

# THE

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## The Shepherd's Love--Part II

### THE SPRINGTIME ABUNDANT LIFE

#### Bringing His Own to That "Coming of Age"

Life is wonderful . . . That eternal life that will and does know the zest of the world to come. Yes, life is wonderful. Those in His peace look out into an unclouded beautiful blue . . . a morning glory blue. They are His, and everything He gives is glorious. The soft, beautiful breezes of the ages to come exhilarate and make bountiful with enthusiasm. Even as a child, His fragrant blossoms love the up and over view of the new heaven and the new earth . . . there's a glorious landscape . . . they may live in a contented always, in fellowship in fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore. The glorious colors of its spring-summer perfect could glorify each day, even though with the cross and daily sorrow.

"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;"

The dimensions of His ways and His thoughts have produced the beautiful that now is. Thoughts are pleasant also when they picture the loveliness of home. Where the angels tread in glory and where loved ones live contented is a garden paradise. Beside that jeweled reality of the shining sea are glimpses of a wonderful continent of continents. The palm tree is there, that charming

tree showing comely proportions. Its presence indicates the warmth of that beautiful garden-land. Then there is the throne . . . and our glorious God seated, with His Son at His right hand. What marvellous beauty, what radiant color, glows in eternal loveliness. ". . . and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory."

"My beloved is mine . . ." He thought and does yet think glorious thoughts . . . He loved before the chosen cared for the beautiful and lovely. He takes when man is dirty and ragged, and then He begins His creation for the Dawn. The flaming colors of the red sunset, the fragrant pink of the beautiful cloud-cap, are echoes that speak of His glory. Now, within the pleasant people, His love, and far off in those ages to come will thunder His word that will bring forth a new heaven and a new earth . . . a work of the same love now in the new beautiful. That love is of magnificent design . . . its dimensions are of unending breadth and height and depth and length. He speaks, and beautiful colors of the heart glow all around its sphere in a new day.

"The plants are an orchard . . ." ". . . with pleasant fruits;"

A Paradise of happiness is the heart of he who doth cherish and know the wonders and beauties of His charity.

It possesses the joyful view of the forward look, where the path is dream-lit with out-of-this-world beauty. Ah, what gems of fragrance and rare beauty bloom in the evening of this age. What prize-winning specimens doth yet display that there is a beautifully radiant life of success. Tomorrow's picturesque beauty today doth manifest itself in the lives of those who live in love. Every opportunity may have the love song that glows in full heavenly color.

"The flowers appear on the earth;" Yes, nature's blush of color on the awesome walls of Grand Canyon are out-surpassed by the scenes that glow with love's heavenly glory. Heaven's sunrise glows in the moments and there is no common place. The glorious untimeable love rims the sphere of this hour and glows every part of His garden in His mystic melody of color. The farmer plows, but turns every row in the service of the King. The worker on the assembly line brings the charm of heaven to sunshine with wondrous warmth . . . and punches a heavenly time-card, with wages in another world. The student brings within the hall's of man's learning a wisdom that outglows earth's wisest—the hall's are wonder-lit, when the walk of humility brings a heavenly glow of rainbow colors. The mother . . . the shut-in . . . the aged . . . His own, everyone, in their many walks of life . . . all, when they make use of their opportunities in love, do add to that panorama of beauty in God's garden.

" . . . the time of the singing of *birds* is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines *with* the tender grape give a *good* smell."

Creative beauty is wrought by the touch of the heavenly Father's hand. His brush is His love in our will and our heart. His sunrise colors are those remarkable hues of charity beautiful. His wonders of the world to come already are for observation through the movements of His love eternal. Every day we trod a portion of the pathway of the Lord heretofore untrod by us. Every day we may limber ourselves to

the dexterity and skill of His movement of grace and power. The thunder of warning through the prophet . . . the unfolding of how and why through the teacher . . . a whispered word of encouragement . . . the giving that abounds to eternal accounts . . . the smile of friendship—these and many more are gems of exquisite loveliness and glorious fragrance. At sunset . . . so near the end . . . the depth of tonal beauty of the warbler with its song of love resounds with the chords of the Land of Somewhere.

"My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love . . ."

There should be a stirring in the life of the child of God. There should be an asking for more height, and a fleeing from the blights that would deteriorate. There should be a reaching upward for the full blossoming of the heavenly nature. Maturity is beautiful in the full burst of that glorious dawn supernal. Its view is magnificent of that mansion of Tomorrow. Coming of age we recognize more fully those processes that produce the luxurious flowers of prize-winning beauty. Coming of age we are a real research gardener. This life is wondrously balanced in the wisdom and realism of the word of God. It has found the way to grow in the garden of the Lord.

The art of living . . . how to achieve success . . . how to stop drab days . . . how to be happy . . . how to get along with others . . . these and more have their answers in the holy scriptures. The power to grow rests with God alone. There must be a reaching, a laying hold, of the faithfulness of One who knows how to create the beautiful. "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Achievements golden are gained through the labors of prayer. The way to get our God to speak His creative marvels is that wonderful simplicity of asking Him to do it. We receive power and love and soundness of mind, it

reaches out and sanctifies our every part of our heart. We become soft and radiant with gentleness, and blessings from on high flow abundantly. There are mists, to be sure, but you hear the words of the Saviour when the disciples saw the withered fig tree: "Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this *which is done* to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and he thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

A child-like heart may grasp and do. A child-like heart does not vainly formulate reasons why, nor does it hesitate in unbelief, but plunges through to the simple *do*. It is the key to the beautiful. Each deed wrought in Him has its origination in a word or sentence or more that has moved the Spirit within. It is the proven of success. "And God said . . . and it was so." The persistence of the earnest cry brings the activity of God, raising our stature toward the goal of being full-grown. Not a vain striving in the proud fist-cuffs of human activity, but a forward with and in divine enthusiasm, a limbering to divine direction, a waiting for divine power and timing. "As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." ". . . for without me ye can do nothing."

Always remind yourself of the centrality of success, the eternal life within. The frailties of the body can be overcome by following the how of the scriptures. Natural ways fail to shut out the burdens of yesterday, and the fears of the hours ahead. Natural weaving, left to itself, labors in the boring and exhaustive ways of anxiety. It panics over the way it cannot see. It's slow to go to Gethsemane. It tends toward the stiff, the inflexible to the movements divine, and slips lazily into shallowness of expression. But the "*do*" is the attainment of happy living. We walk on the waves, and smile at the storm, when we look at the Saviour.

Ah, that is quality praying and doing, the sure way to stop worrying.

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." There are thrilling vistas of joy as we learn more and more the secrets of this "*do*". Elijah prayed earnestly. The blind men cried out, and cried the more. Peter cried out. Our Lord "offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears". *How do we pray?* To be assured of the full blossoming of divine beauty, let us do what our Lord had in mind in His use of the word "*pray*". Speak earnestly—pray the prayer of faith—in the ears of a waiting Friend. Break the bonds of scattered thoughts, and search for a united heart in prayer. Focus, as a camera, your whole self to the Father in glory. Leave your prayer with God, and go out to work in its answering. And remember the value of "*again*". Even in the heat of battle, we have open connections to One who freely gives the good. He who is perfect in knowledge has taken all things necessary for prize-winning into consideration, and always gives when asked.

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God."

The Arbors of peace are in another world, glowed with the glory of God. The spring of living water has brought life, love in all the beauty of perfect spring-time. Those who walk its paths live in the contentment of home. Death abbreviates no days or ages, but a deep and profound unity in Christ has knit those awake or asleep in our Lord's beautiful always. Beyond human imagination are the joys and beauties that His own possess. In a heavenly Florida perfect, another California glorious, His own know a climate now, a dreamy, lovely, colorful land of perfect blue and glorious light. This is the land where love reigneth, where His own rest in heavenly places.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity! . . . for there the LORD command-

ed the blessing, even life for evermore."

The mature wisdom that becomes divinely instinctive, the "Coming Of Age" stature, is truth, the realness of things. It is certainly the life that lives in His super-happiness, that fullness of joy. It is only as we live His facts, His views, that success is granted and glorious getting-along-together is our experience. Recognizing His thoughts and His ways, based on the reality that really is, is the essence of the abundant life. We reach above the giant libraries of man, gain more than the class-room and lab of college and university. We learn in the sublime region that glows in perfection. We are candidates for the highest degree, the success that is eternal. It shall never pass away.

Be careful, member of His church beautiful. Prize your treasure well, keep your loveliness. "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines *have* tender grapes." How well do we exercise wisdom in refusing that which is detrimental to growth? Full flourishing knowledge of grown-up maturity scorns the disease-ridden things of the world. Smart is the one who knows the sight of every ugly weed, rejecting that which would crowd out the beautiful. Wise is the one who keeps on his toes, maturely and in seasoned learning using the up-to-date methods of everlasting life.

"For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Spiritual blue skies with luxuriant green meadows sharply show up the dirty off-color of the world's entertainment. Daily and hourly the quackery of the world offers its decay-eaten, worm-infested restlessness. Prize maturity glories in the Lord, and in His free mind. It has learned the wonderful resistance to high pressure entertainment that would foist its wares on the innocent. It turns thumbs down on fiction serials, worldly run-away imaginatives (the drama, etc.), lust-baited quiz

programs, scored excitement points timed to defeat or the hand-clap of gratification of the moment. Pure wisdom has the far-off view, the love of the beautiful and lovely. It hates the entrance to the building or the twist of the dial that might rear again the maddening idols that plagued the darkened yesterdays.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things."

Maturity is not blurred in its proving, but applies the very stringent test to stay in the beautiful land of freedom. It can smell the stink-decayed morgue of sin way off. It hates the sickening vomited thrill mixture that would culminate in the aching nerve-shattering headache. It turns away from spasmodic flights in the darkened unreal. It sees the fitfulness of the feverish restlessness, the mad yell of the fantasy of man's imagination. But maturity knows fully the beauty of living in truth, taking part and being in the Life without end.

The picture of the heavenlies is the actual, living experience of those who walk in truth. The loveliness of the loved is the charity beautiful. "... love one another." "Add . . . and to brotherly kindness charity." LV, love-vision, is in the full, beautiful color of the ages to come. He gloweth His colors of the heart in the engaging panorama of real life. Mystic colors of love are beautiful in the lives in His service. He whispers His blue sapphires, His cloud-cap pink, His sunrise blaze, His tranquil white. And love is what we see in the unlimited view in church beautiful. It is love expressed in the glory of God through the humble walk of His own.

"As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud . . . the appearance of the brightness round about."

"The song of songs. . ." "... a very

lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice . . ."

Every color of the rainbow is in His garden of delights. The robin red-breast of song warbles sweetly amidst the fragrant angel-white blossoms of dream beauty. Life is different, gloriously new and happy. On and on ahead spans the unending of dreamland blue. Yes, spring time is here, the warmth and sublimity of His wonderful love. "Rejoice evermore." Though sorrow doth splash its gray-hued tear-drops, and trouble doth hang low, yet in the heart shineth His love. And all the new is glowed in the glory color that thrills the heart. So smile awhile as He bids. Every step leads more and more into that perfect day-break, and delight supernal is its out-look for always.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed *them* . . ."

"Let brotherly love continue."

Tomorrow's timeless sweep does have dreamable joy, and the full color living is glorious when love unites in one. There's a plan in this panorama of beauty. There's a mind that has purposes according to His riches in glory. He blesses with a crown of glory, the snowy head. He gives the sturdy blossoms of the middle-aged. He places and keeps the delicate, but beautiful, flowers of youth, with their vigorous enthusiasm. He has a place for each in His superb view of Tomorrow's living today. When they humbly keep their place, do their service, they harmonize in the full color of His one accord, thinking in His one mind. Each brings, each gives, each listens, that His life of love may be gloriously written in the beauty of His purposes.

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

God drew up His plan for these radiant acres, and in perfect wisdom spoke the instructions that would bring His rainbow gardens to full fruition.

In His love-land, one may blossom in beautiful sunrise talent or talents, but to others are given talents that are also part of the colorful loveliness. Are we mature, do we work this principle of *others also* into the very essence of our heart? The purple lavender of the soft lilac brings beauty and joy, but it cannot bring the pattern and beauty and delight that glows from the yellow daffodil, the blue of the moonflower, the fragrance of the roses. Brothers and sisters, in energetic doing, all bring a necessary part of the will of God, all a contribution of beauty in the dawn of Tomorrow.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Miracles of His Forever Living really happen in the house of His own. When we take Him at His word, we give sway to His glorious leadership. In eternal lines His perfect dream is drawn in our lives. Earthly apprehension limits, brings a scribble, instead of His miracle love. A spiritual I.Q. takes advantage of His teaching to the rich, full life in eternal color. It knows we may profit by our trying, even though our clumsiness may bring mistake. A mistake is costly, and we remember. With the stick-to-itiveness our Teacher gives, we learn and grow. The member becomes trained and mature in the way of Tomorrow.

"... *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Some day we will have reached that golden time of harvest home. Our start from the first should be upwards, a growing that has its purpose in heavenly things. It takes effort—real push in the real power from Above. And in fashioning this new man, the Father makes him in the likeness of the Lord Jesus. We could not of ourself produce one inch, but we look into His word and believe, creative marvels take place.

Our mind and heart does not naturally lend itself to the beautiful patterns of the heavenly maturity. Left to

themselves our thoughts become helter-skelter. Twining, sticky thoughts of worry cling. Wining thoughts of complaint burden. Ugly thoughts, not of love, would soon be grafted in. Our mind and body listen only if we get rough with it. We must continue to use violence, "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ". Root out the weed thoughts with a Hand more powerful than your own. In the garden of your heart, nourish alone the thoughts from our Lord.

"Meditate upon these things" "... think on these things." "... *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting ... behind ... reaching ... before, I press toward the mark ..."

If our thoughts become gloomy because of earthwardness, transplant God's thought, in verse or song, even in the midst of burdens. We inject a different line of reasoning, we cut off the spinning, self-cycling parasite thought when we picture in our mind the beauty of divine thought. There is marvellous soothing and resting power here. It means happiness to you, the blue skies and golden sphere where joy abounds. It means now, too, can always be a blossom-time of His thought in our heart.

"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: ..." This day also will end, but not the life of love that is in calm assurance. But smog and soot that partially hide the warmth and nutrition of God hinder our growth. In fact, stress generated from harmful feelings actually is the cause of much physical illness. The way of love keeps a healthy atmosphere in the heart. Areas of our heart become stuffy when anger and wrath is vented, when ill-will or dissatisfaction settles some. Then is the time and before, to open these areas wide to the fresh, eternally beautiful breezes of spring-time. They heal the tired, sore, run-down areas of the heart. They are God's prescription for happiness. "... grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put

away from you, with all malice: And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

"Charity never faileth". The beautiful eternal gardens of the heart will not fade nor pass away. Far off in the ages to come you can see by faith a new heaven and a new earth. In a holiday of holidays you will rejoice forever, in a restful and peaceful always. Towering glimpses of out-of-this-world beauty appear through his word, though reality now is misted between then and now by only seeing through a glass darkly. But the patterns are magnificently elegant. Yearning will be past, for all will be a colorful, eternal satisfaction. Contentment will be grand and glorious. The wondrous design and landscaping very properly will express the wisdom and beauty of thought of the Owner, the One who perfectly knows how to please.

"And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city *was* pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city *were* garnished with all manner of precious stones."

God knows what He is about. He sees with His vision those eternal lands, but He prepares us now to be worthy of His kingdom everlasting. These unrepeatable moments are the preparation time for the ages to come. Love is the life that will go on and on in those ages to come. In brilliant strokes of genius God glows in sunrise colors immortal beauty of the heart. He mirrors His own character and performance in His children. He visions eternal lands, and every step He takes is in the perspective of His future. Tomorrow's employment today is His labour of love.

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the

necessity of saints; given to hospitality."

The quest of His own should be in the golden inquiry of how to live better. We should be interested both in our brother and ourself. Our quest should be how best to develop God's real estate to the advantage of eternal vacation-time. There are beautiful talents now latent which could be in the garden glow of color. Let us stand at the golden helpful point of searching and encouraging a flair of talent that would blossom-lovely, but standing firm and resolute in keeping one from following a weakness.

"... we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye *are* God's building."

"... we"—*We learn and we labor in cheerful accord . . . And do what we can in the strength of the Lord.* It takes a blend of voices to make God's symphony of color. Each may notice whether he is sharpening or flattening by observing if his notes are harmonizing. It is as our notes become lost in that beautiful "together with God" that we contribute well to heaven's masterpiece. We read the music in opportunities through the explanation of His Spirit. We know the meaning through the understanding of His word. We observe the rests, the waits, heaven's purposes accomplished also by silence. We reverberate to the rhythm of His heart beat, the beautiful charity eternal.

"... love the truth and peace." "By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

There are certain ABC's to happy Christian loving. We use a single set of keys to print our actions in beautiful love. A can stand for all . . . all of His own. We grow as we discover how deep and profound this truth reaches in our Lord's thinking and plans. These unrepeatable moments will meet with the success of God if we place heart and mind always in His work of developing every one of His own in grandeur. Beautiful love blossoms in the emitting of the fragrance of this

concern for His own. It is part of the push with power that lives most beautifully, looking fully into the heavenly blue and glorious sunshine.

B could stand for building. ". . . charity edifieth." To build also means a continual battle against the weed thoughts that would cob-web the corners. Each lovely part of that ever-beautiful love described in I Corinthians 13 doth gloriously unfold in the life of building. We build His love, having in its very structure that wondrous knit together. When we dwell in love, we dwell in the far reaches of eternal life, in Him who is from everlasting to everlasting. When we put in the hours in His sunshine, doing His bidding under morning glory blue, we are doing a task of lasting and great beauty. "Follow after charity".

C can stand for complement. These colors just go together, they blend perfectly, they are a mark of good taste. Why? Because in the mind of the perfect Planner is a marvellous Design, and He perfectly executes His ideas and pictures. His lovely garden is made of individual blossom sprays of love, each gifted according to his several ability. But there is a complementing, a fitting together of individuals, into His lovely life eternal. Like the parts to a scenic picture puzzle, where one lacks, another takes over, while this supplies, and the other lacks. Whether it be the coordination of the elders or the triumphs of home life or any part of church beautiful, there is this *together companionship* with an "all" contribution from each. In the marvellous blossom garden of His own, there is a flowering of individual gems, priceless in value, glowing in rainbow colors to the Master.

"Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

This garden is resplendent in its beautiful, soft restfulness. The over-the-horizon hues glow this secret in loveliness into the splendor of His luxurious glory. Coming of Age, we have well-developed the sense that values those harmonies in the heart that blend



with His colorful life. We sit in heavenly places, and glimpse the beauty of the world to come. Satisfaction is guaranteed with an eternal keeping of His promises. We sense we have stepped across a new border, with a wonderful far-away feeling into the glorious forever. And we keep in tune with this that is to come by choosing those deep qualities of love and peace.

"Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Striving for growth, we become listenable to the instruction of God. The wisdom of God knows how to bring about the mature attitude of pressing latent artistry into the creative work for His peace. Use of this marvellous artistry for peace-making helps it in the growing process. From a faint, wavering beginning it develops through grace to beautiful maturity. We garner costly wisdom through our mistakes set in the light of truth. What marvellous masterpieces glow in morning glory blue . . . in the skilled artistry that paints with the beauty of His word. Whether a sowing of a colorful thought in exhortation . . . or bringing to bear the future view to those who have clashed somewhat and are snagged on a narrow point in the past . . . whether admonition or comfort . . . there is splendor of godly success assured for those who believe He is able.

"May we all in richest measure,  
Lord, to Thy great joy and pleasure  
As Thy plants of honor grow!  
Amen! Yea, Lord, be it so!"

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle. . ."

Gentleness is the way of the Lord to get across something desirable to another's heart and make him want to do it. Striving is fruitless argument, even sometimes in heated anger, that blocks the success from above. We gain in poise as we gain in the exhortation to "be gentle". It is a beautiful character trait, and is readily apparent in the mature. It brings the blue skies and cheerful love from God. It is wisdom on schedule, portraits of success, bouquets of fragrance to the heart. It is sowing

in the hope of eternal May flowers that will delight forever, in the unending sunshine of the Master's love.

Peace is wonderful. When our thoughts or desires become stuffy and stale through the weakness of our flesh, throw wide the windows. Let God's fresh, beautiful, spring-time breezes blow full into a happier face.

"In our hearts the chords attuning,  
That in psalms with God communing  
We look up to yonder shore.

With the palms of peace abounding,  
Where the golden harps are sounding,

Praising God forevermore."

LIVE IN PEACE. Sunrise colors fully accent the dream of the soul, and color in dream life now is beautiful love pastels of heaven's world. Pioneers face the Light. Though today may have its heavy rain clouds, and yesterday had its mutual sorrow of short-coming of the momentous . . . yet now is different. Our minds and our hearts have been presented with His challenge. We are perfectionists by divine nature, and mistake only to rise again through the strength of *enthusiasm from above*, toward eternal goals.

"Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

God's will is like the colors of the sunset in that many minds blend their individual hues so beautifully; it makes a magnificent whole. The lifted thrill of blue-skied meadows may always be ours. Our differences may become wisdom blended to wholly viewing a problem, and seeking the heavenly solution. Life is glowed more wonderfully in the new and wonderful if we can gain these individual perspectives. But we must strive for that goal of maturity. Being grown enough to search our minds through the stimulation of differences. Holding on to heavenly-convinced thoughts and ideas, perhaps in long waiting and patience. Giving in to contributions by other Light-bearers so the span in the sky may fully reverberate to that delightful play of heavenly color.



"... the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated. . . And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Men and women of God's research, scientists of wisdom, display the heavenly attributes that mark its beautiful character. They search . . . from young and old . . . from those who rule . . . from all the beautifully-fashioned comeliness of all the necessary parts of the body . . . they search carefully and prayerfully for what the mind of the Spirit is. The little calendar of this life's pattern is set aside for the brighter look always into the fathomless never-ending. They flee and escape from the darkened shutters of argument and strife that would prison parts of the thoughts into the miserable of not being at peace. They scorn the glamourless of worldly activity, and in a glory-halo dream-life, adventure into future promise.

"... walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

There would be no need of such urging to angels nor to those spirits of just men made perfect. Neither is that highly desirable unity attained by sitting by. The chords of this beautiful symphony of peace are made by you and me. The very picture of our problems is met by the timeless solution of the wisdom of God. It is meant for those who reach for or have gained the mature mind, those who want to know how to define in success such suffering—forbearing — endeavouring. The vocabulary of the highly learned is gained through the unsearchable riches of Christ. It is beautiful colors of the heart that shine—His love . . . as we rest in sunrise resting places—and his path shineth "more and more unto the perfect day."

Yes, your dreams can come beautifully true.

Life is wonderful.

May we together lay hold of His promised triumphs of joy to the believing, That our "love may abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; . . . Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

## A Sermon

By brother Benedict Weyeneth

June 9, 1864

Text, Hebrews 10th chapter, beginning at the 30th verse.

"For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense; saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. *It is* a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, know-

ing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

The apostle says in these words, that we are to fear the living God. Ven-

geance belongeth to Me, I will recompense, sayeth the Lord. He will judge His people, and will execute vengeance upon all the ungodly with flames of fire. We have an example in the former Israel, how God knew how to punish their sins by many and various plagues, even the Philistines had to subdue them, and He punished and chastised them in many ways, before He brought them into the Land of Canaan, and even so He will deal with us if we are not obedient to Him. Our way also leads through anxiety, pain and suffering to the heavenly Canaan above.

The Lord shall judge His people, but to him who leads a godless life, He is a fearful God.

The Saviour says, their fire shall not be quenched and their worm shall not die; eternal curse and torment shall follow them, for such is the fruit of their works. Therefore it is so important for us to be submissive unto our Lord, so that He can lead us as is His will. He will make a great difference between the disobedient and those who have yielded themselves to Him, in tribulation as well as in joy, who have set their whole trust and confidence upon Him, their God and Saviour. Such He will confess as His own on that Judgment Day. He will wipe the tears from their eyes, all pain and hardship will be banished, and eternal joy and peace shall be their portion, as for Christ's sake they have not loved their own lives even unto death. As we read in the book of Revelation, they all came out of great tribulation, therefore they are now with their heavenly Father, and with the Lamb, in Whose blood they have washed their garments from sin, and have retained their purity.

All such He will receive unto Himself into His kingdom, but unto the evil-doers there is promised a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which will not delay nor tarry. He will answer them, Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity, for I have never known you as my own, go and receive the reward of your sinful deeds and unbelief in the lake of fire and brimstone.

Here we see what is kept in store for all such. The Lord will judge the whole earth with the sword of His Word. The Word which He spake will judge them. And as we are reminded of all this now in the time of grace, let us the more heed His Word of life, and lift up our weary hands and feeble knees, and remember how Christ endured a great conflict for our sake.

The apostle here reminds the Hebrews, how they also endured a great fight of afflictions, and that they should not leave off or turn back, for then all would be in vain, if they would go back into their former footsteps. They should now remember how much they had already labored, endured and borne for Christ's sake. In their time they had outward persecutions to endure, for because of their faith they were robbed of their earthly goods, in order to induce them to return into Babylon. But they were loose and free from all that was temporal, and accepted with joy the spoiling of their goods. Their heart was with their Saviour, who out of love for mankind gave His precious blood and body upon the cross, whereby He acquired the power to save all men. But this salvation now depends on man himself, for every one can choose his part for himself, life or death, blessing or curse.

Beloved, we also should choose the best part, namely to follow and cling to the Saviour and to love Him, even as He loved us and gave us a commandment to love one another. For if we would now turn back and get on crooked ways, all that we have endured and aspired to, would avail us nothing. We must look up to where the many approved Martyrs for Christ's sake are, resting beneath the altar, waiting for the time when they shall judge the earth, namely the ungodly who are called heathen, and chastise them with His rod. Thereto let us direct our gaze and our footsteps where Christ holds the crown of life, to give unto all those who overcome. Especially is it a trial, when such who are members do not walk according to the rules and ordinances of the Lord. Each one should

be intent on living a quiet, holy, righteous and godly life. For if we be dead unto world and sin, we cannot live unto ourselves, but in self-denial; all things which cannot enter the kingdom of heaven must be burnt up and consumed. The Lord has declared that no unclean person can enter into the kingdom of God, and it is well that He has done so. Thus will be manifest all who have loved Him with all their heart, whose rock and refuge He has been in all distress. These are trials where our faith is put to the test, in each of which we can be made purer and more glorious.

In the old Israel we have a complete example, for when they disobeyed His Word and walked in their own ways, God gave them over into the hands of the Philistines who subdued them. And we will fare no better today, if we will not obey, nor take advice. We must cling to the Saviour, as we are commanded, so that we may prepare ourselves for eternity, for the time of grace is soon past. Even if the Lord does not yet appear, we are in hourly danger of being called out of time into eternity. But we have reason to believe that His coming will be soon, for we see it by the signs of the times. The apostle called the attention of the believers of his time to this, that they should keep themselves in readiness for the day of the Lord; and today we are more than 1800 years nearer than when it was written. And we would rather be dissolved and be with Christ at home which would be best for us. Here we read: "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." But ye have need of patience, that ye may do the will of God. Cast not away your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. But this we must realize, that they who no longer trust the Lord cannot receive His help; they lose courage, they grow weary of well-doing, and follow after the world. But, my beloved, cast not away your confidence, the arm of the Lord is yet extended to help all those who trust Him. But if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in

him. We are not of those who draw back unto perdition, but rather who have faith, hope and love. All things shall be beneficial and helpful to us, and we know that if we beseech the Lord for light and support, He hears us speedily and we shall have our petition. A doubted or double-minded person receives nothing, because he does not trust in God. What is not grounded upon the Rock, which is Christ, will not prevail.

We are living in a perilous time, pursued and tempted by evil spirits, therefore it is no less dangerous to be fighting for the sake of God and His honor than perhaps in former times. However, the Lord is, and will be today as at all ages, mighty in the weak.

## News

### BLUFFTON

Processing of relief clothing is progressing. From appearances, there will be 7-9 tons to ship.

Emil Schladenhauffen died. Several relatives from our Girard, Ohio, church attended.

Henry Dotterer, minister of our Bluffton congregation, is seriously ill.

William Stettner and his wife visited Wednesday, April 18.

Easter Sunday, an Easter program in the evening proved a lovely blessing. Ben Schlatter, from Toledo, spoke.

Many from Bluffton attended the funeral of the father of John Yergler at Gridley.

### MILFORD

Funeral services for Brother Edward Rassi were conducted Saturday, April 14.

Funeral services for one of Brother Elmer Harter's two-month-old twin granddaughters were conducted Sunday, April 15.

Eunice Beer, daughter of Ezra Beer and Gerald Feichter, son of John Feichter of Bluffton, were united in holy matrimony on Easter Sunday.

Florence Beer, youngest daughter of Henry Beer, and Robert Henne of Bremen are to married Sunday, April 22.

### FRANCESVILLE

In 1944 Karl Welker was mayor in Cervenka, Yugoslavia, and a farmer. He, his wife and 11-year-old son left in that year, with practically every material possession behind. They moved slowly toward Austria, where they stayed four years.

While in Germany, with papers pending for prosperous America, Karl died.

Ernest, now 23 or over, and Mrs. Welker, his mother, found a place in Amercia. Philip Gutwein is an uncle of Ernest. He is guaranteeing Ernest's work.

#### TAYLOR, MISSOURI

Bro. Fred Grimm officiated on Dec. 4 in the uniting in marriage of their daughter Judith to Don Feller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Feller, of Cissna Park, Illinois.

Raymond Hoerr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudie Hoerr, Taylor, Mo., and Jeanie Moser, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Moser of Grandview, Iowa, were united in marriage on Nov. 13 at Oakville, Ia. Bro. Noah Schrock officiated.

Baptismal services, conducted by Bro. Noah Schrock, were held on Jan. 1 for Kathy and Mardell Grimm and Norman and Charlotte Hoerr.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. James Sutter on Feb. 1.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sutter on Mar. 11.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gene Riney on Feb. 3.

#### ELGIN, IOWA

On March 1 Bro. Wm. L. Butikofer [SP/3] arrived home for a 30-day leave from Augsburg, Germany, where he had been stationed over a year. By the end of March he had to report to a camp at Ft. Ord, California. His time of service expires in August.

We welcome the Ira Farney family of Gridley, Illinois, into our midst. They have moved to Iowa.

The week end, March 26, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Butikofer and Timmy of Taylor, Missouri, and Ruth Pulfer, Bloomington, Illinois, Norma Pulfer, Congerville, Illinois, spent with relatives and friends.

Easter Sunday, after relocating and rebuilding our church, services were held at the new church the first time. The children of the Sunday school presented a nice program. We thank them.

Snday, April 8, Elders Noah Schrock, Oakville, Iowa, Paul Banwart, West Bend, Iowa, and several of both congregations visited our church. Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Butikofer were proved and baptized. We wish them God's blessing. Mr. and Mrs. Will Butikofer and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Butikofer were also with us.

Holy Communion was also observed.

The engagement of Sister Ruth Pulfer, Bloomington, Illinois, and Brother Lynn Rinkenberger, Gridley, Illinois, was announced.

Sunday, April 15, several members and friends of the Oakville, Iowa, Princeville, Illinois, and Gridley, Illinois churches visited our church.

Ruth Pulfer, Bloomington; Norma Pul-

fer, Congerville, and Mrs. Rov Funk and Randy, Gridley, visited their mother, Mrs. Ida Pulfer and family.

#### JAPAN

Lois and Willis Ehnle from Japan write they are eagerly awaiting the completion of their new church in June.

#### MORTON

Funeral services for Silas Herman, 49, son of Fred C. and Katherine Schurter Herman, were held Friday afternoon by Bro. Joe A. Getz. Silas died in San Antonio, Texas, where he had been living for several years.

Brother Silas Lenthold of Princeville and David Mangold of Roanoke conducted services here Sunday.

There were nine baptisms Sunday, April 15: Barbara Schick, Charlene Beyer, Mary Fritz, Edward Roecker, Don Frintz, James Fischer, Ann Getz, Eunice and Lee Wm. Schock.

Brother Joe Aberle of Kiowa, Kansas, conducted services Sunday evening.

Brother Emil Bessler and his wife, Mary, plan to move to Phoenix, Arizona, the first week in May.

#### WOLCOTT

Recent new arrivals are Edward Wayne Lehman born to the Russell Lehman's on December 31; Janna Lou Schieler, born to the Robert Schieler's on January 23; and Steven Paul Bahler, born to the Alfred Bahler's on January 30.

Robert Reuter has been a patient at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lafayette, for the past several weeks, receiving treatment for a back injury. Lydia Kupferschmid has also been a shut-in at her home for the past several months.

Our Sunday School presented their Easter program the evening of April 1. We were happy to have our elders, George Yergler and Henry Kilgus, also present.

Wayne Lehman, son of the Edward Lehman's, has returned home upon completion of his service overseas.

On April 8 we enjoyed having 3 visiting ministers with us—Elmer Witzig from Gridley and John Roecke and Simon Wiegand from Goodfield.

#### MANSFIELD

Deaths since last issue were Sister Carrie Lehman; Sister Bertha Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Sauder, who was baptized on her death bed the day before she departed; Brother Rudolf Isley and Brother Arnold Weber.

Those baptized were: Esther Sabo, Susan Sauder, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kissell, Anna Oesch, and Joyce Cordrey.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Lanz of Latty, Ohio, have come to our community to live and we welcome them in our midst.