GOD IS LOVE; HIS MERCY BRIGHTENS

Hymn Devotion -July 1

Scripture - I John 4:15-16.

God is love; His mercy brightens
All the path in which we rove;
Bliss He wakes, and woe He lightens:
God is wisdom, God is love.

Chance and change are busy ever;
Man decays and ages move;
But His mercy waneth never:
God is wisdom, God is love.

E’en the hour that darkest seemeth
Will His changeless goodness prove;
From the mist His brightness streameth:
God is wisdom, God is love.

He with earthly cares entwineth
Hope and comfort from above;
Everywhere His glory shineth:
God is wisdom, God is love.

John Bowring (1792-1872)

 It is very comforting to know that although the world is ever changing, man decays, dies physically and time - ages move on but His mercy, His compassion and kindness stays the same - never wanes - even through our darkest hour His goodness will be not change and will be proven over and over through His wisdom and His love.

 Take heart -In His love and mercy God is never changing - For rest give your burdens over to Him today!

1. What is God?

2. A definition of mercy is compassion.

 What does His mercy do?

3. What part of the path we rove does God know?

4. A definition of bliss is perfect joy, happiness.

 Bliss He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;

5. List two things God is:

6. Verse 2: What are ever busy?

7. What does man do?

8. What moves?

9. What does His mercy do?

 To wane would be to decrease in whatever the original value.

10. Verse 3: What does the hour seem?

11. What will always prove changeless?

12. What streams through the gloom?

13. Verse 4: What does He entwine - interweave in?

14. What comes from above?

15. What shines everywhere?

16. What phrase is repeated at the end of every verse?

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

Hymn Devotion- July 2

Scripture - I Timothy 1: 15-17.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
Of all Thy rich graces this grace, Lord, impart
Take veil from our faces, the vile from our heart.

Walter Chalmers Smith (1924-1908)

 God gives life to all, both great and small – God lives in all life – If God is in our lives then our life is true, right and good. Humans blossom and flourish like leaves on the trees – then wither and perish – we live our lives – then die but nothing changes God – Hebrews 13:8.

 Great and pure Father of glory and light, your angels adore you, while veiling their sight – We are asking God of all your rich grace, unmerited favor, grant this favor to take the veil from our faces so that we can see His true nature and His great love and take the vile, the sin and desire to sin from our hearts.

 If we want a true life, a life worth living we need to look to the immortal, invisible God realizing that God is the only wise and praise His name!

1. What two adjectives describe God?
2. What is God only?
3. What is God in that we cannot see?
4. List the rest of the descriptions of God in this verse:
5. What do we praise?
6. Verse 2: List the two “un” words:
7. What is God silent as?
8. And not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. How does God rule?
2. What do the mountains high soaring above describe?
3. What are the clouds?
4. Verse 3: What are those that God gives life to?
5. What part of life does God live?
6. What part of life is God?
7. What do we do?
8. How does God change?
9. Verse 4: How is God the Father described?

List the two of’s:

1. What do the angels do?
2. While doing what?
3. How is grace described?
4. What are we asking to be taken from our face?
5. What are we asking to be taken from our heart?

O GOD OF EARTH AND ALTAR

Hymn Devotion- July 3

Scripture - Isaiah 59:1-3

 Psalm 47:7

O God of earth and altar,

Bow down and hear our cry,
Our earthly rulers falter,

Our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us,

The swords of scorn divide;

Take not Thy thunder from us,

But take away our pride.

From all that terror teaches,

From lies of tongue and pen,
From all the easy speeches

That comfort cruel men;
From sale and profanation

Of honor and the sword;
From sleep and from damnation,

 Deliver us, good Lord!

Tie in a living tether,

The prince and priest and thrall;
Bind all our lives together,

Smite us and save us all;
In ire and exultation

Aflame with faith and free,
Lift up a living nation,

A single sword to Thee.

Gilbert Keith Chesterton ( 1874-1936)

 We are asking to be tethered – bound together – everyone from prince – nobility and priest – the church and thrall – the slave or now days the common person – to smite and save, not killed but for God to have a strong affect on us – to change our lives – ultimately to save us all! In ire – in anger and in exultation – in elation or rapturous emotion – aflame –intensely excited with faith – on fire for the Lord, and free, a free nation and free from sin and guilt – lift up – Rise us up a living nation – alive and vibrant – a single sword – not divided but united to Thee – united in God!

1. What is God of?
2. Who bows down?

Who hears our cry?

1. Who falters?
2. What do people do?
3. What entombs us?
4. What divides us?
5. What are we asking not to be taken from us?
6. What are asking to be taken from us?
7. Verse 2: List all the first three “from” statements:
8. What do all the “from” statements do?
9. A definition of profanation – derived from profane, not belonging to what is sacred or biblical; secular.

What is happening to honor and the sword?

1. List the last two “from” statements:
2. What are we asking God to do from all of verse 2?
3. Verse 3: A definition of thrall is slave or a state of slavery.

Who are we asking God to tether or join together?

1. A definition of smite is to have a sudden strong affect on.

What are we asking God to do to us and for us?

1. Ire is anger, exultation is elation; rapturous emotion.

Aflame is intensely excited.

What are the four “states” of human existence?

1. What describes a nation here?
2. How is unity described?

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Hymn Devotion – July 4

Scripture – I Corinthians 15:24-27

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

*Refrain
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!*

*Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!*

*His truth is marching on.*

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet;
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:
As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free;
While God is marching on.

Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910)

 This Independence Day and every day let us live and die to make people free- free from terror, hate, poverty, disease and most of all free from sin and guilt. Christianity is not a spectator sport – if we can do nothing else – we can pray!

1. How will the Lord be coming?

1. A definition of vintage is of a past season.

 What is God doing to the vintage?

1. What are stored?
2. What has He loosened?

Of what?

1. What is marching on?

1. Verse 2: Where has He been seen?
2. What have they built Him?

When?

1. What can be read?

 What by?

1. What is marching on?
2. Verse 3: What has been sounded forth?
3. What will never be sounded?
4. What is He sifting out?

Where?

1. What should be swift?

What should be jubilant?

1. What is our God doing?
2. Verse 4: What in and where was Christ born?
3. What transfigures you and me?
4. What did Christ die to do?
5. What we live to do?
6. While who is marching on?
7. Chorus: What is repeated?
8. What is marching on?

GOD OF OUR FATHERS

Hymn Devotion – July 5

Scripture – Psalm 44:1-4

 II Chronicles 20:6

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast,
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

Daniel Crane Roberts (1841-1907)

 It has been said that if God never did another thing for us our praise and honor are still due Him and rightly so – He created and sustains us and sent His only Son to die for us so that we can have eternal life– Don’t make God just the God of your fathers but Your God and tell others about His saving grace – giving Him the glory due Him.

1. Who is God of?
2. What does His almighty hand do?
3. How is the galaxy described?
4. How are our songs before His throne described?
5. Verse 2: What has lead us in the past?
6. How is America described?
7. What is cast by Christ?
8. What all do we want God to be?
9. What are our law and our chosen path?
10. Verse 3: List the “from” statements:
11. What is God’s strong arm?
12. What do we want in our hearts to increase?
13. What will God’s bounteous goodness do?
14. Verse 4: What will God do for us on our toilsome way?
15. What are we asked to be lead from?
16. What are we wanting our lives filled with?
17. What is ever to be given to God?