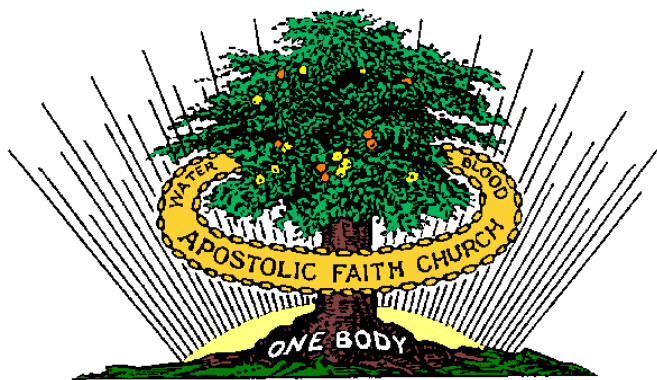


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# Showers of Blessing

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## He Shall Be All In All

We may sing "But, while God and I shall be, I am His and He is mine". It is most comforting to think - with full assurance - that such a blissful state is possible inasmuch as we want it to be; but do we fully desire this always? One thing we can be sure of, and that is, God Himself is wholehearted in wanting such a union with His creation, but how far do we really want to go along this road?

To travel it, means actually nothing less than bringing every thought into the captivity of Christ the Lord: our Head to be. Until this unity of mind between His and ours is achieved, through deliberately trying to relate honestly to His Word of truth, He cannot be fully our Head. This is a state of mind into which one must conscientiously grow and practise to become like our Lord; and He to become fully our Head. Only then can we properly live in the fulfilment of the sentiments expressed in the hymn quoted above.

In order for this relationship to be brought into being, everything has to be surrendered and laid upon the altar. Not an easy task to accomplish, but one that is absolutely essential if ever the world is to be brought back to a state of sanity and good order.

Furthermore, it must be realised that such an objective is not optional upon mankind, but is the actual Plan of God, that such a state of affairs is to be brought about, and it will become eventually the absolute and ultimate requirement and standard set for the whole human race. Then will the Father fully be all in all.

Such a prospect may at first sight seem quite awesome to us, and far from possible to realise or attain to, Yet rightly understood, it is a state which is neither unobtainable nor a standard of conduct higher than we might be reasonably expected to achieve. The more we understand these facts, the more desirable they become.

Following our conversion, when we surrendered our self-will to the rightful claims of God over us - His creature which He had made - perhaps we may have lost sight of the expectation we had, of fully binding ourselves to go His way of the Cross. This is the way that alone leads home to God, the true home or resting place for all mankind.

It is reasonable to suppose that it is in the hands of a creator of any vessel, or the builder of any structure, that the true and ultimate well-being of the thing created, resides. The laws established by God for our good, are not ordinances which we should wish to resist, but realise that only in the keeping of them, can all our lives be lived to the full degree of blessedness.

God's truth is the only truth there is. The more we can find out about it and understand it, the more we advance the fulfilment of our lives. In Him is fullness of joy: the more we are together, the greater that joy, yet there are many who, though they do want God somewhat, prefer to worship God afar off.

To enjoy life to the fullest extent requires perfect health, not just of the body, but of the mind and spirit also. By obeying the sensible laws in the natural, we promote our physical well-being. In considering this, we can see that it is even more necessary to obey the sensible laws of righteousness, in order to promote the well-being of our mental and spiritual health.

In keeping all the commandments and putting into practise the loving of our neighbour as ourselves - not more than ourselves as some suppose it means - in every sphere of life, aiming to be just, we promote our own happiness; and find an intense meaning to living in serving one another, and in reflecting the image of a loving Creator.

The Sabbath day is a Holy Day, which if we are in harmony with God, is a lovely day. It should be the best day of the week really, because there we meet with our God in a particular way. We are able to sit down to Sunday's special dinner in our Father's House, because we may not be free to gather around the table of the Word during the rest of the week as one family. One prepares for it, and then it is a lovely, holy day, if we are in tune with God.

There is a difference in being righteous and being holy. Nobody has the excuse to behave unrighteously, but holiness is definitely the requirement of the 'called-out' people of God. One is not always fully in tune, and ready to come home on the Lord's Day. We may be so involved with other cares, that we are unable to be as free in spirit as we ought.

There are wonderful joys in the earth such as going on holidays, which we may find delightful, and we are meant to enjoy them; but the joy of the Lord surpasses all other delights. Worshipping God should not be viewed as an irksome duty, but an overwhelming joy! This has to be entered into - it is not easily found - but once attained, and if you can keep to it, Satan not robbing you of it, and your vision remaining undimmed; it is a better condition and state of being than any other.

It cannot be bought in anyway with money, for it is priceless: it can only be bought with an overcoming spirit. The ultimate goal of the divine plan, set in motion after the fall, and intimated in the name given to the third son of Adam - Seth - which means Saviour, is for God to walk with man again, as He could in the beginning, before sin entered. The agency through which God will fully establish His reign will be composed of those overcomers to whom God is all in all and with whom He walks. By the healing rule of their ministry, all nations will be put under Christ's feet, and then the Kingdom will be fit to hand back to the Father, who will be all in all to the nations.

Article written by the late Pastor R. Pain, first published in Showers number 3552, 23/6/83.

