims or hopes. Hope changes to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, faith to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and prayer to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

MUST JESUS BEAR THE CROSS ALONE?

Hymn Devotion -February 12

Scripture – Galatians 2:20

 Matthew 16:24

Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No, there’s a cross for everyone,
And there’s a cross for me.

The consecrated cross I’ll bear
Till death shall set me free;
And then go home my crown to wear,
For there’s a crown for me.

Upon the crystal pavement down
At Jesus’ pierced feet,
Joyful I’ll cast my golden crown
And His dear Name repeat.

O precious cross! O glorious crown!
O resurrection day!
When Christ the Lord from Heav’n comes down
And bears my soul away.

Thomas Shepherd (1665-1739)

We all bear crosses other than the cross of Christ but bearing His name and doing His will makes the individual crosses easier to bear because He will lift the burden from us

if we let Him.

1. If we don’t take up the cross of Christ is there freedom in being of the world?

2. There is a cross for everyone - What would you consider your cross?

3. Verse 2:Consecrate is to make or declare sacred. The sacred cross of Christ - His divine calling - If we take up the cross of Christ - What will set us free?

4. One of the Biblical symbols of reward is a crown for faithful service. Where will this crown be worn?

5. Do you believe there is a crown or crowns for you?

6. Verse 3: Where will this crystal pavement be?

7. How are Jesus’ feet described?

8. How should we cast the crown(s) we have “earned”?

9. What will be done as the crown(s) are cast?

10. Verse 4: List the three exclamations:

11. Why in that order?

12. Who comes from heaven?

13. What will He do?

LORD JESUS CHRIST, MY LIFE, MY LIGHT

Hymn Devotion - February 13

Scripture – John 20:26-29

Lord Jesus Christ, my life, my light,
My strength by day, my trust by night,
On earth I’m but a passing guest
And sorely with my sins oppressed.

Far off I see my fatherland,
Where through Thy blood I hope to stand.
But ere I reach that paradise,
A weary way before me lies.

My heart sinks at the journey’s length,
My wasted flesh and little strength;
My soul alone still cries in me:
Lord, take me home, take me to Thee!

Oh, let Thy sufferings give me power
To meet the last and darkest hour!
Thy blood refresh and comfort me;
Thy bonds and fetters make me free.

Oh, let Thy holy wounds for me
Clefts in the rock forever be
Where as a dove my soul can hide
And safe from Satan’s rage abide.

And when my spirit flies away,
Thy dying words shall be my stay.
Thy cross shall be my staff in life,
Thy holy grave my rest from strife.

Martin Behm (1557-1622)

Translated by Catherine Winkworth

 (1827-1878)

 Once again we see life of strife and sin saved by the blood of Christ, even through the last and darkest hour. Jesus is my Life, my Light, my Strength by day and my Trust by night. Lord take me home!

1. List all the things the Lord Jesus Christ is by day and night:

2. What are we on earth?

3. What sorely holds us back?

4. Verse 2: What is the “fatherland” spoken of here?

5. Through what is our hope for there to stand?

6. What lies ahead before we reach that Paradise?

7. Verse 3: What happens to a heart if the journey seems so long?

8. What is this earthly flesh considered?

9. What is the Christian’s soul cry?

10. Verse 4:What does Jesus’ suffering give us?

 To make it through what?

11. What does Jesus’ blood do?

12. Bond and Fetter are restraints which could be viewed as holding you back or another way of thinking as a connection - What is the connection of us to Jesus that sets us free?

13. Verse 5: What are the “holy wounds”?

14. This kind of cleft is a fissure or space in rocks. What is a space in the rocks a place for?

15. What do we need to be safe from?

16. Verse 6: What will “fly away”?

17. List all the “Thy” statements:

OUT OF THE DEPTHS I CRY TO THEE

Hymn Devotion - February 14

Scripture – Psalm 51:1-4

 Psalm 130:1

Out of the depths I cry to Thee;
Lord, hear me, I implore Thee!
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me;
Let my prayer come before Thee!

On my misdeeds in mercy look,

O deign to blot them from Thy book,

And let me come before Thee.

Thy sov’reign grace and boundless love

Show Thee, O Lord, forgiving;

My purest thoughts and deeds but prove

Sin in my heart is living:

Non guiltless in Thy sight appear,

All who approach Thy throne must fear,

And humbly trust Thy mercy.

Thou canst be merciful while just,

This is my hope’s foundation;

In Thy redeeming grace I trust,

O grant me Thy salvation.

Upheld by Thee I stand secure:

Thy word is firm, Thy promise sure,

And I rely upon thee.

Like those who watch for midnight’s hour

To hail the dawning morrow,

I wait for Thee, I trust thy pow’r,

Unmoved by doubt or sorrow.

So let Thy people hope in Thee,

And they shall find Thy mercy free,

And Thy redemption plenteous.

Martin Luther (1482-1546)

Translated by Benjamin Latrobe

 (1725-17860)

Our foundation is God’s mercy and redeeming grace. We are all sinners and God only can forgive. Watch, wait and pray is all that we can do. Trusting only in God.

1. Depths can be depression or from the innermost parts of our being.

 To implore is to beg. What is being begged for here?

2. Our prayer we pray will fall on what kind of ear?

3. How is God to look on our sin or misdeeds?

4. Deign is to think fit. What here is being asked of our sin?

 Before what can happen?

5. Verse 2: What shows the Lord forgiving?

6. What proves we have sin living in our hearts?

7. How does no one appear in the sight of God?

8. How must we approach the throne?

 Then do what?

9. Verse 3: Canst is can - What is the foundation of hope?

10. Where what can we trust?

11. What is asked to be granted?

12. In God we can stand secure - What two things are there that makes us able to rely on Him?

13. Verse 4: As we wait and watch for each tomorrow - What three things must we do?

14. If we hope in God what shall we find?

BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE

Hymn Devotion - February 15

Scripture – Mark 6:41-43

 John 6:35

Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word!

Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me,
Thy holy Word the truth that saveth me;
Give me to eat and live with Thee above;
Teach me to love Thy truth, for Thou art love.

O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,
That He may touch my eyes, and make me see:
Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word,
And in Thy Book revealed I see the Lord.

Mary Artemisia Lathbury (1841-1913)

The loaves broken by the sea were multiplied so there were twelve baskets of leftovers. If we seek the Lord beyond the sacred page, beyond the written word, put the Word into action. The blessings will multiply, not only for us but for those who are blessed by hearing of the Word. Seeking the truth and sharing it will relieve people of bondage and the restraint of sin will bring inner and everlasting peace.

1. Breaking the “Bread of Life” What all can that mean to Christians?

2. What loaves were “broken” by the sea?

3. What is the “Sacred page”?

4. What does it mean to go beyond the Sacred page?

5. To seek goes beyond just to look and to pant is to yearn. What is being said about the search for God here?

6. How is God described?

7. Verse 2: What is sought?

8. What happened to the bread by Galilee?

9. Bondage is slavery and fetters are restraints like in shackles or handcuffs. What happens when the truth of God is revealed and realized?

10. What two things will be found?

11. Verse 3: Who is the bread of life?

12. What saves us?

13. How can God teach us to love His truth?

14. Verse 4: Who are we asking to be sent?

15. What do we want Him to touch?

16. What are we asking to be shown?

17. Who can we see in the Bible?