
DAILY
HEAVENLY MANNA

Including
SONGS in the NIGHT

DAILY
Heavenly Manna
for the
Household of Faith

and also
Songs IN THE Night

2012 Edition

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Author's Foreword

“Prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”—Malachi 3:10

If Christians allow the rush and crush of selfish ambition to deprive them of their daily portion of heavenly food, they must not be surprised if they grow spiritually leaner day by day, and if “the peace of God” gives place in their hearts, to the discontent which is growing in the world, notwithstanding the multiplication of our comforts and privileges. Let us remember the exhortation, “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:6) Our first edition of “Manna,” 20,000, met with far better success than we had dared hope for; and we have been greatly encouraged by the kind words of its many friends far and near. Some call it their “Heavenly Breakfast Food” and tell that they feast upon the lessons as regularly as the sun rises. Surely the little tithe of time daily spent in partaking of its morsels of heavenly counsel cannot fail to profit all who partake. The day opened with such meditations is sure to be the better spent and more profitable. The heart thus turned to holy thoughts is much less likely to go aside from right paths than otherwise. “The wisdom that cometh from above” is thus gradually and easily assimilable,

and cannot fail to bear some good fruit in the heart of the saints, and to awaken reverence in the worldly. Every Christian who sees this book is sure to be interested and to want a copy for his own breakfast table. And as it is published, not for profit but to do good, we have put the price so low as to bring it within the reach of all. We do our friends and neighbors a valuable service when we call the “Manna” to their attention and assure them that it is merely Christian—not denominational. Some use them as birthday presents and holiday gifts; others anxious to extend their good influence, purchase them by the quantity and sell them at a slight advance to cover their time and car fare. All are welcome to engage in this service of love to the extent of their opportunity and ability.

The book will last a lifetime, and can be used year after year, for the sacred message never grows old, but is line upon line, precept upon precept.

Your brother and servant,
C.T. RUSSELL

Publisher's Foreword

The original edition of the "*Daily Heavenly Manna*" was announced in February 1, 1905 (R3498). The compiler, Sr. Gertrude W. Seibert, was noted for making her selections with "particularity and carefulness."

The popularity of the first edition of 20,000 called for a subsequent printing of 40,000 in 1907 (R3967). This second edition added the feature of interleaved lined pages for use as an "Autograph and Birthday Record." Its use as a follow-up for the colporteurs was suggested at that time, and some of their early experiences are recorded in R4561 and R5869.

By 1911, the popularity of the "*Manna*" was so great that a reader of the "Towers" suggested the use of the Wednesday text for the weekly testimony meeting (R4770). A similar suggestion a few months later was amended by Bro. Russell to a suggestion for the Thursday text. (R4833)

When introduced in 1905, its method of use at the Bethel home was described: "At the Bible House breakfast table, we first read the text, ask the questions on it and discuss it, and then read the "Tower" extract as the closing comment."

Noting the spiritual profitability of the "*Manna*" for morning devotions, Sr. Phyllis Stracy of Yeovil, England, compiled a similar set of quotations for the end of the day, which became titled "*Songs in the Night.*" These were originally published serially in the Dawn Magazine from July 1946 through June 1950. Shortly

thereafter, they were printed in a bound hard-cover book format. Both the "*Manna*" and "*Songs in the Night*" have been kept in steady publication by The Dawn for many years.

Several years ago, the Chicago Bible Students combined both of these books into a small vest-pocket size edition. The continued popularity and testimonies of spiritual help from both of these devotional books has led to the current decision to join them as one hard-cover book. This new full-size library edition combines both the "*Manna*" and "*Songs in the Night*" into a book with an attractive gold-lettered cover.

In this new book, each day's "*Manna*," "*Songs in the Night*," and lined area for birthday entries, etc., appear on facing pages throughout, so that the day's morning and evening readings are conveniently located together. A sewn-in book mark is also provided as an easy method for locating each day's readings. As a reference to each day's reading, both a Topical Index and Scripture Index can be found at the back of the book. The readings, "*My Morning Resolve*," "*A Vow Unto the Lord*," and "*Close Your Eyes for a Moment*" are also included.

It is with the sincere hope that this devotional book will be of spiritual value to the "Household of Faith" that the publishers place it into print.

DAWN PUBLISHERS

JANUARY 1

DAILY MANNA

O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard: which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved.—Psalm 66:8,9

Thanks be to God that his grace has preserved us, “kept us from falling,” through another year:—that so many of us are still of one heart and of one mind in respect to his word and its service! When we remember that the adversary is to be permitted to bring “strong delusions” upon the Lord’s people for the very purpose of sifting out all not truly his (2 Thess. 2:10-12), it should surely call forth our thanks to God that the opening of another year finds us still standing fast,—appreciating the truth, and in full accord with all the divine appointments by which he has kept us from falling.—*R3125:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.—Psalm 95:6

When once we get a glimpse of the glories of the divine character through the divine plan, when once we get a true view with the eyes of our understanding of him with whom we have to do, as the great heart-searcher and caretaker of his church, we fall before him humbled to the dust, realizing that we are imperfect, that we cannot stand before our Master, that we

are unworthy of his favor and blessing. But as he touched John gently, raising him up, so he has spoken to us comfort, peace, and love, assuring us that we have not an High Priest that cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities, but on the contrary, one who is able to sympathize and mercifully to assist, one who has bought us with his own precious blood, who has accepted us and will number us as his body members so long as we abide in him, seeking in our hearts to know and to do his will.—*R3569:6* (Hymn 69)

Space available for recording birthdays and special occasions.

JANUARY 2

DAILY MANNA

Ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.—1 Corinthians 6:19,20

At the opening of the new year, what lesson could be more important to us than this one, that we are not our own, but belong to another; that we are not therefore, to seek to please ourselves, but to please him; nor to seek to serve self, but to serve him; nor to seek to obey self-will, but on the contrary his will? This means holiness in the most absolute and comprehensive sense of the word (not only separation from sin to righteousness, but separation from self to the will of God in Christ).—R2099:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.—Ephesians 5:8

The Lord Jesus tells us that if we would be faithful to the light we must let our light so shine as to show forth the praises of our Father in heaven. He forewarns us that many will not appreciate our good works, but will say all manner of evil against us falsely, for his name's sake. He assures us that the children of darkness hate the children of light, but he admonishes that in these experiences we should "rejoice and be exceeding glad; for great is your

JANUARY 3

DAILY MANNA

Pray without ceasing.—1 Thessalonians 5:17

Whatever might be our natural inclinations with reference to definiteness and persistency in prayer, we must take our instructions from the Scriptures; and overcoming our natural predilections, we must as “little children” and as “dear children” conform our views and conduct to the instruction which is from above. Let us all, therefore, remember the words, “ask (in my name), and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”—John 16:24. The heavenly Father has multiplied mercies, blessings and providences in store for his obedient and faithful children who will ask for them.—*R2005:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst.—John 4:14

Errors, falsities, may satisfy temporarily the craving of those who have never yet tasted of the truth, the water of life; but nothing can give permanent, lasting satisfaction except the truth; and our Lord himself, the Word, the Logos, the message of the Father, full of grace and truth, is the embodiment and representative of this satisfying water of life. Whoever receives the Lord as his Redeemer and Leader and Teacher, through whom all the gracious promises of God are

JANUARY 4

DAILY MANNA

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.—
Psalm 27:14

Time is an important element in all God's plans: we are not, therefore, to be disappointed when the test of endurance is applied while the blessings we crave tarry long. God took time to frame the world and to fit it for human habitation; time to give the world its necessary experience with evil; time to prepare for the advent of Christ as the world's Redeemer; time for the preparation of the church to share in his glorious reign; and time must be allowed for the shaping and adjusting of the individual affairs of his people. God has not forgotten when the answers to our prayers seem to tarry long. He who heeds the sparrow's fall and numbers the very hairs of our heads is not indifferent to the faintest call or the smallest necessity of his humblest child.—*R1760:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*He knoweth the way that I take.—*Job 23:10

While the more exposed to Satan's attacks and to severer tests of our hope, faith, and love as we go onward in our narrow way, we will have increasing spiritual joys, peace beyond compare, and will be enabled to rejoice even in trials and tribulations,

JANUARY 5

DAILY MANNA

The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.—Romans 15:3

Let us see to it that we bear the reproaches of Christ as he bore them,—with pity and prayer for the erring and depraved, if perchance God may grant them repentance; and with humble fortitude esteeming it a privilege to prove our devotion to the Lord by enduring hardness in his service as good soldiers. He was not surprised by the exhibitions of human depravity: he knew that he was in an unfriendly world bound by sin and largely under the dominion of the prince of darkness, and therefore he expected reproaches, taunts and persecutions, all of which he endured patiently while his great loving heart, almost unmindful of its own sufferings, was full of pity and loving concern for others.—*R1964:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Romans 6:23

While the heavenly Father may not be pleased to grant us either for ourselves or for our children immunity from pain, suffering, and death, nevertheless he has made a still grander and more glorious provision for us through our Lord Jesus Christ—a provision for our eternal life. But this gift is reserved for those who

JANUARY 6

DAILY MANNA

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.—Psalm 90:12

The Christian, in numbering his days, does not do so with a doleful or disconsolate sentiment, although he does so with sobriety. He counts the days as they go as so many blessings, so many privileges, so many opportunities to “show forth the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light,” to render assistance to others in the pilgrim journey, and to develop in himself more and more of the character pleasing in the sight of God,—to become more and more a copy of God’s dear Son.—*R2896:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.—Psalm 139:3

Oh how narrow is the way in which the saints must walk who follow in the footsteps of the Master! There is self-denial at every step, but Jesus said, “He that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.” If we cannot prove our love for the Lord by thus sharing in his reproaches and self-denials, we are not of the class he wishes to make his bride. It will be no easy thing for any to endure unto the end, but blessed is he that shall do it. If we keep looking at the things behind, cherishing the old ambitions

JANUARY 7

DAILY MANNA

Speak evil of no man.—Titus 3:2

If once the soldiers of the cross would get the proper thought, that slander and evil speaking are assassinations of the character of another, and that defamation is robbery of another's good name, the sooner they will see this matter in its truly awful light, as it must appear in the Lord's sight; and once seeing the matter from this true, divine standpoint must awaken the new creature to the greatest activity possible in the overcoming of such works of the flesh and of the devil. Each will seek to purge out the old leaven of malice and envy and strife and crookedness and evil speaking, that he may be pure in heart, a copy of the Lord.—*R3275:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.—Romans 13:12

Consider the light you have now received—the light of the knowledge of God, of his will, of what to live for, and of what kind of characters they are to whom the Lord will be pleased to grant the reward of eternal life, even the highest form of life. Having all this knowledge, put it on as an armor to protect you. Knowing what God requires, put all this on, not as a

JANUARY 8

DAILY MANNA

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.—1 Thessalonians 5:15

According to the scriptural standard, the elect church of Christ should be the most polished, the most refined, the most polite, the most generous, the most kind of all the people in the world;—and should be all these in the most absolute sense; not in the mere sense of an outward form and appearance of kindness, gentleness, etc., so common in the world; but a gentleness, a kindness, proceeding from the heart, proceeding from an appreciation of the Lord's spirit and the spirit of the truth, the spirit of love, and the spirit of justice, also.—R2879:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.—Genesis 24:58

This well represents the question which comes before those called to be of the bride of Christ. They hear that he is the "Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." They hear that he is Lord of all, the inheritor of the "exceeding great and precious promises." They learn that union with him will mean the pleasures of fellowship forevermore and participation with

JANUARY 9

DAILY MANNA

Who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive?—1 Corinthians 4:7

All of the Lord's consecrated people should realize that they have come into the present grace and truth, not by their own wisdom nor by the wisdom of others, but through the wisdom and grace of the Lord. The same thought should be entertained by all who serve the church of God as ministers, servants in any department, in any manner responsible to the Lord for their position in the household of faith, and their opportunities to serve as the Lord's mouthpieces should be felt and confessed. But failure to confess it implies a failure rightly to appreciate it.—R3278:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.—Matthew 4:10

During the forty days in the wilderness our Lord had come to see that the dominion of earth could be attained only through great suffering. He was weak from his long fast, and all the details of prophecy were before his mind. He saw himself as a lamb dumb before his shearers; as the serpent lifted up in the wilderness. Satan's suggestion was a temptation, but

JANUARY 10

DAILY MANNA

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.—James 5:10

The right path is still the “narrow path” of self-abasement and self-denial—the path of meekness and humility: and it will require as much effort and grace to walk it this year as last, or possibly more; for the more we grow in grace and knowledge, the stronger will be the temptations to be boastful, puffed up, heady, high-minded; and the higher we climb in faith and hope and love and activity in the Lord’s service, the more the great adversary will oppose our progress, and the more his emissaries will slander, backbite, and generally seek to injure us.—*R1751:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I will go in the strength of the Lord God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.—Psalm 71:16

The tears and sorrows and battlings in strife against the world, the flesh, and the devil are all very necessary in the present time; and we should neither hope nor expect to be crowned as victors without passing through such experiences. In the battle we learn not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think; we learn of our own weaknesses and imperfections

JANUARY 11

DAILY MANNA

His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.—Jeremiah 20:9

Let us who are privileged to remain to this time of favor, blessing and enlightenment give glory to the Lord, and see to it that the loving disposition of John is manifested in us, and also his energy, his zeal; for while he is called the loving disciple we are to remember also that he was, because of his impetuous zeal, styled, with his brother, Boanerges—son of thunder. Let us be full of energy, full of sacrifices which love prompts, that we may glorify the Lord in our bodies and spirits which are his.—*R2808:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.—Psalm 73:24

The humble and believing children of God will realize that while they may not be able at all times to understand the Lord's ways in all his dealings, they can know of his wisdom, love, and care, and they can therefore trust him where they cannot trace him. We should not expect to be able always to comprehend the divine wisdom, which is so much beyond our own; yet we can often see it afterward. Sometimes his discipline may be severe, and by no means easy to bear, yet

JANUARY 12

DAILY MANNA

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.—Galatians 6:1

Let us learn well this lesson of reproofing others very gently, very considerately, kindly, by a hint rather than a direct charge and detail of the wrong—by an inquiry respecting the present condition of their hearts rather than respecting a former condition, in which we know they have erred. We are to be less careful for the punishments that will follow wrongdoings than for the recovery of the erring one out of the error of his way. We are not to attempt to judge and punish one another for misdeeds, but rather to remember that all this is in the hands of the Lord;—we are not in any sense of the word to avenge ourselves or to give chastisement or recompense for evil.—*R2807:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy loving-kindness and thy truth from the great congregation.—Psalm 40:10

If everything else in life were taken from us, and we were without a penny in the world, we would still be rich toward God if we had the truth. And so we all

JANUARY 13

DAILY MANNA

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.—1 John 2:1

If we find that through lack of faith or weakness of the flesh a wrong step has been taken, contrary to the Lord's will and our best spiritual interests, no time should be lost in retracing the steps and in calling upon the Lord. We have an altar consecrated with the precious blood of Christ, far superior every way to that which Abraham consecrated with the blood of typical animals, and the apostle exhorts us, "Let us come boldly [courageously—full of faith] to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in every time of need."—Hebrews 4:16.
R2848:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.
—John 15:8

The Lord announced himself as the true vine and his Father as the true husbandman who planted the true vine, and his followers as the true branches of that vine. The expression "true vine" suggests a false vine, and this thought is accentuated and elaborated in our Lord's last message to his people in the symbols of

Revelation. There he speaks of the gathering of the fruitage of the “vine of the earth,” and the casting of the same into the winepress of the wrath of God at the end of this age. (Rev. 14:19) There was, therefore, a deeper meaning in our Lord’s words, “true vine,” than the apostles could have possibly gathered from them. We who are living at a time when both the true vine of the Father’s planting and the false vine of the earth, earthly, have developed, have opportunity for noticing also that the vine of the earth is a counterfeit of the heavenly vine. In proportion as we see this matter clearly, it will assist us not only in the understanding of the Lord’s parable, but also in our application of it in our daily lives. We will be in less danger of misunderstanding, misconstruing and being deceived by the false vine, or by the false branches and the false principles represented in connection with its development, for it is not under the divine husbandman’s care.—*R3544:2* (Hymn 70)

JANUARY 14

DAILY MANNA

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air.—1 Corinthians 9:26

It will be found a great help to the weaknesses of the fallen nature to have understandingly made a full consecration of the will—a full enlistment of every power and talent of mind and of body. He who takes this proper view of his consecration to the Lord and enlistment in the Lord's army realizes that he has nothing more to give to the Lord, and hence, whatever struggle of the will he may have is all ended when he has finally decided—"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." How important it is, therefore, that all the soldiers realize that the term of the enlistment is until death, and that there is no room for even considering any suggestion to withdraw from the battle and cease even for an hour to fight the good fight of faith.—R3273:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.—James 1:19

The force of character which permits anger is the very same force which otherwise directed signifies intensity of love: the inability to be angry under proper cause would imply imperfection, blemishes, just as

JANUARY 15

DAILY MANNA

What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
—Micah 6:8

That these are very reasonable requirements will be conceded by all. That God could not require less from those whom he is educating for the future judging of the world is evident: and yet, all three of these qualities specified through the prophet are comprehended in the one word love. Love requires that we shall deal justly with our neighbors, with the brethren, with our families, with ourselves; that we shall seek to cultivate our appreciation of the rights of others,—their physical rights, their moral and intellectual rights, their liberties; and that, appreciating these, we shall in no sense of the word seek to abridge or deny them.—*R3020:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.—Luke 6:12

Who has not noticed that all the great Bible characters used of the Almighty were accustomed to go to him regularly in prayer and to seek for guidance from him in respect to every matter? Even the great Redeemer, holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners,

JANUARY 16

DAILY MANNA

Instant in prayer.—Romans 12:12

What a blessed privilege, dear fellow disciples of the Lord, is ours, to be instant in prayer, to pray always—to lift up our hearts and minds to God at any time and in any place and to realize thus daily and hourly that the Father and our dear Lord Jesus continually abide with us. And then, when the active duties of the day have been performed under his eye and supervision, or at any time when the soul realizes its necessity, how precious is the privilege of entering into our closets and there, alone with God, unburdening our hearts.—*R1866:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.—Deuteronomy 33:27

The Scriptures abound with testimonies to the effect that the severe trials of the near future will be along the lines of deception. They speak of lying angels and deceivableness of unrighteousness and “lying wonders” and tell us that the Lord will send or permit a strong delusion that they may believe a lie. If we gain the right conception of the matter these deceptions are to affect the whole world, including its wise men, and indeed practically everybody except the “very elect”; and the “very elect” will be preserved, not through

JANUARY 17

DAILY MANNA

Keep yourselves in the love of God.—Jude 21

We may daily and hourly keep ourselves in the Lord's love by obedience to, and a growing love for, the principles of righteousness. And we are to rejoice in every experience of life—its trials, difficulties, sorrows, disappointments, etc., no less than in its pleasures, if by any or all of these means the Lord shall instruct us and give us clearer insight into our own deficiencies, and a still clearer insight into that perfect law of liberty and love which he has established, and to which he requires our full and loyal heart-submission.—*R3021:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him.—Psalm 37:7

We must not be disappointed and allow our faith to falter when the test of patient endurance is applied, while the outward peace and quietness which we crave tarry long. Our Father has not forgotten us when the answer to our prayers seems to be delayed. Outward peace and calm are not always the conditions best suited to our needs as new creatures; and we would not desire conditions in which the precious fruits of the spirit would not grow and develop in us. Therefore, "Think it not strange concerning the fiery

JANUARY 18

DAILY MANNA

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.—Romans 12:11

Let all who would run the race successfully look well to their zeal and activity in the Lord's work. If we bury our one or many talents under a weight of worldly cares and encumbrances which might be avoided or set aside; if we bury them under worldly ambitions for either self or family—whether this be by wasting consecrated time upon science, philosophy, music or art, or upon business, politics or pleasures, or in pampering pride and appetite—then as unfaithful servants we will sooner or later go into outer darkness.—*R1282:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.—Romans 8:10

From the divine standpoint the body is treated as dead, but the spirit, or mind, is treated as alive. It is the new creature which God recognizes, to which he purposes to give a new spirit body in due time—in the first resurrection. It is necessary that this thought be clearly fixed in our minds, in order that we may continually realize our peace toward God and his favor and sympathy toward us in Christ. If we lose sight of the fact that God regards us from the stand-

JANUARY 19

DAILY MANNA

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.—
Psalm 119:97

It is a great privilege for Christians to study the Lord's word, yet a great deal of study is done to no purpose. Study which is not put into practice is worse than a waste of time. Every reasonable opportunity should be used by the Lord's people to obtain a knowledge of the divine plan—even to the extent of sacrificing; but the child of the Lord will be particular to see that it is his own conveniences and comforts that he is sacrificing, and not chiefly the conveniences and comforts of others. The Bible study which is done merely at the expense of others is a sign of selfishness rather than a sign of a rich indwelling of the Lord's spirit of love.—
R2488:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.—*Proverbs 17:17

Well has the wise man said that a friend loveth at all times. He who merely loves at a time when he thinks it will be to his own advantage to love knows not love. He who loves and is a brother in prosperity merely, and whose love and friendship wither under the heat of persecution and adversity, has never known love in its true sense, but merely a certain brand of selfish-

JANUARY 20

DAILY MANNA

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not?—Hebrews 12:7

Character cannot be developed wholly without trial. It is like a plant: at first it is very tender; it needs an abundance of the sunshine of God's love; frequent watering with the showers of his grace; much cultivating through the applied knowledge of his character as a good foundation for faith and inspiration to obedience; and then when thus developed under these favorable conditions, it is ready for the pruning hand of discipline, and is also able to endure some hardness. And, little by little, as strength of character is developed, the tests applied to it serve only to develop more strength, beauty and grace, until it is finally fixed, developed, established, perfected—through suffering.—*R1807:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed.—1 Peter 4:16

The apostle was not ashamed of his sufferings, because he realized that they were endured for Christ's sake. Any man or woman would feel and should feel deeply pained at a public arrest and imprisonment as a felon, as a violator of the law. But when these things

JANUARY 21

DAILY MANNA

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.—Matthew 16:24

Cross-bearing is closely related to self-denial, and yet a distinction between them may be noted. Self-denial relates more particularly to passive obedience and endurance for the Lord's sake; cross-bearing has to do more especially with activities in the Lord's service which we find to be contrary to our natural inclinations. Faithfulness in self-denial means courage and zeal; cross-bearing means victory, overcoming. Our self-denials may be victories in our own hearts, of which others may know nothing, and of which they should know nothing, if we desire to have the fullness of the Lord's blessing. Our cross-bearing, however, may be seen, to some extent at least, by those who are in close contact with us and especially by those who are walking in the same "narrow way."—R2616:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers.—1 Peter 3:12

Our heavenly Father is deeply interested in everything that relates to us and ours. What thing is too small for his notice who numbers even the very hairs of our heads? ... Fallen creatures though we be, from

JANUARY 22

DAILY MANNA

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.—Psalm 31:24

It would seem as though the adversary at times attempted to discourage us by making us think that the trials and difficulties of the “narrow way” of sacrifice will be unavailing anyhow, and that we might as well give up. . . . And what course should we pursue at such a time? We should follow the example of our Lord, and seek the Father’s face, anxious to know whether or not our interests are all right with him; anxious for some assurances that while the world may hate us, and say all manner of evil against us falsely, we still have his approval; anxious for some fresh assurance that it will be well with us, that the Lord will grant us a part in the better resurrection to life eternal.—R2774:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

By love serve one another.—Galatians 5:13

Let us judge of our love for others, for the Lord, for the brethren, for our families, for our neighbors, for our enemies even, by our willingness to sacrifice in their interest and for their highest welfare. If we find ourselves sacrificing nothing in the interest of the Lord’s cause, let us not delude ourselves by saying that we love the Lord. If we find ourselves unwilling to endure, to sacrifice in the interests of the brethren

JANUARY 23

DAILY MANNA

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.—1 Corinthians 7:24

Duties may at times seem to conflict, but they do not really do so. A Christian's first duty is his hearty acknowledgment of his Creator and Lord, in all his ways. His second duty, if he be a husband and father, is toward his wife and children; or if she be a wife and mother, it is toward her husband and children. The marriage contract, by divine arrangement, comes in as a first mortgage upon every husband's time and upon every wife's time—the demands of this mortgage must be reasonably met before anything can be properly done to or for outsiders.—R2488:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.—Acts 2:42

All of God's people can dwell together in love, in fellowship, under the divine care as a "royal priesthood," "seated together in heavenly places"—in the antitypical tabernacle's "Holy." So far as our earthly abode is concerned we may today live comparatively closely by virtue of the convenient railway and mail services. It behooves us all, therefore, to "speak often one to another" that, as the prophet declares, the Lord

JANUARY 24

DAILY MANNA

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.—
Proverbs 3:3

While justice is the first feature of the commandment of love, it is not the end of its requirements: it requires that, going beyond strict justice, our love shall prompt us to the exercise of mercy and forgiveness. And in thus exercising mercy we are again but copying divine love. . . . Hence, in our dealings with others who, like ourselves, are fallen and imperfect, we are to remember this feature and not only be just toward them but, additionally, to be merciful, generous, kind, even to the unthankful,—that thus we may be children of our Father in heaven.—*R3020:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him.—*2 Samuel 5:10

David's experiences in waiting for the kingdom and the lessons learned and the character developed and the preparation which made him wise and moderate all serve to illustrate a great lesson to the gospel church. We also are called to sit upon the throne of the Lord—to rule in his name. We also have been anointed to office by the Holy Spirit, which the apostle declares is a foretaste of the glory and joy into

JANUARY 25

DAILY MANNA

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.—Matthew 6:34

Our Lord assures us that if the main thought of our hearts is his service and the promotion of righteousness and an attainment of the kingdom which God has promised to them that love him, then we need carry no anxious cares respecting the future. As his disciples we will have trials and tribulations enough, day by day, and will need daily to lean upon the Bridegroom's arm as we seek to walk the narrow way. Sufficient for each day will be the evil of itself: and thanks be to God also, we have the promise that daily his grace shall be sufficient for us.—*R2260:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The blessing of Jehovah, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow therewith.—Proverbs 10:22, R.V.

Whoever has the Lord's blessing is rich indeed, regardless of the amount of this world's goods which he possesses. Of what value is all the wealth of a Croesus if it bring not peace, joy, and happiness? Wherever we go we find all—rich and poor—seeking pleasure, seeking the springs of joy; but how few of these seekers ever find it! Alas! it seems impossible for the world to understand the great fact that the blessing of

JANUARY 26

DAILY MANNA

When ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance.—Matthew 6:16

Fasting is specially commendable to the Lord's people at times when they find themselves lacking in spirituality and exposed to severe temptations from the world, the flesh and the devil; for by impoverishing the physical force and vitality, it may assist the full-blooded and impulsive to self-control in every direction. We believe that a majority of Christians would be helped by occasional fasting—a very plain diet for a season, if not total abstinence. But fastings, to be seen and known of men or to be conjured up in our own minds as marks of piety on our part, would be injurious indeed, and lead to spiritual pride and hypocrisy, which would far outweigh their advantages to us in the way of self-restraint.—*R2260:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.—Psalm 89:34

These words of Jehovah God are very comforting and satisfying to his faithful children. As faith becomes a basis for things hoped for, so confidence and experience constitute a basis for faith to rest upon. The unchangeableness of our God is one of the attractive features of his character: his assurance

JANUARY 27

DAILY MANNA

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.—Proverbs 4:23

It is not sufficient that we acknowledge sin in its various forms to be evil, and that we resolve that we will strive against it because it is under the Lord's ban. In addition to this we are to root out of our hearts every longing, every desire for everything not thoroughly approved by the Lord. Oh, what a cleansing this would mean in the hearts and lives, and especially in the thoughts, of many who have named the name of Christ! Many who fail to note this point find themselves continually beset by temptations, because, while outwardly avoiding gross immoralities, they secretly harbor sympathies for things condemned—desiring that they might have them, if only they were not forbidden.—*R2480:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.—John 14:16

What a satisfaction, what a comfort has come to the Lord's people through their privilege of being used by him and adopted into his family by the begetting of the Holy Spirit, the adoption of the Holy Spirit, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the holy influence, the

JANUARY 28

DAILY MANNA

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.—Revelation. 3:5

The faithful overcomers watch and keep their garments unspotted from the world. ... “They have not defiled their garments,” they have “kept their garments unspotted from the world.” They have not been willing to permit sin to contaminate them and to separate them from the Lord, but have quickly applied for and obtained the precious blood to remove every stain. They are so heartily opposed to sin and so earnest about the keeping of this garment unspotted that the adversary gets no hold upon them—“the wicked one catcheth them not.” All this indicates a full submission of their wills to the will of Christ—they are “dead with him,” and hence could not willingly practice sin.—*R2161:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

We know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together.—Romans 8:22

Dearly beloved of the consecrated household, let us not forget to keep in touch with the groaning creation; to sympathize with its sorrows and its woes; to realize its deep degradation and misery; to remember

JANUARY 29

DAILY MANNA

The fear [reverence] of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.—Psalm 111:10

This is the only proper attitude of the creature toward the Creator, the Author of our being, and the Creator, Preserver and Lord of the whole universe. When he speaks, therefore, our ears should be reverently attentive to his voice, and every power alert to do his bidding. Our safety, our happiness, and that nobility of character which prompts to love and gratitude, and which promptly and wisely heeds instruction and advances in knowledge and wisdom, all depend primarily upon our supreme reverence for the Lord. And therefore the Lord would foster and cultivate in us that becoming, filial reverence that is due to his name.
—R2002:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation.—Exodus 15:2

The Lord is our strength; we lean not upon human might—neither of our own or of other men. We hold the Head, from whom not only come the laws which govern us, but from whom come the strength, the direction, the protection, the care, which we need and which we enjoy. The Lord is become our salvation; he has saved us from the condemnation of sin through

JANUARY 30

DAILY MANNA

Jesus spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.—Luke 18:1

In coming to God we need have no fear that he is too busy with other matters of greater importance, or that he is weary of our coming to him repeatedly with things of small importance. It was to assure us against this very thing that our Lord spoke the parable of the importunate widow, who was heard and answered on account of her importunity. In so doing we evince both the earnestness of our desires and our faith that our prayers will be answered, if we faint not from lack of faith or zeal when the answer is delayed, as often it must necessarily be, since time is an important element in all God's work.—*R1865:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.—Colossians 3:15

The peace and joy which surpasseth all human understanding was not given to the world, nor is it given to the nominal Christian professor, nor to the formalist and ritualist, however zealous they may be. It is intended for and can be had only by those who receive riches of grace through the Holy Spirit—those who by obedience to the truth and its spirit grow up into Christ their living Head in all things. Such have peace,

JANUARY 31

DAILY MANNA

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.—Psalm 25:9

Such a disposition is essential to those who would receive the wisdom which cometh from above. They must have a humble appreciation of their own deficiencies and lack of wisdom, else they cannot receive freely, heartily, the wisdom which God is pleased to grant in the present time only to those who are in the attitude of heart to receive it. And it will be seen also that this humility of mind is essential as a basis for the spirit of a sound mind—for who is in a proper condition to think justly, reasonably, impartially, except first of all he have a humble disposition? Hence we must agree that humility is a primary element in the disposition or mind of Christ.—R2585:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.—Isaiah 43:2

In view of the fact that all of the called, chosen, and faithful must be required to pass through the school of experience, discipline, and testing with a view to their final approval, how encouraging it is to know that the Lord will indeed be with us in every trouble, that he sympathizes with us in all of our trials, adversities,

FEBRUARY 1

DAILY MANNA

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.—Isaiah 30:21

If we have come to the forks of the road—to some crisis in our experience—and know not whether to turn to the right or to the left, we should stop at once and listen to the voice. Or, in other words, we should turn at once to the word of the Lord, and by pondering its precepts and principles, and its illustrations bearing on the perplexing subjects, seek to learn the will of the Lord, asking also the leading of his spirit, and endeavoring to bring the mind into a loving, submissive and trustful attitude.—*R1753:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

At midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God.—Acts 16:25

The Christian life is not a sad or morose one, but a most joyful one. He can even be joyful in tribulation, “knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience experience; and experience hope.” Knowing also that “our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”—beyond the veil. (Rom. 5:3,4; 2 Cor. 4:17) We thus partake in the cup of suffering and joy which is an earnest of our inheritance. ... This

FEBRUARY 2

DAILY MANNA

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die.—Romans 8:13

What is it to live after the flesh? We answer, It is to live after, in conformity to, and in gratification of, the inclinations and cravings of the fallen human nature. And it is the easiest thing possible to do this. All we have to do is just listlessly to abandon ourselves to the current of our old nature, and cease to strive against it. As soon as we do this, we begin to float down the stream, and by and by we find the current more and more rapid and resistance more and more difficult.—*R1748:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.—Psalm 149:5

The psalmist here foretells that the saints at this time are at rest upon their beds, while they sing God's praise. The statement might be meaningless to us until we understand from other scriptures that these beds represent creeds or the sum total of one's religious belief. ... The true saints of God have at this time beds of full and proper size, and a cover which is warm and ample. They are shown in this prophetic picture as taking their ease, resting in faith, while others are restless and uncomfortable.

FEBRUARY 3

DAILY MANNA

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.—Proverbs 4:20,22

Few recognize the influence of the mind over the body. God has so organized our beings that pure, noble, holy thoughts in general have not only an elevating and ennobling effect upon the mental and moral constitution, but an invigorating influence upon the physical system. And, on the contrary, every unclean, ignoble, unchaste, unholy thought (as well as act) has a direct effect not only toward debasement of mind and morals, but toward the germination of seeds of disease already in the constitution of the fallen race.—*R2014:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.—Psalm 119:54

It is written, “He giveth songs in the night,” and “He hath put a new song into my mouth.” It causes us no surprise to know that the saints will “be joyful in glory,” and sing aloud with the high praises of God in their mouths when it shall be given to them to execute the judgments written, but it may strike some as peculiar that the present conditions of imperfection and frailty, in which we groan and are burdened, should be

FEBRUARY 4

DAILY MANNA

Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.—Revelation 18:4

Whoever are worthy the name, “my people,” will hear and obey the Lord’s voice and come out of Babylon and “receive not of her plagues”; because their obedience in fleeing out as soon as they see Babylon’s real condition will prove that they were never in real accord with her sins. Those who remain after seeing Babylon and her blasphemous doctrines in the light now shining are reckoned as endorsing the blasphemies and deserving the “plagues” most thoroughly—as much or more than the “tare” class of Babylonians, because they have greater light.—R2553:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel.—Numbers 10:29

Whoever comes with us receives a blessing, and in urging any to come with us we receive a blessing because our own faith is encouraged, stimulated, and our own obedience also to the Lord; for shall we say to others, The Lord will do thee good, and not experience good ourselves and not realize the blessings we are receiving day by day from the Lord’s hand? And

FEBRUARY 5

DAILY MANNA

This is the will of God [concerning you], even your sanctification.—1 Thessalonians 4:3

Coming to the Scriptures to ascertain God's will, we find that the great work which God asks of us is not work for others, but work in ourselves, subduing, conquering, ruling self. Everything else, therefore—our service for the household of faith, and our doing good unto all men, by home and foreign missions, etc.—is subservient to this most important work within. For, as the apostle by inspiration declares, though we should preach the gospel eloquently to others, and though we should give all our goods to feed the poor, or become martyrs for a good cause, without love, the spirit of Christ and the Father, developed in us as the ruling principle of life, we would be nothing, from the divine standpoint.—*R2412:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.—Ephesians 3:20

Let us gird up the loins of our minds and be sober-minded, and hope to the end for the grace that shall be brought unto us at the revelation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us look not at things that are seen, which at most are temporal, but let us look at the

things that are unseen, at the eternal things. Let us look unto Jesus with the eye of faith, let us look unto the crown of life which he has promised, let us look unto the place that he is preparing for us in the many mansions of the Father's house; let us look, not with doubt and fear, but with full confidence that the grandest of our hopes will be much more than realized when he shall bid us come up higher and enter into the joys of our Lord. "Faith can firmly trust him, come what may." The more we exercise faith along these lines of his direction, the more are we pleasing in the sight of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light; and the more such faith we exercise the more we will have in us the power of God, which will work in us both to will and to do his good pleasure—which will enable us more and more to live separate from the world, to overcome the world, and to fight a good fight against sin and selfishness, the world, the adversary, and our own flesh.—R3892:4 (Hymn 126)

FEBRUARY 6

DAILY MANNA

Promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.—Psalm 75:6,7

We may have desires and aspirations for usefulness which will never be gratified. The Lord may see that we could not bear the exaltation and honor which we seek. He knows far better than we do what is for our good, and so he would have us rest contented in his providence, not idle, but diligent; not careless, but watchful; not indifferent, but full of intense, earnest longing to do the will of God; yet patient under restraint, and content to be neglected and forgotten, remembering that “they also serve who only stand and wait,” and that the Lord in his own well-chosen hour can lead us forth to fulfill his purposes of grace.—*R1756:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.—Colossians 3:2

Since the constant tendency of the flesh is downward and in opposition to the new mind, it follows that those even who have already consecrated to the Lord need to reset or re-establish their affections on the heavenly things continually. A little carelessness,

FEBRUARY 7

DAILY MANNA

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.—Romans 13:10

He who finds his heart not in harmony with this law of the New Covenant, love—mercy, kindness, gentleness, goodness—lacks the evidence or proof that he is in any sense of the word accepted as a son of God, and a joint-heir with Christ. If we have not love in our hearts for the brethren, and love of gentleness and benevolence toward all men, and even toward the brute creation, we have not the spirit which will carry us through in making the sacrifices necessary under present conditions. It will only be a question of time with such when the power of pride or vainglory, holding them in the way of sacrifice, will snap asunder, and selfishness take full control.—*R2330:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I am the living bread which came down from heaven.
—John 6:51

When our Lord declared himself to be the bread from heaven many of his hearers failed to comprehend the metaphor, and said, This is a hard saying. Will this man give us of his flesh to eat? They failed to see that our Lord personified the truth, the great plan of God which centered in him, the life which he had come to give on behalf of the world, that we might live

FEBRUARY 8

DAILY MANNA

O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?
—Matthew 14:31

What must be done to overcome this lack of faith, and to have an increase of faith? We answer that, like the apostles of old, we should pray, “Lord, increase our faith.” And then, acting in harmony with this prayer, each should cultivate faith in his own heart: (a) By refreshing his memory continually with the divine promises, becoming very familiar with these in the Father’s word, (b) He should seek more and more to remember that, having made his covenant with the Lord, these promises are his, and in his heart and with his lips he should claim them as his before the Lord in prayer with thanksgiving. He should claim them in his own thoughts, and in his conferences on holy things with the brethren.—R2642:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.—Psalm 32:11

We trust that all of our readers are coming to appreciate this blessed message more and more—to be glad in the Lord—a very different thing from being glad in the trifling things of this world. He whose affections are set upon this earth will continually find tribula-

FEBRUARY 9

DAILY MANNA

Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee.—Psalm 116:7

The Christian's habit of thought has much indeed to do with his spiritual progress or retrogression, as it is also an index of his spiritual state; and good habits of thought need to be carefully cultivated. By "habit of thought" we mean that normal condition to which the mind habitually returns in the moments of mental leisure. While engaged in the active duties of life we must of necessity bend our mental energies to the work in hand, for if we do anything merely mechanically and without concentrating thought upon it we cannot do it well; yet even here Christian principle, well established in the character, will unconsciously guide. But when the strain of labor and care are lifted for a time, the established habit of thought, like the needle to the pole, should quickly return to its rest in God.—*R1885:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God.—Deuteronomy 8:18

The more we come into possession of the spiritual blessings which the Lord has promised us, and which we have accepted by faith, the more need we will have of humility; and our humility will be proportionate to

FEBRUARY 10

DAILY MANNA

Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.—
1 Timothy 4:12

Every Christian should strive to be a pattern worthy of imitation—a pattern of earnest, faithful endeavor to copy Christ in his daily life, and of active zeal in his service. Patterns of perfection, of the ultimate moral glory and beauty of holiness, we cannot expect to be in the present life. Such a pattern we have only in Christ our Lord. In no such sense did Paul ever say, Follow me, or Follow us; but he did say, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (1 Cor. 11:1) The apostle was a grand example of earnest endeavor to attain perfection, but not of the ultimate perfection which was in Christ only; and it is his zeal and intense earnestness in striving to copy Christ and to accomplish his will that we should imitate.—
R1886:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.—*Daniel 12:12

What blessings have we received? Just as the Bible has said to us, so has it been. Those who open their hearts to the Lord find that he not only comes in and sups with them, but that he becomes their servant,

FEBRUARY 11

DAILY MANNA

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.—Matthew 5:11,12

Opposition and persecution are the inevitable concomitants of activity in the service of God, and they should be met with reason and candor; and when these fail of their purpose, then, with solemn warnings of the dangers of such a course, the wilful opposer should be left to pursue his own course while we turn to others with the message of salvation. In the opposition which our Lord incurred and the manner in which he met it, there are valuable lessons for all who are similarly tried.—*R1736:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And the Logos became flesh, and dwelt among us.—John 1:14, Diaglott

Because all of the human family were children of Adam and sharers in his death sentence, no man could give to God a ransom for his brother. (Psalm 49:7) God so shut up the matter that Adam and his race could not have been redeemed except by the finding of a perfect man who would be willing voluntarily to

FEBRUARY 12

DAILY MANNA

Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.—James 1:4

Not one step of progress can be gained without the exercise of this grace of patience; and not one of the graces more beautifully adorns the Christian character, or wins the approval of the world's conscience, or glorifies the God of all grace whose truth inspires it. It is long-suffering meekness earnestly striving to stem the tide of human imperfection and weakness, and endeavoring with painstaking care to regain the divine likeness; it is slow to wrath and plenteous in mercy; it is quick to perceive the paths of truth and righteousness, and prompt to walk in them; it is mindful of its own imperfections and sympathetic with the imperfections and shortcomings of others.—R3090:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

We are laborers together with God.—1 Corinthians 3:9

The one work of the Gospel Age has been the selection of the spiritual seed of Abraham, through whom all the families of the earth shall be blessed—shall become of the earthly seed. This promise that all the families of the earth shall be blessed cannot be fulfilled until the spiritual seed shall be completed. "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs

FEBRUARY 13

DAILY MANNA

Love ... thinketh no evil.—1 Corinthians 13:5

Whoever neglects the Lord's commands along this line of "evil surmisings" weaves a web for his own ensnarement, however "circumspectly" he may walk as respects other matters; for a heart impregnated with doubt and suspicion toward fellow creatures is more than half prepared to doubt God: the spirit of sourness and bitterness is at war with the spirit of the Lord, the spirit of love. Either the one or the other will conquer. The wrong spirit must be gotten rid of, or it will defile the new creature and make of him a "castaway." On the contrary, if the new nature conquer, as an "over-comer," it will be along this line: if evil surmisings are overcome, half the battle against present difficulties and besetments is won.—*R3594:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.—

1 Thessalonians 5:24

We hope, dear friends, that we are getting ready for the marriage of the Lamb, for our marriage to the Lamb. Something that we may do or fail to do today may have a bearing upon our final readiness. Our minds are the foundation for everything in this matter. The Lord knows that we have imperfect bodies. So the testing will not be as to whether our bodies are perfect,

FEBRUARY 14

DAILY MANNA

By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.—Matthew 12:37

All our words are taken by the Lord as an index of our hearts. If our words are rebellious, or disloyal, or frivolous, or flippant, or unkind, unthankful, unholy or impure, the heart is judged accordingly, on the principle that, “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” That as imperfect beings we may always be perfect in word and deed is not possible. Despite our best endeavors we will sometimes err in word as well as in deed, yet the perfect mastery of our words and ways is the thing to be sought by vigilant and faithful effort.—*R1938:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.—2 Corinthians 4:17

Are we willing to bear the hatred, the scorn, the contumely, which loyalty to the truth brings? Is our Father’s loving favor more, far more, to us than the favor and smiles of the whole world—even more, far more, than life itself? If so, we can go forth in his name, rejoicing as we go, praising him with our lips, singing the new song which he hath put

FEBRUARY 15

DAILY MANNA

Whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected.—1 John 2:5

The test is obedience. In proportion as we keep the Lord's word, in like proportion the love of God is perfected in us; for if we have received the mind of Christ, the Holy Spirit, the spirit of God, the effect will be to cause us to both will and do his good pleasure—to the extent of our ability. And this ability should be continually on the increase year by year. And although we may not hope to be perfected until we shall be "changed" and be granted our new resurrection bodies, nevertheless all the while we may keep so closely in touch with the Lord in the spirit of our minds that we may have continual fellowship with him.—*R2236:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.—Psalm 149:4

These are the ones whom the Lord is pleased to instruct and guide in the knowledge of his Son, and into all his blessings. If they continue to be meek, he is able to make of them heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ their Lord. We read in the Scriptures that the meek shall inherit the earth. They will inherit under the terms of the primary and original covenant.

FEBRUARY 16

DAILY MANNA

Through honor and dishonor, through evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true ... giving no offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed.
—2 Corinthians 6:8,3

While in the discharge of duty to the best of our ability and when apparently we have the Lord's blessing and favor upon us and our affairs in a most marked degree, suddenly trouble may arise, adversity come, the powers of darkness seem to triumph, and for a moment we may be apparently culprits in the judgment of our fellowmen, and apparently forsaken by divine providence. Such experiences, doubtless, are needful to us; for though we may sing,

“I would rather walk in the dark with God,
Than go alone in the light,”

yet this might be but an empty boast unless we were put through the trying experiences which would develop such faith, such trust, as would hold to the Lord's hand, and trust divine providence in the darkest hour.—R2886:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing.—Isaiah 28:12

We are resting in the Lord's promises—we are resting in his strength and in his ability to make good his

FEBRUARY 17

DAILY MANNA

Take my yoke upon you ... for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.—Matthew 11:29,30

Those who wear this yoke have the assurances of the divine word that all things are working together for good to them; that the heavier the burden that may be attached, the greater will be the blessing and the reward by and by; the more severe the experiences during the present time, the brighter shall be the glory, and the brighter shall be their character, and the more sure shall they be of being fitted and polished for the heavenly kingdom. From this standpoint every burden is light, because our yoke is appreciated, and is so easy, so reasonable: and additionally it is so light because the Lord is with us in this yoke.—R2625:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.—John 16:22

What are our joys which no man taketh from us, and which persecution and affliction and trouble can only deepen and widen and make more sweet? What joy is this? This joy is a foretaste of the blessings to come, an earnest of our inheritance. It is inspired by confidence that he is both able and willing to perfect the work which he has begun and which we desire shall be perfected in his own best way; confident

FEBRUARY 18

DAILY MANNA

The Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.—Deuteronomy 13:3

The kingdom is only intended for those who by God's grace shall at heart become like to the Lord Jesus, in that they will love the Lord with all their hearts, with all their souls, and be able to say, "Not my will, but thy will, O Lord, be done." No other condition than this of full submission to the Lord can make us acceptable for the kingdom; for no other condition represents full self-submission and full love to God. And let us not forget that all the heavenly things which "eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man," God hath reserved for them that love him supremely.—*R2258:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Be ye ... followers of God, as dear children.—Ephesians 5:1

It is high time that we learn that we cannot serve God and mammon, and that we choose between these. If we do not choose the Lord and his service and place these first before our hearts' affections, we will be counted as placing the others first—the interests of the natural man—and the Lord's appreciation of us and the reward he will give us will correspond. He has

FEBRUARY 19

DAILY MANNA

Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unfaithful nothing is pure; but both their mind and conscience are defiled: they profess to have known God, but by their works they renounce him, being abominable and disobedient, and as to every good work worthless.—Titus 1:15,16, Diaglott

What a terrible condition this is, and how careful all the Lord's people should be, not only to have pure hearts, pure minds, but also to keep their consciences very tender, in close accord with the word of the Lord. This condition can only be maintained by judging ourselves, and that strictly and frequently, by the standard which God has given us, his law of love.

“I want the first approach to feel
Of pride or fond desire;
To catch the wandering of my will,
And quench the kindling fire.”

—R2516:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.—Hebrews 4:16

While prayer is a privilege and not a command, our condition makes it a necessity. Because of the fall of man from his original perfection our flesh has imper-

FEBRUARY 20

DAILY MANNA

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue ... this man's religion is vain.
—James 1:26

Because the tongue is the index of the heart, because “out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh,” therefore the unbridled tongue, speaking selfishly, enviously, bitterly, boastfully, slanderously, proves that the heart from whose fullness these overflow is unsanctified, unholy, grievously lacking of the spirit of Christ—hence, whatever religion it may have attained is thus far vain, as that heart is not saved, nor in a salvable condition. But the Good Physician has pointed out antidotes for soul-poisoning—medicines which, if properly taken according to directions, will sweeten the bitter heart.—R2517:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's and of the holy angels.—Luke 9:26

The word of God is not merely the Bible, but it includes sermons, tracts, books, etc., in proportion as they contain and truly represent the message of God's dear Son. This brings the matter still more closely home, and it implies that we are not to be ashamed of

FEBRUARY 21

DAILY MANNA

Thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.—Psalm 31:3

After the Lord has given us certain lessons and experiences, some of which come to us under quiet and restful conditions, the order of procedure may be changed, and the indication of the Lord's providences may lead to some breaking up of conditions which had been both favorable and unfavorable in some respects—leading into new circumstances and conditions. It is not for the true spiritual Israelite to murmur or complain, or even to express a choice; but to look to the Lord for guidance. If he can discern the leadings of divine providence, even though it be in a wilderness condition more arid and undesirable than that in which he has previously been, he is to follow the Lord's leadings unquestioningly, and with songs of faith and confidence.—*R3060:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.—Psalm 34:13

The Lord's people find the tongue the most difficult member to bring into subjection, and therefore may well pray, "Keep the door of my lips." And if the prayer be sincere, from the heart, it will imply that the petitioner is doing all in his power in this direction

FEBRUARY 22

DAILY MANNA

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have.—Hebrews 13:5

Selfish prayers are too expensive. Some have gained wealth and lost the truth and its service; some have gained health, only to find that with it they gained other trials no less severe: some have had their dear ones restored to them from the very jaws of death, only to wish afterward that God had not answered their prayers—or, more correctly, to wish that they had accepted the Lord's wisdom and providence trustfully, contentedly, uncomplainingly. . . . Spiritual Israel should use wisely such things as are within their reach—accepting all as God's gifts with thanksgiving; but their petitions should be for spiritual gifts—including patient endurance and heart contentment.
—R3061:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

By patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life.—Romans 2:7

What are we seeking? This is a good question for each one of us to put to himself, and for us to suggest at a proper time to all others who are manifesting any interest in present truth. We know what the world is

seeking—wealth, honor, fame, ease, etc.—and we know that many who turn toward the Lord still have the spirit of the world. They would like to be the Lord’s disciples and still have and cultivate and enjoy the hopes and ambitions that are more or less worldly. It is appropriate that we should give heed to the Master’s words as though they were addressed to each of us individually, What are you seeking? Let us answer our Master in our own hearts and in prayer; and before we make answer let us consider well that it may be a truthful one, for we might indeed deceive ourselves, but could not deceive him with whom we have to do. It is right that we should seek the kingdom and that we should know that there is a great honor and glory and dignity associated with it by divine arrangement, and that thus we should “seek for glory, honor, and immortality.” But in conjunction with this seeking of the kingdom we should remember our Master’s words on another occasion, that we should seek chiefly the kingdom of God and his righteousness.—*R4116:2* (Hymn 78)

FEBRUARY 23

DAILY MANNA

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.—Psalm 32:8

One of the most important lessons for the spiritual Israelite to learn is to look to the Lord for leading in all of life's affairs—never to attempt any undertaking either temporal or spiritual, without seeking to note the will of the Lord concerning the same. ... We are marching toward Canaan and know that other experiences are due us and must be undergone ere we can inherit the promises. The lesson for us is prompt and thorough obedience to the Lord's leadings without murmurings—with joyfulness; and this can only be expected on the part of those who have learned the lessons previously given them, and above all the lessons of faith—confidence in the Lord's power and goodness and faithfulness.—*R3062:1; 3061:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, ... humbleness of mind.—Colossians 3:12

Everything in the Scriptures points us to the fact that humility is a quality most essential to all of the Lord's people who would be used of the Lord in any important or special work for him. If the followers of the Lord could continually keep this in memory, and

FEBRUARY 24

DAILY MANNA

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.—Romans 8:3,4

What comfort and consolation are in these assurances! These are wonderful words of life, indeed! They inspire us with hope. If God will accept perfect heart intentions, as instead of the absolute perfection of the flesh—then indeed we have hope of attaining to the standard which he has marked for us—the standard of perfection. ... We can walk after the spirit, though, so far as our mortal bodies are concerned, we cannot walk up to the spirit's requirements. Our minds can walk up to the spirit, our intentions can be perfect; and this is what our heavenly Father seeks in us, perfection of intention.—R3060:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Give us this day our daily bread.—Matthew 6:11

To suppose that the Lord here is merely referring to the natural food would imply that the petitioners were merely natural men, whereas we know that the prayer was taught only to those who were reckonedly new creatures in Christ by a covenant to walk in his steps

FEBRUARY 25

DAILY MANNA

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.—Matthew 4:4

We are to learn the lesson that a man's life consists not in the abundance of things which he possesseth—food and raiment—but that his life, in the fullest, grandest, highest sense, is dependent upon his complete submission to the divine will—his careful attention to every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God—every admonition, every encouragement, every promise, is necessary to the development of those whom God is now calling to eternal life as joint-heirs with his Son in the kingdom. Let us then, more and more, as the disciples, pupils, of the Lord Jesus, keep in memory and act upon the suggestion of the words of this text.—*R3058:5; 3060:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.—Zechariah 4:6

Our Lord Jesus himself laid the foundation of the spiritual temple, and he himself will complete it as its top-stone, and it shall be acclaimed glorious, not only by men, but by angels, in God's due time. The work is in his hand, and although from outward appearances at the present time there may seem to be discouragement,

FEBRUARY 26

DAILY MANNA

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.
—Philippians 4:4

We cannot have too many rejoicing Christians, nor can they rejoice too much, if they rejoice in the Lord. This rejoicing is not necessarily boisterous, nor of necessity the reverse. It implies serenity, happiness, peace, pleasure of soul, however, and does not mean that noisy demonstration is essential, as some seem mistakenly to think. ... The only ones who can rejoice always are those who are living very near to the Lord, and who can feel always their oneness with him, and that his protection and care are over them, and that his promise is sure, that all things shall work together for their highest welfare, as new creatures. —*R3128:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.—Matthew 7:7

Why should the Lord wish us to ask before he would give his blessing? For a wise purpose, we may be sure! He would have us feel our need, he would have us appreciate the privilege, he would have us look for the response, and in all these experiences he would develop us as his sons of the new creation. Therefore we are to ask and seek and knock if we would find the riches of God's grace, and have opened to us

FEBRUARY 27

DAILY MANNA

Let your moderation be known unto all men.—Philippians 4:5

The Greek word here rendered “moderation” seems to carry with it the thought of reasonableness, and of not exacting our rights too rigorously. Mercy and leniency are certainly qualities required of all who would be members of the body of the Anointed. Faithfulness in the performance, as far as possible, of all that justice would require of us, and mercifulness in respect to all our requirements of justice from others should be our rule: so shall we be the children of our Father which is in heaven, for he is kind and merciful to the unthankful.—*R3128:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.—Ephesians 6:16

The new creature may develop even when the outer man is perishing. Satan succeeded in having the chief priests and Pharisees cause the death of our Lord; but this was the very means by which he entered into glory. In his dealings with our Lord the Father has given us an illustration of his dealings with us. So we may know that even if Satan should appear to get the victory over us, these “light afflictions” will, as we are

FEBRUARY 28

DAILY MANNA

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.—Philippians 4:6

The question may arise, Why will not God give us the things which he sees us to need without our making petition to him and claiming his promises? Undoubtedly because we need previously to come into the proper attitude of heart to receive his favors and to be advantaged by them. Even as it is, we may be sure that we do not sufficiently appreciate the divine care bestowed upon us hitherto and now. Even in the attitude of prayer and thanksgiving we probably do not discern one-half of our causes for gratitude, as we shall see them by and by, when we shall know even as we are known.—*R3128:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye are the salt of the earth ... Ye are the light of the world.—Matthew 5:13, 14

Before very long we expect that all of the overcoming members of the body of Christ will be changed, glorified, and the body completed on the other side the veil will be without members on this side. The lights will have gone and the darkness will hold fuller sway than ever; the salt will be gone and the corruption will take hold swiftly, and the result will be the great time of

FEBRUARY 29

DAILY MANNA

God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.—1 John 4:16

Justice fills the measure full, but love shakes it, presses it down, heaps it up and overflows justice. It is therefore something not to be demanded, nor its lack to be complained of, but to be gratefully appreciated as a favor and to be generously reciprocated. Every one who craves it at all should crave it in its highest sense—the sense of admiration and reverence. But this sort of love is the most costly, and the only way to secure it is to manifest that nobility of character which calls it forth from others who are truly noble.—*R3071:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—Matthew 5:3

Whereas others would have said, blessed are the rich, the learned, the prominent, the rulers, this great teacher reversed the matter, saying, blessed are those who are not self-conceited, who do not think very highly of themselves, who appreciate their own littleness and imperfection. There is a favor and blessedness associated with being little in one's own estimation: it preserves from many a false step into which egotism would lead. All who are seeking to

MARCH 1

DAILY MANNA

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.—Philippians 4:7

It is not our own peace that is here referred to. It is the peace of God—the peace which comes to us from a realization of God's power and goodness and willingness to hold us by his right hand as his children. The thought is that this peace stands guard continually, as a sentinel, to challenge every hostile or worrying thought or fear. It keeps the Christian's mind so that he at heart has peace with the Lord, fellowship, communion—and it guards his mind also, his reasoning faculties, instructing him and assuring him respecting the divine power and wisdom and love.—*R3128:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!—Numbers 23:10

Our Lord Jesus was the Righteous One, and when we think of death we are to think of him and his death, and to remember that as he laid down his life we also ought to lay down our lives on behalf of the brethren. As he sacrificed earthly interests and advantages and privileges and pleasures that he might die the sacrificial death in accord with the divine plan, so let us remember that we have covenanted similarly to be

“dead with him.” For if we be dead with him we shall also live with him; if we suffer with him we shall also reign with him. Our hope of participation with him in his resurrection to glory, honor, and immortality is based upon our faithfulness in participating with him in his death, which means also a share with him in the sufferings of this present time. But standing as we do with the Pisgah prospect before us, strengthened by might in the inner man, why should either death or its attendant sufferings deter us? Nay, in all these things we will rejoice and triumph through our Lord and Redeemer, our Head!—*R4055:5* (Hymn 325)

Space available for recording birthdays and special occasions.

MARCH 2

DAILY MANNA

Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, ... think on these things.—Philippians 4:8

Whoever sympathizes with falsehood or exaggeration is more or less defiling himself. Whoever cleanses his thoughts, and avoids exaggeration, etc., is in that degree purifying his mind and his entire character. Nor is it sufficient that we are sure of the truth of matters. We are to test them further, and discern to what extent they are honorable, noble; for, although the Lord has covered the ignoble features of our characters, and proposes to cover them to the end with his own merit, nevertheless we cannot be in sympathy with our fallen condition, but on the contrary must desire true nobility and the highest standards of honor in our hearts, in our thoughts, in all our dealings with our God and with our fellows.—*R3129:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger.—John 6:35

Only by partaking largely, regularly, daily, of our Lord, his merit, and his gracious arrangements for us, can we become strong in him, and prosecute the journey faithfully and enter into the spiritual Canaan. As every Israelite was required to gather manna for himself, so each Christian is required to gather and appro-

MARCH 3

DAILY MANNA

Whatsoever things are just, ... think on these things.—
Philippians 4:8

We are not to allow our minds to run along lines that would be unjust, and we are to learn to apply this test of justice to every thought and word and act of ours, while learning at the same time to view the conduct of others from a different standpoint—so far as reason will permit, from the standpoint of mercy, forgiveness, pity, helpfulness. But we cannot be too careful how we criticize every thought we entertain, every plan we mature, that the lines of justice shall in no sense of the word be infringed by us with our hearts' approval.—*R3129:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.—*Luke 12:32*

Our chief concern as followers of Christ is to seek to attain a share in God's kingdom with our dear Redeemer—a share in the Millennial Kingdom as the bride of Christ, who shall sit with him in his glorious throne for the blessing and uplifting of the world of mankind. We have our Master's assurance for it that whoever pursues this course will do wisely and that God will look out for his earthly interests, for his highest welfare. So doing, our lives will be crowned

MARCH 4

DAILY MANNA

Whatsoever things are pure ... lovely ... and of good report, ... think on these things.—Philippians 4:8

We are to love and cultivate that which is pure to such an extent that that which is impure will become painful to us, distressing, and we will desire to drop it from memory, and this will only be accomplished by continually thinking upon those things that are pure, and avoiding the giving of thought to the things that are impure. We are to recognize true loveliness, and to esteem it. When we would think on the purest of things we must of necessity lift our mental vision to as high a point as possible, and, as nearly as we may be able, discern the loveliness of the perfect character of our God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, and proportionately the loveliness manifested in one or another of the followers of Jesus, who walk closely in his footsteps.—*R3129:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.—Matthew 28:20

This text contains a precious thought—that the Lord has been with his representatives in all their labors of love and self-denial, throughout the entire age, noting their efforts, assisting, encouraging, sustaining them, and surely watering and refreshing all who are making

MARCH 5

DAILY MANNA

If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.—Philippians 4:8

Things of any virtue or value, things in any degree praiseworthy—the noble words or noble deeds or noble sentiments of anybody—we may safely meditate upon, and as a consequence find ourselves growing toward those ideals upon which our minds, our new natures, thus feed. We will become more and more transformed by the renewing of our minds, and approach nearer and nearer to the glorious likeness of our Lord and Master, being changed from glory to glory, inch by inch, step by step, little by little, during the present life; and our thoughts being in this attitude and our union with the Lord maintained, we shall have part in the first resurrection, which will perfect us forever in the Lord's image and likeness.—*R3129:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.—John 15:5

It is not sufficient that we hear the message of the kingdom; it is not sufficient that we have good hearts or good intentions in respect to it; it is additionally necessary, as the Master says, that we should understand the kingdom message; hence the need of Bible

MARCH 6

DAILY MANNA

I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound.—Philippians 4:11,12

If we find our experiences in life very checkered we may conclude that the Lord sees that we need both the heights and depths of prosperity and adversity to properly instruct us and qualify us for the position he designs for us in the future. Let us, then, as the apostle did, learn how to abound, not allowing the abundance of earthly good things to swerve us from our consecration vows; and learn also how to be in want (need) and yet not to want anything beyond what the Lord's wisdom and providence see best to give—to be content.—*R3129:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.—1 John 2:1

Why do we need an Advocate? Because, although as new creatures we are free from condemnation and have fullest relationship with the Father and can go to him at “the throne of heavenly grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in every time of need,” nevertheless we new creatures have not our new bodies and will not have them until we receive them in the first resurrection. Meantime, according to divine arrange-

MARCH 7

DAILY MANNA

If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.—1 John 4:12

Whether I am something or nothing in God's estimation is to be measured by my love for him, for his brethren, for his cause, for the world in general, and even for my enemies—rather than by my knowledge or fame or oratory. In the measurement of character, therefore, we are to put love first, and to consider it the chief test of our nearness and acceptance to the Lord. Those begotten of the Holy Spirit should all be good tempered. In no way can we better show forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light than by the exhibition of the spirit of love in the daily affairs of life.—R3150:3; 3151:2; 3150:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down.—Hebrews 11:30

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Phil. 4:13) Faith is an essential; but we must have crossed the Jordan; we must have been justified; must have partaken of the antitypical passover; must have been sanctified before we could have received of the Lord either a promise of victory over our Jericho, or before we could exercise such a faith as

MARCH 8

DAILY MANNA

God hath set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.—1 Corinthians 12:18

No member of the body of Christ can say that he has no need for another member, and no member may say that there is nothing whatever that he can do in the service of the body. Under the guidance of our glorious Head each member who is filled with his spirit, and desirous of serving him, may do so. When the time for rewards shall have come, who knows how much of the usefulness of Paul and Apollos may be accredited to some of the humble ones, such as Aquila and Priscilla, who in various ways ministered to and encouraged and supported their abler brethren in the Lord's work.—*R3152:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Be strong and of a good courage.—Joshua 1:6

Courage is always admirable, but there is a moral courage which should rank higher far than physical. This moral courage is greatly needed among the Lord's people; without it they can do nothing, and many of their difficulties in the Christian way are because they fail to appreciate this matter and fail to develop this courage. It requires real courage of the highest order to stand for the Lord's truth and his people when these are misunderstood, misinterpreted,

MARCH 9

DAILY MANNA

God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.—Hebrews 6:10

No child of the Lord should be content to let the days of the present harvest time go by with their golden opportunities for service and cooperation without seeking each day to lift the royal banner himself, and to publicly show forth the praises of him who hath called him out of darkness into light, or without assisting and cooperating with others whom the Lord in his providence has placed in more advantageous positions for public service.—R3152:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.—Romans 5:5

God does not love us because we are doing great and wonderful things. His special love for us began when he begat us, because of the consecration we had made—because we had entered into the covenant of sacrifice. And the Father delights in all those who desire to be sealed with his Spirit—who desire to become his children. He began thus to love us as babes in Christ, and he loves us as we grow stronger, and he will love us to the end! As we journey along, we need to

MARCH 10

DAILY MANNA

Exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.—Hebrews 3:13

If we realize that a spiritual lethargy has to any extent been creeping over us, imperceptibly benumbing our spiritual senses, so that the truth is losing its inspiring power upon us, our first duty is to betake ourselves to prayer and to communion with God and his word, that its sanctifying power may be realized.—*R3149:2*

“For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.”—Hebrews 3:14

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it. ... Be ye also patient.—James 5:7,8

Patience is a virtue which our heavenly Father desires to cultivate in us and he manifests in himself the grandest example of it. Through all the centuries past he has patiently endured the reproaches of those who, failing to understand the course of his wisdom in executing justice and in working out the deep designs of his abounding grace, attributed evil, and only evil, to his truly glorious and holy character. He knows that “in due time” his character will be fully vindicated,

and so he patiently waits and works and endures. So also our Lord Jesus waits and endures. He endured great humiliation in coming to our low estate. Then as a man he patiently endured the contradictions of sinners against himself, and ungrateful persecution, even unto death, from those he came to save. And, like his heavenly Father, through it all he was cheered in consideration of that “due time,” though then in the far distant future, when his character, and also the Father’s character, would be fully vindicated and manifested to every creature in heaven and in earth. And still our blessed Lord Jesus and our adorable heavenly Father await with patience the grand consummation. So, in similar attitude of mind, we must wait; for the servant is not above his Lord, and our rejoicing in view of the future will, if we have the mind of Christ, be not only because of our own prospective vindication and glory, but also in prospect of the vindication and glory of God and of our Lord Jesus, and of the prospective everlasting triumph of truth and righteousness.—*R3784:1* (Hymn 29)

MARCH 11

DAILY MANNA

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.—

Hebrews 12:1

You that discern the prize of your high calling, and who are endeavoring to press along the line toward the mark, “gird up the loins of your mind”; strengthen and fortify your purposes and efforts; renew your determination; redouble your diligence; cast aside the weights of unnecessary worldly cares; increase your zeal; and, as the apostle urges, run with patience the race set before you. Run, not like one who is merely beating the air, but like one who has a purpose in view, and who, in desperate earnest, is determined to make his calling and election sure.—*R3149:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.—Galatians 4:28

Christ, our Head, and we, his members, are the anti-type of him who was called “Laughter,” or “Joyous.” And do we not have more joy than others, even in this present time? True, we have a full share in the trials and difficulties and sorrows and disappointments that cause the whole creation to groan and travail in pain

MARCH 12

DAILY MANNA

The end of the commandment is love from a pure heart, and a good conscience, and an undissembled faith.—1 Timothy 1:5, Diaglott

We are to have clearly before our minds the fact that the ultimate object of all the divine dealings for us and with us, and the ultimate significance of all the divine promises made to us, is the development of love, which is godlikeness, for God is love. And to have this love developed in us, in the sense and to the degree intended by the Lord, it is necessary that it shall come from a pure heart, in full accord with the Lord, and his law of love, and wholly antagonistic to the adversary and his law of selfishness.—R2735:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee, ... to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no.—Deuteronomy 8:2

There is a particular reason why God should permit persecution to come upon his consecrated ones. "The Lord your God doth prove you," test you. Why? What is he proving? We profess to be his loyal children. We profess to be laying down all that we have. And now "the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and

MARCH 13

DAILY MANNA

As many, therefore, as are perfect, should be of this mind; and if in anything you think differently, God will also reveal this to you; but to what we have attained, let us walk by the same line.—Philippians 3:15-17, Diaglott

It is indispensable to those who have reached the mark of perfect love that they shall keep actively engaged in the service of the Lord, laying down their lives for the brethren. Such must stand, not only as representatives of God and of the principles of righteousness, but as representatives of those strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might, and in the faith of his word—ready and willing and efficient in the encouragement of other runners in the racecourse, that they likewise may attain to the “mark”.—*R2755:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.—2 Corinthians 2:11

Satan, the adversary of the church, is strong and lion-like, vigilant and fully awake. As the Apostle Paul declares, he seeks to use every opportunity against us. He lies in wait, seeking to devour us. Although he is alert, he never approaches us with a roar, but creeps stealthily upon us in some unlooked for place or time, to devour us, to overcome us, to crush out our spiritual

MARCH 14

DAILY MANNA

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.—
Proverbs 16:32

While anger, in the nature of hatred, malice, strife, envy, should be put away by all who are seeking to be copies of God's dear Son, anger in the sense of righteous indignation against wrongdoing, sin in its various forms, is proper; and although it should be used with great moderation, backed by love, there are circumstances in which it would be wrong not to have righteous anger and use it.—R2068:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*Prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only.—*1 Samuel 7:3

Let us, dear brethren and sisters, who are privileged to be heralds of the coming kingdom, be earnest, zealous as was John the Baptist, giving comparatively little heed to the customs and formalities of the world, and giving very diligent heed to our appointed work, to show forth the praises of our heavenly Bridegroom, to announce him to all, to make known to all the terms and conditions of his favor and to bear witness to his presence now in the harvest time of this age, that his fan is in his hand, that he will thoroughly purge the threshing floor of all chaff, that he will gather the

MARCH 15

DAILY MANNA

The just shall live by faith.—Hebrews 10:38

It is not enough that, by faith, we receive the first impulse of life, but, having passed from death unto life, by the same means, we must continue to receive and appropriate spiritual nourishment, that we may grow thereby: we must walk by faith, following the leading of the Holy Spirit through the word of truth. The life of faith is an individual matter, as well of the heart as of the head. It is far more than an acceptance of doctrines which we consider scriptural and therefore true; it is the assimilation of that which we have proved to be the truth, so that its principles become our principles, and its promises our inspiration.—*R1798:3; 1799:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.—Matthew 7:14

Is not this a very narrow way? Yes, it is so narrow that it is wide enough to admit only the Lord's plan and those who are willing to discard all other plans, projects, and questionings, and to devote themselves fully to its service; and who are quite willing to bear any reproach it may bring. Are you endeavoring from day to day to vindicate the divine character and to

MARCH 16

DAILY MANNA

We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren, ... and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.—1 John 3:14,16

One of the final and most searching tests of these “brethren,” and the one under which probably the most of those once awakened and armed will fall, will be—love for the brethren. Seemingly many will fail at this point and be therefore accounted unworthy of an abundant entrance into the kingdom on this score. Should any be specially weak and liable to stumble, the true soldier of the cross will not despise him, nor revile him, even as the elder brother, the Captain, would not do so. On the contrary, he will be the more watchful and helpful toward the weaker even though he most enjoy himself in the company of the stronger.—*R2453:4,5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.—Colossians 3:3

Some Christian writer has well said: “Wherever there has been a faithful following of the Lord in a consecrated heart, several things have sooner or later inevitably followed. Meekness and quietness of spirit become in time the characteristics of the daily life. A submissive acceptance of the will of God, as it

MARCH 17

DAILY MANNA

Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.—Matthew 25:28,29

Why is the one-talented man chosen as an illustration of these talent-burials? It is to show the responsibility of those who have least—that the Lord expects even the least of his consecrated people to know of and to use the talents he has in his possession, and that he will not hold guiltless even those who have the smallest ability to serve him and his brethren and his truth, and who neglect to use it.—R2765:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.—Romans 12:9

As holiness and sin are opposites, so our feeling toward these must be represented by the sentiments of love and hatred. To grow cool in love for righteousness is to lose some of the abhorrence for sin. Let us, therefore, cultivate in ourselves hatred for sin, selfishness, impurity, and every evil way, that we may find it the easier to cultivate in our hearts the beautiful graces of the spirit. Only in our minds have the old things passed away and all things become new. Actually, this

MARCH 18

DAILY MANNA

Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.—1 Peter 1:13

Having “girded up the loins of your mind” for a long, steady and determined effort, “be sober”; do not allow yourself to become excited and, under the spur of excitement, to exhaust all your spiritual vitality in a very short time, and then to suffer a relapse into coldness or discouragement; but thoughtfully to consider and prepare for a long and patient endurance of all the discipline and trial of faith and patience necessary to prove an overcomer and worthy of the blessed reward promised “to him that overcometh.” The race before us is not one to be run by fits and starts, but by “patient continuance in well doing.”—*R3149:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.—
Psalm 17:15

Who can consider the importance of becoming copies of our blessed Lord and Head without feeling that to attain to this character likeness will be a life work! It cannot be accomplished in a day or in a year; but the whole life must be devoted to it; and day by day, if we are faithful, we should realize a measure of growth in grace and of development in Christian character. It is

MARCH 19

DAILY MANNA

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.—1 Peter 1:14,15

Some Christians have the erroneous idea that God does all the fashioning, and that his children are to be merely passive in his hand; but Peter does not so express it. He exhorts us to fashion ourselves according to the divine instructions. There is work to be done in us and about us, and those who are not up and doing, but who passively sit and wait for the Lord to work miracles in their behalf, are greatly deceived and are giving the enemy great advantage over them, which he will certainly use to bind them hand and foot and cast them into outer darkness, unless they bestir themselves to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling.—*R3150:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears.—Acts 20:31

We see in the parting of the beloved apostle with the elders of the church at Ephesus, who had come to bid him farewell before he set sail for Jerusalem, and to receive his parting counsel, another reminder of his faithfulness and a worthy example for

MARCH 20

DAILY MANNA

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.—John 8:31,32

Divine truth is never found except in the divinely appointed channels: and those channels are the Lord and the apostles and prophets. To continue in the doctrine set forth in their inspired writings, to study and meditate upon them, to trust implicitly in them, and faithfully to conform our characters to them, is what is implied in continuing in the word of the Lord. If we thus continue in the word of the Lord, as earnest and sincere disciples, we shall indeed “know the truth,” we shall be “firm in the faith,” and “able to give a reason for the hope that is in us,” to “earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints,” to “war a good warfare,” to “witness a good confession,” and firmly to “endure hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ,” even unto the end of our course.—R3153:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, ... and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.—2 Corinthians 6:17,18

What a promise! What a suggestion—that we, by nature defiled and imperfect, should not only have the

MARCH 21

DAILY MANNA

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.—Matthew 5:44

Here is a way to examine the real disposition of your own heart toward such. Would you cheerfully do them kindness and help them to the extent of your ability to see the error of their way and to overcome it? Can you tenderly pray for them and patiently bear with their weakness, their ignorance and lack of development, and try by a noble example to show them a more excellent way? If such be the case, then it is the sin that you despise, and not the sinner. The sin you should hate, but the sinner, never. Not until God's unerring judgment declares that the sin and the sinner are inseparably linked together may love let go its hold upon a brother man.—*R1330:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan.—Joshua 1:2

The intimation is that Joshua, like Moses, was a meek man, humble-minded, and that instead of attempting to grasp authority he needed rather that the Lord should encourage him to undertake the responsibility of the position of leader. Happy would it be for all of

MARCH 22

DAILY MANNA

If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.—1 Corinthians 11:31,32

The ascertainment of gains and losses as new creatures, and how and when and where these came to us in the constant battle with the world, the flesh and the devil, will surely profit all who make such reckonings with an eye single to the pleasement of the Lord. Spiritual Israelites are to live a daily and hourly life of nearness to the High Priest. The blood of the dear Redeemer is to be continually invoked for the cleansing of the slightest defilement of conscience, that thus the wedding garment of our Lord's imputed righteousness may not become draggled, but that the slightest spot being removed, we may have it "without spot or wrinkle or any such thing."—*R3125:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And the light shineth in darkness.—John 1:5

Whosoever receives the light of truth intelligently must rejoice in it; and rejoicing in it, he must let it shine out upon others, or, by covering his light with a bushel, he will demonstrate his lack of courage, lack of appreciation, lack of earnestness—qualities which the Lord is now specially seeking among those whom

MARCH 23

DAILY MANNA

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.—Hebrews 10:32,33

The strongest of the brethren need the help, the encouragement, the assistance of others. The Lord has so arranged it that we may not feel ourselves entirely self-sufficient, and that even our proper leaning upon the Lord shall seem to require also the cooperation, encouragement, sympathy and love of the fellow laborers in the vineyard. Who that has borne any measure of the labor and heat of the day in the gospel service cannot sympathize with this thought? Here, then, is a way in which many of the Lord's dear people, who have not themselves the largest amount of talent or opportunity for service, may be co-laborers and assistants in the gospel work.—*R3144:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though you know them, and be established in the present truth.—2 Peter 1:12

To be established in the truth signifies that we have carefully studied and thoroughly proved it by "the Law and the testimony" (Isa. 8:20), and that as a consequence we are convinced of its verity, so that our

MARCH 24

DAILY MANNA

I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.—Hebrews 13:5

Why, then, should we fear what man may do unto us, or be distressed in regard to the Lord's work, as though Satan or any other evil power could prevail against it? Nevertheless, it is for us to show our devotion, not only by our zeal, but also by our prudence ... therefore we are to proceed in the Lord's work as though the entire responsibility rested upon us, but in our hearts are to recognize that the entire weight and responsibility rest with the Lord. Long ago some one said, "I am immortal until my work is finished;" and we may rely upon it that this is practically true of all engaged in the Lord's service—"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."—R3144:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it. ... Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes.—Deuteronomy 8:7-11

MARCH 25

DAILY MANNA

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.—2 Peter 3:17,18

We grow in knowledge as we take note of the promises of God, and by faith apply them to ourselves, and seek to discern in our lives the fulfillment of those promises; we grow in grace simultaneously, for unless each item of knowledge be received into a good and honest heart, and bring forth its measure of obedience and righteousness (grace), we will not be prepared for the next step of knowledge, and would thus be stopped, or possibly turned back. And as a loss of knowledge would mean a measurable loss of grace, so also a loss of grace would mean a corresponding loss of knowledge—going into darkness, the promises of the Lord's word becoming more and more dim and obscured, in proportion as our goodness or grace would be lost in worldliness or sin.—R3156:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.—Matthew 7:17

The Lord's true people are of such a kind that the fruit of their lives is nourishing and refreshing toward

MARCH 26

DAILY MANNA

We are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others.—1 Thess. 5:5,6

The Christian, as a disciple of the Lord, as a pupil in the school of Christ, is being fitted for a place in the Millennial Kingdom—for a share in its glory, honor and immortality. Hence, we see the necessity for the frequent admonitions of the Scriptures, that the Lord's people shall be awake;—not of those who slumber; not of those who are idle; not of those who are overcharged with the cares of this life; but that they be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Their service toward the Lord is primarily the bringing of themselves into as close harmony with the Lord's will, and into as close likeness to the divine pattern as possible; and secondly, it is that by precept and example they may help others of the called ones in the same narrow way.—R3156:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.—Acts 1:8

The spirit of Christianity is an aggressive one. The gospel sets before the true believer an object, a motive, which inspires to an enthusiasm of the highest degree. The message becomes a burning one which

MARCH 27

DAILY MANNA

I pray for them ... that they all may be one ... that they may be made perfect in one ... that the world may know that thou hast ... loved them as thou hast loved me.—John 17:9,20-23

In amazement we inquire, How can this be? Our Lord Jesus was always in perfect harmony with the Father—a son who gloriously reflected his likeness; but it has not been so with us; we were sinners and had nothing worthy of love. Yes, but we have been washed and cleansed, and, however imperfect our earthen vessels may still be, our hearts are perfect in his sight who is able to read the heart. And, as he sees us with a perfect heart—a perfect purpose and intention—striving to overcome the weaknesses and disabilities of our imperfect flesh, and with painful, yet determined effort to do his will, and humbly trusting in the provisions which he has made for our redemption from the fall, God recognizes in us that which is worthy of his love.—*R3161:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night.—Joshua 1:8

Meditation on the divine law day and night is not, of course, to be understood literally—that we should do

MARCH 28

DAILY MANNA

Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.—
2 Timothy 2:3

The true soldier does not debate his cause. He is rightly supposed to have settled upon its justice and righteousness before he enlisted to serve it. Thereafter he avouches it and defies contradiction of it. He is ready to spend all and be all spent in its defense. It is glorious to serve Christ in honesty and in fullness of fidelity. There is an ineffable joy in being on the right side, in knowing that beyond the field of blood and the valley of shadows is an abundant entrance into the joys and peace of the triumphant King of kings. For that hope none should shrink from the hardness of battle, none quail before the rage of the enemy, and none tremble before the certainty of hunger, thirst, nakedness, wounds or death.—*R3162:6; 3163:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.—*Matthew 16:19

The declaration respecting Peter's authority to bind and loose was a common form of expression in those days, to indicate forbidding and permitting. One writer declares, "No other terms were in so constant use in Rabbinic Canon Law as those of binding and

MARCH 29

DAILY MANNA

By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.—Ephesians 2:8

As members of the fallen race we were incapable of doing any work which our holy God could accept. Our present standing, therefore, as new creatures, is not the result of anything that the old creature did, or could have done. It is not of ourselves; it is the gift of God. This lesson must be thoroughly appreciated, else we will be continually in danger of falling. ... So far from considering the new creature as an evolution of the old creature, the apostle would have us understand distinctly that it is a new and separate creation. We were created in Christ Jesus, God's workmanship—prepared for good works, but not by good works.—*R3166:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

They said to one another, It is manna. ... And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.—Exodus 16:15

The supply of manna was a beautiful figure of the supply of grace in Christ: it needed to be gathered daily; it would not keep over the succeeding days. The lesson of this would seem to be that those who accumulate much of God's grace and truth must also be dispensers of it. It is not provided with a view to

MARCH 30

DAILY MANNA

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.—2 Peter 3:11

Godlikeness certainly cannot include any harmful gossip, any unclean or unholy conversation, any disloyal or rebellious words. Let such things be put far away from all who name the name of Christ in sincerity and truth. And let us remember daily to settle our accounts with the Lord, to make sure that no record of idle words, unrepented of, and consequently unforgiven, stands against us. If daily we render up our accounts to God and seek his grace for greater overcoming power with each succeeding day, we shall be acquitted in judgment and stand approved before God through Christ, having the testimony of his Holy Spirit with our spirits that we are pleasing and acceptable to him.—*R1938:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

They sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.—Revelation 15:3

The more we come to appreciate divine justice and the righteousness of the sentence of death against our race, the more also we come to appreciate the love and

MARCH 31

DAILY MANNA

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.—1 Timothy 6:12

Whether our warfare be of the more public kind or of the more private sort, there must be warfare; and, more than this, there must be progress and victory, else we can never be accepted of the Lord as “overcomers.” Another thought should be borne in mind by us all. The Lord in making his estimate will take knowledge of the spirit which actuated us, rather than of the results secured by our efforts. In view of this, let us see to it, not only that we do with our might what our hands find to do, but also that our every sacrifice and gift to the Lord and his cause is so full of love and devotion that the Lord will surely approve it; as done from love for him and his, and not from vainglory.—*R3166:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.—Hebrews 4:12

In every case it has been the word of God that has caused the disturbance, the commotion. Whether sent through the prophets of old or through the apostles and reformers of this age it has been God speaking

from heaven—and his word is quick and powerful, searching beyond any human message. It will separate, it will distinguish; it will find the truth-hungry, it will separate the others; it is the light of which the apostle declared, Whatsoever doth make manifest is light. The attitude assumed by the people toward the light, the truth, demonstrates better than all their professions would do whether they are of the light or of the darkness. In our imperfection of judgment we might suppose that some were children of light who really are not of the light, and we might presume some to be children of darkness who are really different at heart. The Lord knows them that are his; he demonstrates who is on his side and who is on the side of darkness; let us be content and let the sickle of truth do the separating in the harvest work, and let us not be self-willed and self-opinionated, but waiting on the Lord. Let us wait patiently on him to bring about the separation with divine wisdom and love—we know that his plan is the best in the end.—*R3860:6* (Hymn 81)

APRIL 1

DAILY MANNA

Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.—
Mark 14:38

What may be the character of the temptations, we may not clearly discern until they are upon us; for if we knew all about them in advance they would be but slight temptations. Watch, therefore, and pray always; for the only safe way is to be prepared; because your adversary, the devil, is seeking whom he may devour. He knows your weak points, and is ready to take advantage of them. We will each need the graces of the spirit in our hearts, as well as the Lord's "grace to help in time of need" if we would overcome.

“My soul be on thy guard,
Ten thousand foes arise;
The hosts of sin are pressing hard
To draw thee from the prize.”

—R3179:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.—*Psalm 25:14

That wonderful covenant, shown to all who are seeking the word in honesty and sincerity, assures us that as our dear Redeemer humbled himself for our and the world's redemption and has been highly exalted, so if similarly faithful we may suffer with him now and by

and by share his glory and be co-laborers with him in the kingdom which is to bless all the families of the earth. O, what riches of grace! What loving-kindness! What tender mercy! What evidences of divine wisdom, skill, justice, love, and power! How this view of the Only Begotten of the Father shows him to us as our Redeemer and also as our Lord and Head, who by and by, according to the promise, will present us as his bride, blameless and irrefragable before the Father in love. Viewed from this standpoint, the recognition of Jesus, our dear Redeemer, the Sent of God, the Savior of the world, is not in derogation of the command of the text, "Jehovah, our God, is one," for the apostle assures us that according to the divine authority all should reverence the Son even as they reverence the Father—not reverence him as the Father, but reverence him as the Son whom the Father has appointed heir of all things, and who, as the Father's associate, is to bless all the families of the earth, and who a thousand years later will deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father, that he may be all in all.—*R4052:1* (Hymn 154)

Space available for recording birthdays and special occasions.

APRIL 2

DAILY MANNA

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.—Galatians 6:10

The Christian is to be ready to do good at the expense of his own time and convenience to all men, but he is to be ready to lay down his life for the brethren—he is to seek opportunities for laying down his life day after day, in the sense of giving his time to the communication of the truth, or helping the Lord's brethren in any manner, to put on the whole armor of God, and to stand in the evil day.—*R3180:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him.—Deuteronomy 33:12

Only those who trust the Father as a little child would trust its earthly parent can expect to make good progress in the narrow way and have the courage and confidence which it is the privilege of all who are his to have, and without which we cannot have the perfect peace and rest of heart promised. "According to your faith be it unto you," is the promise. The desire to draw nearer and nearer to God must be in our heart else we shall fail to go on and attain our privilege in Christ. Such a desire is a

APRIL 3

DAILY MANNA

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.—Romans 13:12

The works of darkness would be any works whatsoever that would not stand the fullest investigation; that would not stand approval in the light of the new dispensation, if it were fully ushered in. Let us remember that we belong to the new dispensation, and not to the old, and should, therefore, live in accordance with our citizenship and our responsibilities toward the Prince of Light and in opposition to the prince of darkness, his works and his ways.—*R3181:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.—Proverbs 10:22

When we see a noble example, like that of our Lord, who was rich in everything, and who gave all, we rejoice in it, and realize that as his sacrifice was so great his reward also is proportionately great. When we see the noble example of the Apostle Paul, who possessing some considerable wealth of ability, talent, and influence, and possibly of financial means also, laid these all, a willing, a glad sacrifice, at the feet of the Lord, laying them all down with joy in God's service, in the service of the truth, in the service

APRIL 4

DAILY MANNA

Let us walk honestly, as in the day.—Romans 13:13

Each one should see to it that he is honest, not only in matters of dollars and cents, but honest in his treatment of his neighbors, in his treatment of the brethren, and above all, honest in his confessions respecting his God and his faith. The test is being made along this line, and those who love the favor of men rather than the favor of God, and who dishonestly are willing to confess and profess a lie, will be given up to their lie, will be permitted to blight their eternal interests, will be proving themselves unfit for the kingdom—whatever else they may ultimately become fit for.—*R3181:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil.—Matthew 25:8

None can get too much of this Holy Spirit, none can secure an oversupply for his own use so that he could supply others from his abundance. The Bridegroom has made in advance abundant provision by which all those who are invited to go in with him to the marriage may be properly equipped, not only with robes and lamps, but also with the oil; and if any are careless in the procurement of the oil, they thus indicate their unfitness to be of the class who are to enter with

APRIL 5

DAILY MANNA

My mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.—Psalm 63:5,6

Prayer is not a privilege merely, but also a necessity;—commanded as indispensable to our Christian growth. Whoever loses the desire to thank and worship and commune with the Father of mercies, may rest assured that he is losing the very spirit of sonship, and should promptly seek to remove the barrier—the world, the flesh or the devil. Every additional evidence of the Lord's confidence in us by the revealing to us of his character and plan, so far from diminishing our worship and prayers, should multiply them. If our hearts are good soil they will bring forth the more abundantly.—*R2004:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord will command his loving-kindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me.—Psalm 42:8

If we are not ready to praise God where we are, and with our conditions and circumstances as they are, we should not be likely to praise him if we were differently circumstanced and our conditions just those which now seem to us most desirable. Daniel could sleep better in the den of lions than Darius in the royal

APRIL 6

DAILY MANNA

If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.—
1 Peter 4:16

Sickness and discomfort of any sort, incurred by our energy in the service of the truth, are permitted by our Father as evidences of our fidelity and love; because if not liable to such tribulations, or if relieved of them instantly by a miracle, the Lord's service would cost us no sacrifice and the test of our willingness to endure for the truth's sake would be wanting. As it is, however, every ache or pain or wound of person or of feelings, and beheading socially or literally for the truth's sake, becomes a witness of the spirit, testifying to our faithfulness. And in all such tribulations we should rejoice greatly—as say our Lord and the Apostle Peter.—*R2007:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.—*Isaiah 40:31

Each member of the body of Christ, the true Israel of God, is privileged to have the continual guidance of the Lord in every experience of our wilderness journey. Heavenly manna is furnished for our daily

APRIL 7

DAILY MANNA

My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.—Philippians 4:19

If you have no burning zeal to preach the good tidings of great joy, pray earnestly and faithfully and persistently for it, and strive for it, and you will soon have it. If you have a zeal and love for the gospel, and lack ability to present it, pray for the ability while you make full use of what you have. If you have zeal and the ability, and lack an opportunity, take it to the Lord in prayer as soon as you can, telling him that you are faithfully using all the opportunities you have. Then watch for more opportunities, without slacking your hand to use the very humblest and smallest within your reach.—*R2006:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God shall be my God.—Ruth 1:16

One thought here is worthy of note; namely, the positiveness with which Ruth made her decision. It was not a proposal to try for a time how it would be to live in Judea. It was a decision unto death. In this respect all true conversions are alike. The Christian, for in-

APRIL 8

DAILY MANNA

If any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.—Hebrews 10:38

The drawing back may at first be a very slight departure from the narrow way of sacrifice—only a looking back, perhaps, with a sigh for the things behind; a little slowing up of speed in the race set before us; then a little disposition to compromise the truth in favor of the cravings of the fallen nature. Thus the way is prepared for the arts of the tempter, who is quick to note our weak points, and to take advantage of them in a manner best suited to our case. Subtle errors are brought to bear against the judgment; pleasing allurements, with a show of righteousness, are presented to the fleshly mind; and, almost imperceptibly, the soul forgets its “first love” for the Lord, and its first zeal for his service, and drifts away from the truth and the spirit of it, being no longer led of the Holy Spirit of God.—*R1799:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility.—Proverbs 15:33

The parable of a man with a beam in his own eye trying to pick a mote out of his brother's eye was a forceful method whereby the Master inculcated the necessity of humility on the part of those who would

APRIL 9

DAILY MANNA

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.—
1 Corinthians 9:24

To gain the victory we must not only put on the armor of God, but we must be heroes in the strife, and wage an aggressive warfare upon the lusts of the eye and flesh and pride of life and all the foes of righteousness and purity. Love—love for the Lord, for the truth and for righteousness—must inspire us, or we shall never be victors. Love alone will keep us faithful even unto death, and make us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. Where fervent love rules the heart, it implies that the heart is fully submitted to the Lord, and that means that nine-tenths of the battle is already won. But even then, as the apostle says (Jude 21), we must keep ourselves in the love of God, in watchfulness and prayer and zeal; and grace will abound where love abounds.—*R1799:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.—*Psalm 107:7

With spiritual Israel it is particularly true that the Lord leads in the right way, in the best way; and that therefore all truly his people should be careful to note his leadings and quick in following them. In the end we

will surely see that he has led us in the right way, however different that way may be from the one we would have chosen for ourselves. The difficulty with many is that the way they take is not the one which the Lord led and hence not the best way, even though the Lord may overrule their waywardness so that it shall not work to them a great injury which otherwise might have been theirs. The more of the true knowledge of the Lord we possess—the more of the knowledge which perfects our love for the Lord—the greater will be our faith, the more precious will be the results in this present life as well as in the life to come, in which—as star differeth from star in glory—the more faithful of the Lord's people, and more zealous and more Christlike will have the more shining, the more blessed part and experience. Let us, then, with full faith in him who has led us hitherto, go forth through the coming days conquering and to conquer, fighting against the world, the flesh, and the adversary, strong not in ourselves, but in him who has called us and led us hitherto.—*R4064:5* (Hymn 315)

APRIL 10

DAILY MANNA

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.—1 Peter 5:6

It is indeed no easy matter to tread the pathway of humility, to continually check the human aspirations and keep the sacrifice on the altar until it is fully consumed. But thus it is that we are to work out our own salvation to the high calling with fear and trembling, lest we come short of worthiness for the prize of the high calling promised to the faithful overcomers who tread closely in the footsteps of our blessed Forerunner . . . who was meek and lowly of heart. It is when we are thus humble and faithful that the Lord makes us his chosen vessels to bear his name to others. Thus emptied of self, he can fill us with his spirit and with his truth, and we can go forth strong in the Lord of hosts and in his mighty power, to do valiant service as soldiers of the cross.—*R1487:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.
—1 Thessalonians 2:4

The heart represents the will, the intentions; the will must be kept true and centered in God, but it is the governing power of the whole man. Yet, though the will is the controlling power of man, it is also subject

APRIL 11

DAILY MANNA

Let us walk ... not in rioting and drunkenness.—
Romans 13:13

Some have an intoxication for money, wealth; others an intoxication for business; others for dress; others for music; others for art; but as the Lord's people, who have gotten a glimpse of the new day, and the great work of God which is to be accomplished in that day, our hearts should be so absorbed in the work of God that these matters, which would be thought proper enough and right enough in others, worldly people—because they are not awake as we are, and because they see not the future as we see it—should be far from our conception and course.—R3181:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, ... he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season.—*Psalm 1:1,3

While the heights of perfection cannot be reached so long as we still have these imperfect bodies, there should be in every child of God very perceptible and continuous growth in grace, and each step gained should be considered but the steppingstone to higher attainments. If there is no perceptible growth into the likeness of God, or if there is a backward tendency, or

APRIL 12

DAILY MANNA

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the participation of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the participation of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread.—1 Corinthians 10:16,17

It is one cup, though it be the juice of many grapes, even as it is one loaf, though it be from many grains. The grains cannot maintain their individuality and their own life if they would become bread for others; the grapes cannot maintain themselves as grapes if they would constitute the life-giving spirit; and thus we see the beauty of the apostle's statement that the Lord's people are participants in the one loaf and cup. ... There is no other way that we can attain the new nature than by accepting the Lord's invitation to drink of his cup, and be broken with him as members of the one loaf, and to be buried with him in baptism into his death, and thus to attain with him resurrection glory, honor and immortality.—R2772:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.—Psalm 103:8

Our text reminds us that the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy, and we see this well illustrated in the case of fleshly Israel in the wilderness experiences, in the history of the

Lord's people of this Gospel Age, nominal spiritual Israel, and also in the cases of the faithful ones. Can we not all realize how patient and merciful the Lord has been to us in our various experiences in life? Can we not see how he would have been fully justified in canceling our covenant long ago, and that only of his mercy and love have we been permitted to come thus far on the way toward the heavenly kingdom? Surely a realization of these things should make us both humble and trustful. Moreover the Lord informs us that he has a still further requirement, namely, that if we would appreciate his greatness and mercy through Christ in our own cases, we shall exercise similar mercy and forbearance toward others who may transgress against us. Indeed, so earnest is the Lord in impressing this matter upon us that he positively declares that none of us can maintain a relationship with him except as he shall develop this spirit, this character, in relationship to his brethren and fellow servants. How generous, how considerate, how moderate, how forgiving, all this should lead us to be in our dealings with the brethren, especially with those who have in any measure wounded or injured us or our interests.—*R4056:1* (Hymn 243)

APRIL 13

DAILY MANNA

Except ye eat of the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.—John 6:53

Gladly, dear Lord, we eat (appropriate to our necessities) the merit of thy pure nature sacrificed for us—for our justification. Gladly, too, we will partake of the cup of suffering with thee, realizing it to be a blessed privilege to suffer with thee, that in due time we may also reign with thee;—to be dead with thee, that in the everlasting future we may live with thee, and be like thee and share thy love and thy glory as thy bride. Oh! that we may be faithful, not only in the performance of the symbol, but also of the reality. Blessed Lord, we hear thy word saying, “Ye shall indeed drink of my cup and be baptized with my baptism.” Lord, we are not of ourselves able thus to sacrifice; but thy grace is sufficient for us, for we are wholly thine, now and forever.—*R2436:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

That ... we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.—Hebrews 6:18

The saints have indeed in every sorrow and grief a blessed consolation of which the world is wholly in ignorance. None but the child of God can know it. What is this consolation? ... It is the gentle whisper of

APRIL 14

DAILY MANNA

He hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors.—Isaiah 53:12

As every one who follows the Master's footsteps must needs have some Gethsemane experiences, so also each must have a taste at least of all the Master's experiences. Let us not forget, then, to look about us for opportunities for serving the "brethren," the "little ones," the members of the body of Christ. Let each be careful not to add to the reproaches that must fall upon all the followers of the Lamb, but on the contrary to offer words of sympathy, and to help bear each other's crosses, difficulties and trials by the way. Thus can we best show to our Lord and Head how we would have appreciated the opportunity of helping him bear his cross on the way to Calvary.—R2473:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.—Matthew 15:28

The more we study this subject of faith, the more we are convinced that in God's sight faith is not only indispensable, but very precious. We cannot come to God without faith, we cannot abide in his love without faith, we cannot receive day by day his mercies and blessings and leadings except by faith in his promises. We cannot realize ourselves as his children, begotten

APRIL 15

DAILY MANNA

Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.—Luke 23:46

With full confidence our dear Redeemer looked up to the Father, and full of faith declared that he committed all of life and all of the blessed hopes for the future to the Father's love and to the Father's power—to be provided in harmony with the Father's plan and word. And so must we, as followers in our Master's footsteps, look forward with faith, and in our dying hour commit all our interests to the keeping of him who has manifested his love for us, not only in the gift of his Son as our Redeemer, but all our journey through—in his providential care, as well as in the exceeding great and precious promises which go before us and give us strength, comfort and assurance.
—R2475:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.—1 Corinthians 15:20

Others have been awakened from the sleep of death temporarily merely to relapse into it again subsequently, but our Lord Jesus was “the firstborn from the dead,” the “firstfruits of them that slept”—as the apostle declares, he was the first that should rise from the dead. His resurrection was the life resurrection—

APRIL 16

DAILY MANNA

They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.—Malachi 3:17

Had the Lord sent us forth to seek his bride, we might have gathered in some whom he rejects as unworthy—because we are unable to read the heart. This thought should make us very humble, gentle and meek toward all, and very trustful of the Lord, and very much inclined to look for his leading in respect to our labors as his servants, just as Samuel looked to the Lord in connection with the anointing of David.—*R3227:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.—Matthew 26:26

As bread stands for and symbolizes all food, so the teaching of this symbol is that whoever would have the life which Christ has to give must accept it as the result of his sacrifice. He died that we might live. The rights and privileges which he surrendered voluntarily may be eaten, applied, appropriated by all who have faith in him and who accept him and his instructions—such are reckoned as having imputed to

APRIL 17

DAILY MANNA

The anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you.—1 John 2:27

The blessing and power of the Lord accompanied David's anointing in some manner—just how we may not understand—enabling him to progress in knowledge, etc., and fitting and preparing him for the duties of the office to which he had been anointed. May we not consider as an antitype to this, the anointing which comes upon the church from the time of her acceptance with the Lord? Ours is not a physical anointing, nor are the blessings conferred of a temporal character: it is as new creatures that we grow in grace and knowledge and love; and as new creatures that, by and by, we shall be perfected in the first resurrection and come to the throne with our Lord and Master as our Head.—R3227:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Consider him who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.—Hebrews 12:3

The narrative of our dear Redeemer's shame, endured so patiently on our behalf, is most touching, and perhaps the relating of it and the reading of it brought more hearts to repentance than almost anything else. Nor does it lose its power with those who have already

APRIL 18

DAILY MANNA

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.—1 Peter 4:12,13

In an unfriendly world we can expect to receive only the reproaches of our Master, for the servant is not above his Lord. The world, the flesh and the devil oppose our way: there are fightings within and fears without, and many are the arrows and fiery darts aimed at the righteous. But what is the safe attitude of the soul under afflictions and severe testings? Is it not in silence before God, waiting and watching first to see his leading, his will, in every matter before presuming to touch things that often involve so much? So the psalmist suggests, saying, "I was dumb with silence: I held my peace, even from good" [even from doing or saying what seemed good in my own sight]. —*R1937:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it.—Matthew 26:27

Our Lord distinctly declares that the cup, the fruit of the vine, represents blood, hence life; not life retained, but life shed or given, yielded up, sacrificed life. He tells us that it was for the remission of sins, and that all who would be his must drink of it—must accept his sacrifice

and appropriate it by faith. All who would be justified through faith must accept life from this one source. It will not do to claim that faith in and obedience to any great teacher will amount to the same thing, and bring eternal life. There is no other way to attain eternal life except through accepting the blood once shed as the ransom-price for the sins of the whole world. There is no other name given under heaven or among men whereby we must be saved. Likewise there is no other way that we can attain to the new nature than by accepting the Lord's invitation to drink of his cup, and be broken with him as members of the one loaf, and to be buried with him in baptism into his death, and thus to be with him in his resurrection to glory, honor, and immortality. . . . Let us, when we celebrate this grand memorial, not forget to give thanks to the Lord for our justification, and also for the grand privilege we enjoy of being fellow sacrificers with our Redeemer, and filling up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ. And while sorrowful and thoughtful, meditative and full of heart searchings on this occasion, let us, as did the Lord, triumph through faith and go forth singing praise to him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, and who has privileged us thus to have fellowship in the great transaction now in progress.—*R2772:6; 2773:5* (Hymn 122)

APRIL 19

DAILY MANNA

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.—Matthew 12:34,35

Our first concern, then, should be for the heart—that its affections and dispositions may be fully under the control of divine grace; that every principle of truth and righteousness may be enthroned there; that justice, mercy, benevolence, brotherly kindness, love, faith, meekness, temperance, supreme reverence for God and Christ, and a fervent love for all the beauties of holiness, may be firmly fixed as the governing principles of life. If these principles be fixed, established, in the heart, then out of the good treasure of the heart the mouth will speak forth words of truth, soberness, wisdom and grace.—*R1937:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.—Matthew 26:29

When the kingdom shall come, all the sufferings and trials of the present time will be past, the treading of the winepress, the wine making, will all be over, and instead the wine shall be that of joy and exhilara-

APRIL 20

DAILY MANNA

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.—Luke 16:10

This does not mean that the Lord's people are to be content with the usual routine of daily life in the home or in the shop, and are to say to themselves, "God accepts my labor as though it were given directly to him in some other more desirable form," but it does mean that each person so situated should day by day carefully scan his earthly duties and obligations to see in what manner he could justly and properly cut off moments, hours or days from the service of earthly things and earthly interests, that now might be given to sacrifice for spiritual things and spiritual interests of himself or others. The consecrated heart, the sacrificing priest, is the one who will improve the moments as they swiftly fly, using them as far as possible in the Father's business.—*R3266:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast.—1 Corinthians 5:7,8

What a meaning is in these words when seen in connection with the Memorial Supper as the remembrancer of the Jewish Passover! How the light of the type illuminates the antitype! As the firstborn of Israel were exposed to death, so "the church of the firstborn

APRIL 21

DAILY MANNA

We have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
—Hebrews 4:15,16

In the moment of temptation the heart should lift itself to the great Master, in full assurance of faith, recognizing his love, his wisdom and his ability to help us, and his willingness to make all things work together for good to those who love him. Asking for assistance in such a time of need would surely draw to us the Lord's counsel and help and strength for righteousness, truth, purity and love; and thus we should be hourly victorious, daily victorious, and finally victorious.—R2249:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.—Colossians 3:13

The disposition to forgive should be with us always, and should be manifested by us at all times. Our loving generosity and kindness and desire to think no evil—or as little as possible—should be shown in all the words and acts of life. This course is godlike. God had a kind, benevolent, generous sentiment toward

APRIL 22

DAILY MANNA

I say unto you, That every idle [unprofitable or pernicious] word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.—Matthew 12:36

If, in the daily scrutiny of our ways, which is the duty of every Christian, we discover that in any particular our words have been dishonoring to the Lord, we should remember that in the name of our Advocate we may approach the throne of grace, explain to our heavenly Father our realization of the error, our deep regret at our failure to honor his name and his cause by a holy walk and conversation, and humbly request that the sin be not laid to our charge, but that it may be blotted out through his gracious provision for our cleansing through Christ, humbly claiming that in his precious blood is all our hope and trust. Thus we should render up our account for every idle word; and by our words of repentance, supplemented by the merits of Christ applied by faith, shall we be acquitted.—*R1938:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.—Isaiah 53:12

Well did the Father know that his Son's faith and obedience would be abundantly rewarded. Well did he know that the soul of Jesus, his being, would constitute the sin-offering for Adam and his race, and well he knew that ultimately the Son should see a reward from this travail of his soul which would satisfy him, which would more than compensate every trial, every tear, every pain. And is it not wonderful that in God's providence the called ones of this Gospel Age may apply these same consolations and assurances each to his own heart, and know that all things are working together for good to them that love God—to the called ones according to his purpose? Is it not wonderful that we also have the assurance that if we suffer with him we shall also reign with him, that if we experience travail of soul in following in the footsteps of our Redeemer we shall have more than compensating satisfaction, and that the word of the Lord so guarantees it? To all who accept the Lord's promises in faith, the matter becomes a certainty—"Faith can firmly trust him, come what may."—*R3591:4* (Hymn 111)

APRIL 23

DAILY MANNA

That on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.—Luke 8:15

Every one who will be a sacrificer must of necessity be meek, humble, teachable, else very shortly he will get out of the way. He must also learn to develop the grace of the Lord along the line of patience, because it certainly requires patience to deny ourselves and to submit at times to injustice where there is no proper means of avoiding it without doing injury to the Lord's cause or to some of his people. It also implies a cultivation of brotherly kindness and, in a word, the development of the whole will of God in our hearts and lives; namely, love, which must be attained in a large and overcoming measure ere we shall have completed our earthly work of sacrificing.—*R3267:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake.—1 Samuel 12:22

Samuel appealed to fleshly Israel to remember the great things that God had done for them as a ground for thankfulness and faithfulness—their delivery from Egypt, their guidance through the wilderness and their entrance into the land of Israel; but if we apply these words to spiritual Israel, with what greater force do

APRIL 24

DAILY MANNA

Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.—Romans 15:2

The lesson to each member of the royal priesthood is that the special mission of their office, vocation, calling in the present time, is to sacrifice. . . . One form of service frequently not discerned by the royal priesthood is the opportunity of renouncing our own ways or plans, our own methods or preferences, and in the interests of peace accepting instead the plans, the preferences of others—where it is merely a matter of personal preference, and where we believe the Lord will be as willing to have the matter one way as another. We can in the interests of peace sacrifice our preferences to the wishes of others if we see some good can be gained by such a course.—*R3265:3; 3266:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

These are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit.—Mark 4:20

Let us, dear brethren, not only be sure that our hearts are of the good ground sort, and be sure that we have received and are developing the good seed, the word of the kingdom, but let us seek also to bring forth much fruit. Seeing that some of these may bring forth

APRIL 25

DAILY MANNA

Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.—Hebrews 11:6

“According to thy faith be it unto thee,” would seem to be the Lord’s method of dealing with all who are his disciples, from first to last of their Christian walk and experience. Faith when he seems not to notice us; faith when things seem to be going prosperously with us in our spiritual affairs and in our temporal affairs; and faith equally strong when the currents and forces seem all to be against us. The victory that overcometh the world is the faith that in all conditions is able to look up to the Lord with absolute confidence in his goodness and faithfulness, and to realize that according to his promise, eventually all things will work together for good to us because we are his people.—*R2627:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I thank God, whom I serve ... that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day.—2 Timothy 1:3

Those whose hearts are loving to their enemies, and loving to the household of faith, and, above all, loving to the Lord, these would indeed be exceedingly sensi-

APRIL 26

DAILY MANNA

He that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.—Hebrews 4:10

Instead of demanding one day of the seven the law of love really controls, regulates our entire time; seven days of the week we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength; and seven days of the week we are to love our neighbor as ourselves; and seven days in the week we are to rest also—rest from our own works—rest by faith in the finished work of Christ—rest in the love of God—rest in the peace of God which passeth understanding, ruling in our hearts continually.—*R3039:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand.—Romans 13:11, 12

If the apostle could say to the saints of his day, “Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep,” etc., because they had then entered upon the Gospel Age with its privilege of running the race for the prize of our high calling, with how much greater force do his words apply to these closing days of the age! ... Yes, “the night is far spent” and “the

APRIL 27

DAILY MANNA

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.—Philippians 2:5

To have the mind of Christ is indeed the one requirement of lawful striving—a mind which humbly and faithfully submits itself to the will of God as expressed in his great plan of the ages, and which devotes all energy to the accomplishment of his will, because of an intelligent appreciation of the ends he has in view. If so filled with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, we, like him, will desire to be as free as possible from entangling earthly affairs, and to have our time as free as possible for the Lord's service, and then to devote all energy, ability and effort to that service.—*R3070:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.—

1 John 5:3

Who that has gratitude of heart to the Lord for these blessings, who that is appreciative and thankful, would not be indeed seeking to serve the Lord in truth with all his heart! Who that is of this attitude of mind would fail to remember the Lord's word and to seek divine assistance in complying with its requirements, remembering the statement, "If ye love me, keep my

APRIL 28

DAILY MANNA

We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.—Romans 5:3-5

We have need of patience, and that can only be gained by trials. We have need of faith, and that can only be developed by necessities. We have need of experience for our future work, which can be gained only by such experiences which permit us to be touched with a feeling of the infirmities and difficulties and trials of those about us, to whom we shall be ministers and representatives when we reach the throne. For us, then, the lesson of present experiences is to resist evil,—and not with evil but with good.—R3238:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.—Luke 6:32,33

The standard for the Lord's people is still higher than that of gratitude, though it must include this. Our standard is benevolence, a forgiveness of those who trans-

APRIL 29

DAILY MANNA

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him.—Psalm 91:15

It is always our blessed privilege to carry our sorrows and vexations to the Lord;

“For he knows

How to steal the bitter from life’s woes.”

He does it by showing us, through experience, the vanity of all earthly things and their utter inability to satisfy the soul’s cravings, or to comfort the wounded spirit. Then comes the thought that however vexing our experiences, they will soon be over; and if we permit them to do so they will only work out in us the peaceable fruits of righteousness, and develop in us strong and noble characters, disciplined to thorough self-control, thoughtful consideration, patient endurance of affliction and loving loyalty and faithfulness and trust in God.—*R1937:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Follow peace with all men.—Hebrews 12:14

As new creatures we should be very vigilant, should continue to grow, should increase in power to overcome the flesh. Then we shall be safe. Self is to be our special battleground. Many of the Lord’s people have a great deal of natural combativeness. This is a good

APRIL 30

DAILY MANNA

Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.—1 Pet. 2:9

The very object of our being called into this light is that we may let it shine. If we do not let it shine we are unworthy of it, and the treasure will be taken away and we will be left in darkness. If indeed we have received the light and have consecrated ourselves fully to God, let us ask ourselves, What am I doing to show forth the praises of him who hath called me out of darkness? Am I going forth with these tidings to my neighbors near and far? Can I truly affirm that I am:—

“All for Jesus, all for Jesus—

All my being's ransomed powers;
All my thoughts, and words, and doings,
All my days and all my hours?”

—R3199:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.—2 Timothy 2:15

If it was the wise and proper course for the Master to go aside for the study of the divine plan before beginning his public ministry, how much more should his followers feel it incumbent upon them as fallen

beings with imperfect judgments to seek counsel of the Lord's word and spirit to ascertain what work the Lord would have them do in his vineyard before beginning any work. If this course were more generally followed there would be far less ranting done in the name of the Lord, fewer would feel that it was their privilege to rush in and work for the Lord without first studying carefully the divine will or program respecting that work—lest they should be hinderers of the Lord's plan which they desire to serve. Let us more and more apply each to himself the apostle's words to Timothy. Until we do study we will have every reason to doubt our preparation or usefulness in the Lord's service. First comes consecration, wholly, unreservedly; and secondly, as the first step in the fulfilling of that vow, comes the study of the divine will, the divine word, the divine plan; and following that comes labor in the Lord's vineyard.—*R3717:1* (Hymn 154)

MAY 1

DAILY MANNA

The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.—Matthew 20:28

If the consecration be to the Lord, then every sacrifice of our just rights and interests on behalf of ourselves as new creatures, on behalf of husband or children, father or mother, neighbors or friends, brethren in Christ, is counted of the Lord as so much done to him; whereas if the very same services were rendered from any other standpoint—by any one unjustified, and not consecrated to the Lord, or merely done to the individuals and not as a sacrifice unto the Lord—these things would not count to us as priests, as our sacrifices.—R3266:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.—1 Corinthians 2:2

We beseech you, brethren, as you value the glorious hope set before you in the gospel, that you give no heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, as the apostle terms them in 1 Timothy 4:1; but that, with fixedness of purpose, you apply yourselves to the one thing to which you are called and are privileged to do as prospective members of that royal priesthood. Let us never forget that we are a “peculiar people,” separate from the great body of nominal Christians, as well

MAY 2

DAILY MANNA

All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.—2 Timothy 3:12

Opposition is to be expected, and will, doubtless, continue until we finish our course in death. To submit patiently to this opposition is to sacrifice our own natural preferences for the friendship and the pleasures of the present life, and to endure hardness as good soldiers for the truth's sake, in whatever shape that hardness may come, in our effort to do the Lord's will and work of advancing the interests of his kingdom. To be really in the Lord's service involves, first, the careful and continual study of God's plan; second, the imbibing of its spirit; leading, thirdly, to an enthusiastic zeal for its accomplishment, and to activity to the extent of ability in its service, at whatever cost or sacrifice it may require.—R3199:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.—John 6:37

As soon as the limit of time expired, God manifested his favor toward the Gentiles by sending the gospel message to Cornelius, a reverential and holy and generous Gentile. Since then God's favors are as open to the Gentile as to the Jew—"the middle wall of partition" has been "broken down." The Gentiles and Jews

MAY 3

DAILY MANNA

Strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.—Hebrews 5:14

Those who have real and sincere faith in God are willing to take him at his word: and with these the first principles of the doctrine should long ago have been established; much of the superstructure of gold and silver and precious stones should already be erected, and the work be steadily progressing. Such are able, if they are loyal and true to God, to discern between truth and error. We ought to know what we believe and why we believe it, and then should be bold and uncompromising in declaring it; for “if the trumpet give an uncertain sound who shall prepare himself to the battle?”—*R3200:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

My teaching is not mine, but his that sent me.—John 7:16

The teachings of all the Lord’s representatives should be along this same line—not human speculations and philosophies, but the word of God—“He that hath a dream let him tell a dream, but he that hath my word, let him speak my word.” (Jer. 23:28) “To the Law and to the testimony: if they

MAY 4

DAILY MANNA

The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.—1 Samuel 16:7

If we lose sight of the fact that God regards us from the standpoint of the will, if we get to thinking of ourselves and God's estimate of us according to the flesh, we are sure to get proportionately into darkness and confusion and discouragement. But let us not forget on the other hand, that the spirit, or will, is counted alive because of its righteousness, because it is in harmony with God. Let us, therefore, never be slack in respect to the will, or intention governing the conduct of our lives, but remember that any laxity will mean the proportionate loss of spiritual life. To will right is always possible to us, and nothing less than an absolutely loyal will could be acceptable to God in Christ.—*R3203:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For this God is our God forever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.—Psalm 48:14

It is for us to look for the Lord's providences in our affairs at this time, and to find them guiding us, sheltering us from the heat of persecution and tribulation and trial, and again at other times enlightening us, refreshing us in the dark seasons. And this leading of

MAY 5

DAILY MANNA

If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.—Romans 8:13

The conditions upon which we may continue our relationship to the Lord, and our hope for a share in the glories of the first resurrection are thus definitely stated to include mortification of the deeds of the body—restraining the fleshly inclinations, putting them to death, crucifying them, using them up in the service of the Lord and his cause. Such mortification of the deeds of the body, such a battle against the weaknesses of the flesh, is what the apostle elsewhere speaks of as the “warfare,” when he tells us that the flesh warreth against the spirit, and the spirit in turn warreth against the flesh, for the two are contrary, and will be opponents to the end of life; and if the spirit has been willing, and has fought to the best of its ability against the weaknesses of the flesh, the Lord will count the victory complete, through the merit of the Redeemer.—R3203:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits.—Psalm 68:19

How loving and tender is our God, and how wise and strong! His promises have never failed those who have put their trust in him. We may feel that our

MAY 6

DAILY MANNA

As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.—Romans 8:14

This, then, is the guide by which we may know our true position, not only at the beginning of the race, but to the end of it, viz., if we are led by the Spirit of God—if that is the direction in which we are following, if that is what we are seeking—then we are sons of God; he owns and accepts all who have come unto him through Christ, and who are trusting in the merit of the wedding garment, and who continue in this attitude of heart.—*R3203:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee.—Psalm 116:7

In order to enjoy this perfect peace we must have unswerving trust in our Father's love and abiding faithfulness. As we look out into the starry heavens we see a manifestation of God's mighty power and majesty, but our hearts and minds would not be stayed and sustained by this; we might receive gifts from him, but without knowledge of his abiding faithfulness we would not know whether these might be only traps for our injury from the adversary. But if we have this proper foundation for faith, if we learn

MAY 7

DAILY MANNA

Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel.—1 Corinthians 9:16

We should be prompt to tell others the best tidings we have; sympathy with the groaning creation in the various trials of life should lead us to point to the Lord's promises respecting the coming kingdom and the blessings that should then be to all the families of the earth. Whoever does not thus proclaim daily, on every suitable opportunity, gives evidence either of lack of knowledge or of faith in the revelation, or of selfishness, which the Lord cannot approve, and which, if persisted in, will ultimately debar him from a share in the kingdom.—*R3205:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming [presence] of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty ... when we were with him in the holy mount.—2 Peter 1:16,18

Christian experience today runs along the same lines. The more earnest and zealous of the Lord's followers are invited to go up with him into the mount of transfiguration. Our eyes of understanding are opened. We see wonderful things—old things in a new light and new things as they become due to us in our day.

MAY 8

DAILY MANNA

And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.—1 John 2:25

We all should understand that we have something to do in realizing the gracious promises of God to us. In connection with the affairs of this present life he has promised that our bread and water shall be sure, but this does not imply that we shall neglect reasonable opportunities for securing these. He has promised us also a share in the kingdom by and by; but it is for us to make our calling and election sure. God is thoroughly capable and thoroughly willing to perform all of his part in connection with every matter, but it is to our advantage that he calls us to show our faith by our works—by our cooperation with him in all reasonable ways.—*R3205:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.—Mark 4:39

There have been many storms permitted by the Lord to come upon the little company of his followers. Sometimes the whole journey of life has been a stormy one. We sometimes sing, "When the storms of life are raging." In his epistles, the apostle intimates that those who do not have storms, trials, and difficul-

MAY 9

DAILY MANNA

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.—Colossians 2:6,7

The general sentiment among the teachers of false doctrines, who think it is neither necessary nor advisable to be established in the faith is . . . that to be established is to be a bigot. And so it is if one is so unfair in mind as to accept and tenaciously hold that which he has never proved either by sound logic or Bible authority. But he is not an unreasoning bigot who, in simple faith, on the authority of God, accepts the word of God. And such, and only such, as do so are established in the truth. The difference between a strong and steadfast Christian and a bigot is that the one is established in the truth, while the other is established in error.—*R3215:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people.—1 Kings 8:56

While the whole creation groans under its load of sin and sorrow, the saintly few may sing, may rejoice, even in the midst of all the sorrows of life and even though they share the results of sin as fully or even

MAY 10

DAILY MANNA

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.—Psalm 23:5

The fullness of the cup, running over, has a double significance. It is a cup of joy and a cup of sorrow, and in both respects it overflows. He who would partake of the joys of the Lord must also partake of his cup of suffering; we must suffer with him if we would reign with him. But we count the sufferings of this present time as not worthy to be compared with the glories that shall be revealed in us, and hence we are enabled to rejoice in tribulation, so that as the tribulations will overflow the rejoicing likewise overflows, and with the apostle we can say, Rejoice, and again I say Rejoice!—R3270:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?—1 Corinthians 3:16

The figure of a temple is variously used in respect to the church. Each Christian is spoken of as being a temple of the Holy Spirit after he receives the begetting of the Spirit. Each congregation might be considered the temple of God. And the church as a whole when gathered to the heavenly condition will be God's temple, in that God will dwell in them. Accord-

MAY 11

DAILY MANNA

For thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.—Psalm 44:22

We are to remember that we have each but one sacrifice; that it is to be rendered to the Lord day by day in the improvement of every opportunity as it comes to us, to serve him and his. We are to remember that while it consists of many little sacrifices, some of them too small to mention or even to consider, nevertheless it will require all of these to complete the one sacrifice which we made at the beginning of our induction into his family. When we gave our wills, we gave our all; and any holding back in any of the little affairs of life—any refusal to sacrifice that which we think would please the Lord—is a keeping back of that much of what we have devoted to him.—R3266:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

It is more blessed to give than to receive.—Acts 20:35

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the grandest example of self-denial in the interests of others. He was rich in the possession of the spiritual nature with all its glory and honor. Yet for our sakes he became poor, taking the human nature in order that he might redeem mankind. To this end he surrendered life itself at Calvary, that through his sacrifice we might become rich—possessed of divine favor and the riches of divine grace in

MAY 12

DAILY MANNA

*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord.—*2 Corinthians 7:1

How many of the prospective members of the royal priesthood find that they have defilements along this line, malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, evil speaking! It is safe to say that every one has some, if not all, of these weaknesses in the flesh to contend with—especially at the beginning of his entrance upon the priestly vocation. How carefully all should seek to put all these away! How each should scrutinize not only every act of life and every word and every thought, but, additionally, every motive underlying his words, thoughts and actions, so that they may be more and more purified from the earth defilements and be more and more acceptable to the Lord!—R3267:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*So great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord.—*Hebrews 2:3

Not only was there no eternal life in our race, and no hope for attaining any except through Jesus, but all of the promises of the past would have been powerless without his work of atonement, and not until he came was it known how our redemption was to be

accomplished. True, the Lord had provided various types and shadows in the numerous sacrifices of the past which illustrated the fact that without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin; but they could not be understood until the antitype had come. Then he brought life to light and immortality to light—life for the world, eternal life to be conferred during the Millennial Age—immortality for his church, his bride, his little flock, his joint-heirs. These were never brought to light before; they were faintly seen and vaguely described, but it remained for the great Teacher to set forth before us the salvation which God had proffered through him. Thank God that our hearts have made our lips more and more tell forth the praises of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Through faith in him we are already reckoned risen to walk in newness of life, and through him by and by the Father will raise us up by his own power, that we shall be like him and share his glory, honor, and immortality.—*R3795:5* (Hymn 255)

MAY 13

DAILY MANNA

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.—1 Samuel 15:22

Our heavenly Father wishes us to be very attentive to his word, and not to think for a moment that we can improve thereon, or that times and circumstances will alter the propriety of our obedience to him. Let us hearken to the word of the Lord and keep close to it, not fearing the results, but having faith that he who keeps us never slumbers nor sleeps, and is too wise to err, as well as competent to meet every emergency that could possibly come upon us as a result of our obedience.—R3224:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Teach me good judgment and knowledge.—Psalm 119:66

No follower of Christ is so well developed that he can say, I do not need any further instructions along the lines of justice and love, but my brother needs it. And in our experiences with the brethren, where the other one seems to be at fault, let us say to ourselves, Here is a brother who perhaps has had more disadvantages than I have had. He is a brother of mine according to the spirit. He seems to me to be doing something wrong, but I sympathize with him because he probably does not know that his action is wrong.

MAY 14

DAILY MANNA

Speaking the truth in love ... grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.—Ephesians 4:15

What is it to grow in grace? It is to grow in favor with the Lord through an intimate personal acquaintance and fellowship of spirit with him ... To grow thus in grace and not grow in knowledge is impossible; for the very object of such communion is to build us up in a more perfect knowledge and acquaintance with the Lord—to bring us into closer fellowship with the divine plan, and to give us the privilege of being “workers together with him” in executing that plan. If, therefore, we love and obey the Lord and desire to grow in his favor, his written word is our daily meditation and study; and thus we grow in knowledge.—*R3215:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.—2 Corinthians 5:19

Christ kept the Law and satisfied divine justice for all who become his during the Gospel Age; and his merit is imputed to those who keep the Law in their heart and are hindered from keeping it absolutely by the weaknesses of their fallen flesh which they are unable

MAY 15

DAILY MANNA

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.—Habakkuk 3:17,18

We see that God permits evil in the world that the world may learn certain lessons of bitter experience as to the natural rewards of evil doing, but we see also a ministry of evil in respect to the saints—in their testing and polishing and refining; making them ready, and proving them worthy, as overcomers, to inherit the wonderful things which God has in reservation for the faithful.—*R3168:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I the Lord thy God am a jealous God.—Deuteronomy 5:9

If man could have his hatred and his jealousies along the same lines as God, it would be all right. We, as God does, should hate sin, but not the sinner. God's jealousy is just and is sure to bring to the sinner a just punishment. He tells us that when we have other gods, we must consider him jealous; but the impropriety of jealousy is when it leads to bitterness and other like qualities to which the fallen human mind is subject

MAY 16

DAILY MANNA

Thou shalt be called by a new name ... thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.—Isaiah 62:2,3

Let us never forget that we are a “peculiar people,” separate from the great body of nominal Christians, as well as from the world, having higher hopes, aims and ambitions and favored with a clearer insight into the deep things of God, having been called out of our former darkness into his marvelous light. And if thus separate from the world and from Christians who partake largely of the worldly spirit, what wonder if we find them all out of harmony with us, and either ignoring or opposing us.—*R3199:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.—Ephesians 4:26

No matter what provocation one may have had, he should see to it that the matter is settled as quickly as possible. Anger or wrath must not be harbored and cherished; for it is sure to lead to permanent bitterness and hatred. The word anger seems not to be so strong a word as wrath. Wrath in an imperfect, fallen being, seems to be deep, determined, and lasting anger, something that is resentful, retaliatory. Evil speaking is a more refined, a more subtle matter, more

MAY 17

DAILY MANNA

They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.—John 16:2

The persecutions of today are more refined than in any previous period. The faithful today are not stoned with literal stones or shot with literal arrows or literally beheaded, but it is still true that the wicked shoot out arrows at the righteous, “even bitter words,” and many because of faithfulness are reprovèd and slandered and cut off from fellowship—“beheaded for the testimony of Jesus.” Let all such emulate Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Let their testimonies be given with radiant faces like his. Let their eyes of faith perceive Jesus at the right hand of the Majesty on High as their Advocate and Deliverer. Let their words be with moderation as were Stephen’s, and let it be true of them, as written of him, “full of grace and power” and “filled with the Holy Spirit.”—R2109:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.—2 Corinthians 4:18

What do these words mean? They mean that the Apostle Paul had spiritual eyesight. He indeed saw earthly

MAY 18

DAILY MANNA

We which have believed do enter into rest.—Hebrews 4:3

Our rest in the Lord is as complete as is our belief in him. He who believes fully rests fully; he who believes only partially rests but partially. The ideal condition of the spiritual Israelite is the attainment of a perfect rest, a perfect Sabbath-keeping, in his present experience, and a waiting and laboring for another and still more complete rest—the actual rest of the perfected condition—the rest that remains for the people of God. “Let us therefore labor to enter into that rest [Sabbath], lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief” [of fleshly Israel] (Heb. 4:9-11).—*R2534:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.—Hebrews 7:25

Throughout the Gospel Age, the Lord's people by the eye of faith beheld the great High Priest as their Advocate, who ever liveth to make intercession for us, while he awaited the Father's time for his coming forth a second time to make good his exceeding great and precious spiritual promises and blessings upon his church, and to grant the promised restitution blessings

MAY 19

DAILY MANNA

We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.—Romans 15:1

Principles may never be abandoned for any consideration; but liberties and personal rights may be ignored in the interest of others frequently and to divine pleasing. The Apostle Paul was ready to go to any length in defense of principle (Gal. 2:5,11), but in the sacrifice of his earthly rights and privileges and liberties for the sake of Christ and the church, the apostle evidently came next to our Lord Jesus, and is a noble example to all the church.—*R2119:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.—Matthew 5:16

Nothing in this text guarantees that the world would receive the message, either from our Lord Jesus or from his followers. We are, nevertheless, to let our light shine as he let his light shine, though the darkness comprehend it not. The thought seems to be that while some may resist the light because their deeds are evil, nevertheless there are others by whom the message may be differently received. Therefore we are to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works—whether they account for these

MAY 20

DAILY MANNA

A peculiar people, zealous of good works.—Titus 2:14

A “peculiar people,” not peculiar in dress, nor in manners, nor in language, nor in foolish, senseless forms and idiosyncracies, but peculiar in that it is separate from the world and the spirit of the world. It has the spirit of Christ—a spirit of full consecration to the Lord, and separateness from the world and its selfish aims. It is peculiar in its adherence to the word of the Lord as its only law. It is peculiar in that it rejects worldly wisdom when it conflicts with the divine revelation. It is peculiar in that it is in the world, but not of the world. It is peculiar in that it has a decided faith and acts in harmony with its faith, and with zeal. It is peculiar in that it is self-sacrificing and knows no will but the will of its King. It is peculiar in that it knows the truth and is able to give a reason for the hope within while others merely speculate and wonder and doubt.—*R2128:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.—Colossians 3:9,10

Through knowledge, as well as in knowledge, the new creature is renewed or refreshed, built up, made strong. The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. What the old mind had was the wisdom of this world. What the new creature receives is the wisdom of God. The development of the different powers of the new mind is a gradual work, dependent upon knowledge. With the new will the knowledge becomes the energizing and strengthening power, and finds opportunities by which the new creature can accomplish its purpose. This knowledge is that which cometh from above. It is not merely the knowing how many chapters there are in the Bible, nor how many verses there are in the Bible and being able to quote them; but by the various providences of God in life, it is to come to such a knowledge of God that it is sufficient for his will to be made clear to us, to insure obedience. Our knowledge is increased in proportion as we give heed to the things which God has spoken; in proportion as we set our affections on things above and not on things on the earth.—*R4894:6* (Hymn 81)

MAY 21

DAILY MANNA

All Scripture, given by inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

—2 Timothy 3:16,17

It will be well for us all to remember that all the graces of the spirit, all the progress in the knowledge of divine things to which we have already attained that may have helped us nearer to God and to holiness, have come to us through the Scriptures of the Old Testament and through the words of our Lord and his inspired apostles: nor will it ever be necessary to go to other channels for the true wisdom which would prepare us for the salvation promised.—*R2166:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.—Acts 10:43

There is no other means of approach to God than through the remission, the covering, of our sins; and there is no other means of covering than through faith in the precious blood of Christ. All suggestions, therefore, of salvation without a belief in Jesus, all suggestions of salvation of the heathen in ignorance, all suggestions of there being no necessity for a knowledge of the historic Christ, all suggestions that a

MAY 22

DAILY MANNA

God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.—2 Timothy 1:7

The spirit of the Lord imparted to his people is not a spirit of fear, but on the contrary a spirit of power, energy, zeal awakened by love;—loving devotion to God, and a desire to please and serve him; loving devotion to the truth, and a loving devotion to God's people and a desire to build them up in holy things, and to do good unto all men as we have opportunity,—the spirit of a “sound mind:”—a mind that is fortified and strengthened by the word of the Lord on every subject, and hence, while thoroughly fearless of man, is wise in judging of times, seasons and methods for using the energy of love which burns as a fire within the consecrated heart.—R2166:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.—Hebrews 12:1

Each one on this racecourse should examine himself, rather than examine others, in respect to progress in this narrow way; for each knows his own heart condition and the weaknesses of his own flesh better than

any other knows these, the Lord alone excepted. Let us each note just where he is in the racecourse, rejoicing that he is in the race at all; considering it a great privilege to be thus called and privileged to enter in this race. If we find that we have passed the first quarter mark, let us rejoice and press on. If we find that we have passed the second also, let us rejoice so much the more, but not slack our running. If we find that we have passed the third quarter we may properly rejoice so much the more, and press with vigor on; and if we have attained to the fourth mark of perfect love, which includes even enemies, we have indeed cause for great rejoicing. The prize is ours if we but remain faithful. But, as the apostle says, "Having done all, stand"—with all the armor on; stand in various testings which will then, as much as ever along the racecourse, be brought to bear against us to divert us away from the mark, before the great Inspector and Giver of rewards shall say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—*R2755:5* (Hymn 64)

MAY 23

DAILY MANNA

Ye also ought to wash one another's feet.—John 13:14

This would signify that the members of Christ's body should have a mutual watch-care over one another's welfare; to keep each other clean, holy, pure, and to assist one another in overcoming the trials and temptations and besetments of this present evil world, arising from the three sources of temptation, "the world, the flesh and the devil." Only as we cultivate the various graces of the spirit—meekness, patience, gentleness, brotherly kindness, love—can we hope to be specially helpful to others in putting on these adornments of character and purities of life, and to get rid of defilements of the world, and the flesh.—*R2201:6; 2202:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.—Romans 4:7

In studying this subject it is well to keep in mind that the robe does not cover, as some seem to think, sins of the new mind. The Scriptures ascribe no sin to the new mind, and no perfection in righteousness to the fallen flesh. If the new mind were disloyal to God, the robe would not cover it; it would cease to be a new mind. To continue to have the imperfections of the flesh (which we have inherited from Adam) covered, the

MAY 24

DAILY MANNA

Love ... is not easily provoked.—1 Corinthians 13:5

However natural depravity, and heredity, and nervous disorders may tend toward the spirit of fretfulness, taciturnity, and touchiness, every heart filled with the Lord's spirit must oppose this disposition to evil in his flesh, and must wage a good warfare against it. It will not do to say, "It is my way;" for all the ways of the fallen nature are bad: it is the business of the new nature to overcome the old nature in this as well as other works of the flesh and the devil: and few show to our friends and households more than this of the power of the grace of love. This grace as it grows should make every child of God sweet-tempered.—*R2204:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.—Psalm 37:23,24

Our text presupposes that in the class described the human will has been transformed—that the divine will has been accepted as instead of the human; and that the child of God is seeking to walk in the ways of righteousness, in which he has already started; and the proper thought to be gathered is that thus seeking to

MAY 25

DAILY MANNA

Be not overcome of evil.—Romans 12:21

We are never to take up or to use evil words or methods or manners. To do so is temporarily to join the enemy, or to admit that his implements and methods are better than those of the Captain to whom we belong. To answer anger with anger, evil report with evil report, bitter words with bitter words, slander with slander, persecution with persecution, blow with blow, or any of these, would be to endeavor to overcome evil with evil. This, which is natural to our fallen natures, is what we are commanded to avoid, that we may the more thoroughly cultivate the new nature. To be misled by the adversary, to use his methods in any of these ways, is to be overcome of evil.—*R2215:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.—
Ephesians 6:10

Here we have an exhortation applicable to the people of God at all times and under all conditions and under all circumstances. It would have applied to Samson in his day as a natural man, a servant, and it applies to us of today who are new creatures in Christ Jesus, servant-sons of the Most High. If we look back to Samson and all the ancient worthies recounted by the

apostle, we note that the secret of their strength of character, by which they endured and overcame, resided in their faith in God and in the promises. And so it must be with us. But there is a difference between faith and credulity; the latter may give a spirit of energy, but will not endure. The former is the power of God which enables us to endure all things as good soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ, soldiers of the truth, soldiers of righteousness, fighting against sin and error and all ungodliness, including the artful wiles of the adversary, by which he would deceive us and the whole world, misrepresenting the divine character by the “doctrines of devils” foisted upon the Lord’s people during the Dark Ages, to the blinding of the eyes of their understanding. Now in the Lord’s providence our eyes are becoming more and more opened in harmony with the apostle’s prayer, I pray God for you that you “may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.”—*R4089:4* (Hymn 200)

MAY 26

DAILY MANNA

Knowledge puffeth up, but love buildeth up.—1 Corinthians 8:1

All who seek to teach the divine plan to others are exposed to peculiar temptations, so that the honor of serving the Lord and his people demands a correspondingly larger measure of the graces of the Holy Spirit, as well as of knowledge. Whoever, therefore, would be an instructor of others, a mouthpiece of the Lord, should cultivate all the various graces of the Holy Spirit, including meekness; that these combined (love) with knowledge, may build up himself as well as build up those to whom he ministers.—*R2219:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord is our King; he will save us.—Isaiah 33:22

Our text is one the sentiments of which should be deeply impressed upon the hearts of all the Lord's people. The world may cry out, saying, "We have no king but Caesar," but the Lord's people, the Israelites indeed, will feel the reverse of this—that "the Lord is our King." In harmony with his command we will honor earthly kings and obey earthly laws in every particular in which they do not conflict with the divine law; but nevertheless, above earthly kings, our esteem, homage, and obedience must be to him whom the Lord hath appointed, King Immanuel. If he be

MAY 27

DAILY MANNA

In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.—Philippians 2:3

Paul exhorts that all shall cultivate the grace of humility, and that in every affair each shall take heed that “nothing be done through strife or vain glory,” that self-laudation and strivings for pre-eminence be thoroughly put away as the greatest enemies to the spirit of the Lord and the blessing of the church. On the contrary, each should have that lowliness of mind which can see the good qualities of fellow members and appreciate some of these qualities at least as superior to his own. All the talents, and all the abilities, need never be expected in any one person in any congregation. So, then, each may, if he be of lowly mind, see in others certain good qualities or graces superior to his own, and should delight to recognize these and to esteem their possessor accordingly.—*R2228:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.—Psalm 122:1

Those who hear the invitation to become members of the house of God, the house of sons, the antitypical temple, and who receive the invitation into good and honest hearts, are indeed made glad: “Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound.” We couple with

MAY 28

DAILY MANNA

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body [so long as we feel entirely contented with present conditions—ourselves and our surroundings], we are absent from the Lord.
—2 Corinthians 5:6

If we were living near to him, “walking with God,” we would not feel perfectly satisfied with present attainments, conditions, etc.; but would feel like pilgrims and strangers, seeking a better rest, a better home, “which God hath in reservation for them that love him.” But this, as the apostle explains (verse 7), is true only of those who walk by faith and not by sight. “But we are confident [full of faith toward God, we rejoice to walk by faith], and are well pleased rather to be from home [homeless, pilgrims and strangers on the earth], and to be at home with the Lord” in the spirit of our fellowship.—R2231:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust.—
Psalm 40:4

If we leave the world to become the Lord’s people, and receive the lessons of experience at his hand with proper faith in him, the outcome will surely be a readiness and promptness to make a full consecration, a full submission of ourselves to do the Lord’s will; to

MAY 29

DAILY MANNA

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.—
John 14:27

The more we overcome the world, the flesh and the devil, the more we seek to do the will of our Father who is in heaven, the more we seek for the fellowship and communion of our dear Redeemer, the more we seek to do those things which are pleasing in his sight, so much the more will we have of the joy and peace which no man taketh from us, and which trials, difficulties and persecutions can only make the more sweet and precious.—R2232:5

“Ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.”—John 16:22

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.
—Romans 5:20

Our text is the key to all of our hopes. Sin abounded against not only our first parents, but all of their posterity, unto sentence of death. But God's grace abounded still more, and toward all, in that he provided, through Christ, not only a recovery of all who will of mankind from the penalty of sin and death, but also that the restored and perfected race shall have all

that was lost in Eden, full and complete, and that everlastingly. Additionally God's grace abounded to the extent of taking out of the world of sinners a little flock to be heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, whose nature is to be changed, so that they, instead of longer being of the human nature, will become partakers of the divine nature, sharers of the divine glory and honor and office with their Lord Jesus—far above angels, principalities, and powers, and every name that is named. O, for such loving-kindness and tender mercy which abounded toward us while we were yet sinners, and which much more abounds toward us in Christ, now that we are accepted in the Beloved One—for this let the Lord's people give thanks continually, and let the thankfulness of heart extend and manifest itself in words and conduct, in all that we do and say, that all may be to the praise of his glory who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.—*R2842:4* (Hymn 68)

MAY 30

DAILY MANNA

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation.—Romans 12:12

Here is an important part of the great battle of the Christian's life. He must fight the natural tendencies of the old nature and confidently anticipate the victory in the strength of the great Captain of his salvation. He must not succumb to the flattering and deceptive influences of prosperity, nor faint under the burdens of adversity. He must not allow the trials of life to sour and harden his disposition, to make him morose, or surly, or bitter, or unkind. Nor may he allow pride or ostentation or self-righteousness to grow and feed upon the temporal good things which the Lord's providence has granted him to test his faithfulness as a steward.—*R1759:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.—John 16:13

The Holy Spirit, in harmony with our Lord's promise, was sent only to the consecrated class, and was to abide in the true church class, "the body of Christ," and we, and all others who since have come into fellowship and union with our Lord, "the Head of the body which is his church," have thus come into and under the influence of the Holy Spirit, our rightful

MAY 31

DAILY MANNA

It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.—Romans 14:21

It is a very serious crime against the law of love and against the Lord's injunction, to cause one of his brethren to stumble (Matt. 18:6), but it would also be a crime in his sight for us to stumble others—to hinder them from becoming brethren, and of the household of faith. Hence, it is clear that although knowledge might remove all prohibition of our consciences and all restraints of our liberty, yet love must first come in and approve the liberty before we can exercise it. Love places a firm command upon us, saying,—Thou shalt love the Lord with all thine heart, and thy neighbor as thyself. Love, therefore, and not knowledge, not liberty, must finally decide every question.—*R3145:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.—Hebrews 10:39

Our exhortation to all who have forsaken all to follow the Lord is that we do not look back, that we estimate that we have made the grandest bargain imaginable, that we are in the way for obtaining the grandest prize

JUNE 1

DAILY MANNA

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.—John 14:21

May this intimate communion and fellowship with Christ impart to us each more and more of his own spirit, so that the world may take knowledge of us, that we have “been with Jesus;” and let the prayer of each be,

“Lord Jesus, make thyself to me
A living, bright reality!
More real to faith’s vision keen,
Than any earthly object seen;
More dear, more intimately nigh,
Than e’en the sweetest earthly tie.”

—R1789:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.—Psalm 55:22

Any saint of God may have tears in the trying experiences of the journey in the narrow way, but none is excusable for murmuring. Rather, each should say with the Master, “The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?” To those who approach the springs of bitterness with the proper faith in God

JUNE 2

DAILY MANNA

I am determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.—1 Corinthians 2:2

Our observation of those consecrated ones who have permitted other themes than “this gospel” to engross time and attention leads us to advise such to be very jealous in husbanding time and talent for the ministry of the gospel, leaving all other subjects, however interesting, to others now, and to the future life for ourselves, when all knowledge shall be ours. Those who for any avoidable cause turn aside from the ministry of the true and only gospel, we have invariably observed, are quickly turned out of the way or greatly hindered in their course toward “the prize of our high calling.”—*R1811:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye shall offer unto the Lord; two lambs of the first year without spot day by day, for a continual burnt offering. The one lamb shalt thou offer in the morning, and the other lamb shalt thou offer at even.—Numbers 28:3,4

Be our sacrifice ever so lame and imperfect, it is reckoned holy and without blemish if we presented it to the Father in and through the merit of our Redeemer; and if “holy and acceptable” through him (Rom. 12:1;

JUNE 3

DAILY MANNA

*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech, there are no words, their voice is not heard; but their melody extendeth through all the earth, and to the end of the world their words.—*Psalm 19:1-4, Leeser

The magnificent pageantry of the heavens daily and nightly should elicit our praise and adoration, and should inspire in our hearts holy and reverent devotion. Let the noiseless activity, the perfect obedience to divine law, and the blessed shining of the heavenly hosts, impress their wholesome lessons upon us—of zealous activity without commotion or ostentation; of perfect obedience to the will of him who doeth all things well, who is too wise to err and too good to be unkind; and of letting the glory of the Lord which has illuminated us shine from us in turn upon every beholder.—*R1815:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*Follow ... holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.—*Hebrews 12:14

Holiness is not a charm which we may put in our pockets; it is not a garment which may be worn occasionally. Holiness resembles more the tempering of

JUNE 4

DAILY MANNA

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.—1 Peter 1:7

It is your faith that is on trial now. In the calmer days, when the sun of favor shone brightly upon you, you were quietly laying the foundation of a knowledge of the truth, and rearing the superstructure of Christian character. Now you are in the furnace to be proved: summon therefore all your courage; fortify your patience; nerve yourself to endurance; hold fast to your hope; call to mind the promises, they are still yours; and “cast not away your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.” “In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.” “Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him,” and faith has gained her victory.—*R1823:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Whom having not seen, ye love; ... yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable.—1 Peter 1:8

Quite a good many who bear the name of Christ have a hope toward God as respects the future, but very little of the joys of his salvation in the present time. Such are not living up to their privileges. They have not properly grown up into Christ, their living Head. They

JUNE 5

DAILY MANNA

In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust.—Psalm 31:1

There is nothing that puts the Christian at greater disadvantage in the presence of his foes than for him to let go, even temporarily, his grip upon the anchor of faith. Let him do so for a moment, and of necessity darkness begins to gather round him: he cannot see the brightness of his Father's face, for "without faith it is impossible to please God;" and while he grapples again for the anchor, the powers of darkness fiercely assail him with doubts and fears, based generally upon his human imperfections, which he should ever bear in mind are covered by the robe of Christ's righteousness. If we would have the peace of God reign in our hearts, we must never let go our anchor, "nor suffer Satan's deadliest strife to beat our courage down." The language of our hearts should always be, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him."—*R1835:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.—Isaiah 32:18

The closer we live to the Lord, and the greater our faith, the more we shall realize the divine direction, and the more we shall make use of the means he has provided for our strengthening and upholding. We

JUNE 6

DAILY MANNA

Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life.—Luke 21:34

What a work we realize to be before us, and what necessity for sobriety, vigilance, steadfastness! It is a life work, a life battle against a mighty foe entrenched in our flesh. The powers without are strong indeed, but the civil war within is by far the most to be dreaded. If we become in any measure intoxicated with the spirit of the world;—if we give way to self-gratification, love of ease, pleasure, a little indulgence of any of the old dispositions of envy, malice, pride, vainglory, vaunting of self, headiness, highmindedness, wrath, strife, or any such thing—even a little, Oh, how great is the peril to which we are exposed!—*R1859:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth.—Psalm 149:1,6

The saints can praise God more intelligently and fully now than ever before. We can see our Lord's character better, because much of the ignorance, misconception, mysteries, and obscurity have fled away. God's word is shining out with more brightness than ever.

JUNE 7

DAILY MANNA

The God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.—1 Peter 5:10

It is only through endurance of hardness as good soldiers of Christ that this desirable condition can be attained—viz., perfect self-control and ability to resist evil, established faith, patience and virtue, settled, abiding rest in Christ, and hope through his word of promise. This undoubtedly was the apostle's own experience as he grew old in the Master's service, and so may it be ours. Let each departing year find us nearer the glorious summit of perfection!—*R1860:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.—2 Corinthians 11:3

It is well that the Lord's people strive to live a rejoicing life, giving thanks always to the Father in all things, and rejoicing to be counted worthy to suffer shame, etc., for the cause of Christ. But as the apostle elsewhere declares, Let us rejoice with fear; let not our rejoicing be of that reckless, self-satisfying kind which might ensnare and entrap us; let our rejoicing

JUNE 8

DAILY MANNA

He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.—James 5:20

When we see others walking in forbidden paths, in the way of transgressors, we are not to follow them there in order to help them out; but to show them the right path by keeping in it and calling to them. When we see some confusing themselves with doctrines and teachings of men, which we know are fundamentally wrong, we are not to wade through those doctrines in order to help them out; but we are to remind them that the study of any doctrine which will not square with the foundation is not only a misuse of consecrated time, but that all trifling with that which we know to be error is wrong and dangerous, as all violations of conscience and principle are dangerous.—*R1860:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.—John 15:13

Whatever we may do for any member of the body of Christ, for any consecrated believer, the Lord tells us he will esteem as though it were done unto him. Hence as it would be our duty and our privilege and our joy to lay down our lives in the service of the Lord, we must attain to such a love for the brethren, because

JUNE 9

DAILY MANNA

In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.—John 16:33

There was no reward of earthly prosperity for the Lord's faithfulness, but the reverse—privation and persecution were realized, even unto death. He was a "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;" the reproaches of them that reproached God fell upon him; though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor; so poor that he said, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head." ... And the servant is not above his master: if they have persecuted him they will persecute us also; and the reproaches of them that reproached him will also fall upon us. The only present reward for which the followers of Christ may look is the heartfelt manifestation of the Lord's love and approval.—*R4072:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.—1 Peter 3:8

Love for the brethren is set forth in the Scriptures as one of the indisputable evidences of our having attained membership in the body of Christ. This love may be of varying degrees, but it must be ours in some degree if we are the Lord's, for "if any man have not

JUNE 10

DAILY MANNA

Lord, teach us to pray.—Luke 11:1

In brief, our prayers, to be acceptable to God, must express confident faith, loving esteem and reverence, full sympathy with the divine plan and submission to the divine will, childlike dependence upon God, acknowledgment of sins and shortcomings and desire for forgiveness, with humble craving for the divine guidance and protection. These may not always all be expressed in words, but such must at least be the attitude of the soul.—*R1865:1*

“Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire,
uttered or unexpressed.”

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.—John 7:17

We believe that without a love for truth none will be favored with the light of present truth. More than this, we hold that if sincere love for truth—honesty of thought and deed—be yielded, sacrificed to pride, ambition, vainglory, or any other thing, the result will be the loss of present truth. Let us ever keep in memory our Lord’s message through the apostle, that now in the end of this age he will send strong delusion, that all may believe a lie who have pleasure in untruth—

JUNE 11

DAILY MANNA

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended.—
Philippians 3:13

If any man consider that he has attained a satisfactory spiritual state, from that moment he may date the beginning of his spiritual decline. No present attainments can be satisfactory to a sincere follower of Christ who studiously endeavors to copy the perfect pattern. It is only when we turn our eyes away from Christ that self-complacency can be exercised; for in full view of the pattern our shortcomings are ever manifest. And if in pride of heart we do lose sight of them ourselves, they only become the more manifest to others. Only in the realization of a continual growth into the likeness of Christ should the Christian find satisfaction.—*R1885:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye are witnesses of these things.—Luke 24:48

The apostles as witnesses were not merely to tell about the Redeemer's virgin birth, nor merely about his holy, devoted life, nor merely of our Lord's resurrection, nor merely of his ascension, but in addition to all these facts they were to tell that he was a properly qualified Redeemer, that he met all the conditions of the Law, and that now he ever liveth to succor those who come unto the Father through him. How faith-

JUNE 12

DAILY MANNA

This one thing I do.—Philippians 3:13

We observe the apostle's singleness of purpose—"This one thing I do." He did not try to do several things: if he had, he would surely have failed. He devoted his life to the one purpose to which he was called, and to that end dropped every other aim in life. He did it, too, in view of the fact that all through the present life his chosen course would bring certain loss, privation, toil, care, persecution and continual reproach. In this singleness of purpose he was relieved of many temptations to turn aside to enjoy some of the good things of this present life, or to pursue some of its illusive bubbles.—*R1885:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow.—Philippians 2:10

While we contemplate this high exaltation of the Master let us not forget that his bride is to be joint-heir with him in all of his glory, honor, and immortality, and that the privilege of becoming members of the bride class belongs to the called, chosen, faithful, the very elect of this Gospel Age. If we could but have this in mind continually, what manner of persons would we be in all holy conversation and godliness—how trifling all earthly pleasures and sorrows, all

JUNE 13

DAILY MANNA

I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.—
Psalm 17:15

“Now let our thoughts on wings sublime
Rise from the trivial cares of time,
Draw back the parting veil, and see
The glories of eternity.”

Let thoughts of God and Christ and the worthy saints of the past and present, of the heavenly inheritance, of the blessedness of our future work in cooperation with Christ, of the magnitude and benevolence of the divine plan, and of the glory and blessedness of our gathering together unto Christ when our work of the present life is finished, fill our minds and inspire our hearts. And to these contemplations let us also receive the additional comfort and blessedness of personal communion and fellowship with God through prayer and study of the word and the assembling of ourselves together for worship and praise.—*R1885:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.—Romans 6:22

These are wonderful words of life, indeed! They inspire us with hope. If God will accept perfect heart

JUNE 14

DAILY MANNA

God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.—1 Peter 5:5

Above almost everything else, beloved, let us guard well our humility. It is only when we are little in our own eyes that God can use us with safety to ourselves. And yet he does not shield us from every test of fidelity. If therefore the Lord give you a little exaltation today, a little encouragement of success in his service, receive it humbly, meekly, remembering your own unworthiness and insufficiency except as God is pleased to work through you; and be just as ready to receive the humiliations of tomorrow as necessary for your discipline and the proper balancing of your character. If the success of yesterday make you fret under the humiliation of today, beware! You are not as roundly developed spiritually as you should be.—*R1920:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.—Psalm 107:13

As the effect of Israel's tribulation was to turn their hearts toward the Lord and to lead them to cry out for his promised assistance, so all of our trying experiences with the world, the flesh, and the adversary and the bondage of sin and death—all these appeal to

the new creatures in Christ who have the Father's promise. All this leads us more and more to look unto the Lord from whom cometh our help, and to wait for his Son from heaven, and to expect the deliverance of the groaning creation at his second advent. Is it not true, then, that present distresses and tribulations are all working out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, if we are rightly exercised thereby? And if as true Israelites we have confidence in the Abrahamic promise, we have it, as the apostle describes, as an anchor to our souls both sure and steadfast, entering into that which is beyond the veil, whither our Forerunner is entered for us—and has made atonement for us—and from whence he provides us the blessed deliverance which we hope soon to experience in the resurrection change, when, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we shall be made like him, see him as he is, and share his glory.—*R3983:6* (Hymn 56)

JUNE 15

DAILY MANNA

And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.—Isaiah 55:3

All who hunger and thirst after righteousness, whose souls thirst after God as the hart for the waterbrook, and who, having found him, have consecrated themselves to him and received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, witnessing with their spirits that they are the sons of God, and who as anointed sons can discover in themselves the worthy traits of true sons—loyalty, faithfulness, zeal, energy, courage, discretion, etc.—these constitute the class with whom the Lord has made an everlasting covenant and to whom belong “the sure mercies of David.”—*R1936:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.—1 Samuel 17:47

What lesson can the new creation of the present time draw from this story of olden time? David, whose name signifies beloved, in many respects typified The Christ, Head and body. His experience with Goliath illustrates well, first of all our Lord's conflict with the adversary during the forty days' temptation in the wilderness. Our Lord's victory over Satan on that occasion, his loyalty to the Father and the work

JUNE 16

DAILY MANNA

No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.—Hebrews 12:11

It is under such discipline that the soul is mellowed to a loving submission that calmly says, I can do all things, bear all things, through Christ who strengtheneth me. As gradually the dross of the old nature is consumed, and the gold becomes more and more manifest, these precious souls become ever dearer to their loving Lord. So dear are they to him that in every affliction he is near with his grace to sustain and his presence to cheer; and the deepest shades of sorrow become memory's most hallowed resting places, where the Day Star shines the brightest.—*R1944:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Giving no offense in anything, that the ministry be not blamed: By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by love unfeigned.—2 Corinthians 6:3,6

The purer the person, the more surely will he be the target. You notice that the speckled birds are more a mark for the huntsman than are the others. Thus all who are bearing the vessels of the Lord's house are special targets for the fiery darts of the wicked one. So

JUNE 17

DAILY MANNA

Who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire ... and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.—Malachi 3:2,3

The Great Refiner is watching to see how the precious metal of your character reflects his image. Or, in plain language, in every trial he watches to see what influences control our actions, whether they be influences of present advantage, or worldly policy, or personal friendship, or earthly loves—of husband, or wife, or children, or love of ease, or love of peace at any cost; or whether, on the other hand, we are controlled by the naked principles of truth and righteousness; and whether we will defend these principles with zeal and energy at any cost of labor or suffering, or both, and so fight the good fight of faith to the bitter end—even unto death.—*R1944:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.—Matthew 26:36

Are we not as the Lord's people in this harvest time drawing close to the Gethsemane hour of the church? Are we not already in the hour of temptation to a considerable extent? Will not the last members of the body soon follow the Head unto complete sacrifice?

How ready are we for the ordeal? Are we asleep, or are we heeding the words of the apostle, They that sleep sleep in the night, but we who are of the day should be awake, sober, putting on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand in this evil day, in the time of trial already upon us, and in the still severer trials which no doubt will be ours in the near future? Are we prepared for the time when there will possibly be a general scattering, as these “all forsook him and fled”? How courageous we will be in our hour of trial will probably depend much upon our following the Master’s example and securing first of all that positive conviction that we have the divine approval. Let us not, then, avoid the Gethsemane moment if it come to us in the Lord’s providence, but let us also with strong cryings and tears look up to him who is able to save us out of death by the glorious first resurrection, and let us remember that we have an Advocate, we have a helper. The Lord is our angel who speaks to us the Father’s message, telling us that if we abide in his love all will be right in the end, and that he is able and willing to bring us off conquerors, yea, more than conquerors through his own merit.—*R3886:6* (Hymn 120)

JUNE 18

DAILY MANNA

In thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.—Psalm 16:11

In the Lord's presence, no matter where we are, is fullness of joy. Let us cultivate the Lord's acquaintance more, drawing near to him in prayer, in the study of his precious word, in meditation upon all his goodness, his providential care, the marked manifestations of his grace in our own individual experiences, and his precious promises which are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus. Thus "draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8); he will manifest himself to you and take up his abode with you. It is indeed the will of God that all his children should be happy in him, that they should be always rejoicing; and if any one lack this blessing, he is living below his privileges.—*R1949:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.—Isaiah 1:19

God has arranged for our learning certain lessons of self-control, bringing ourselves into full obedience to God in a voluntary way, with a view to our being his representatives by and by, and of then enforcing obedience to God's requirements on the part of the world. It is a generally accepted principle that no one is quali-

JUNE 19

DAILY MANNA

Light [truth] is sown for the righteous, and gladness [the joys of the truth] for the upright in heart.—Psalm 97:11

The true children of God love the truth because they have an affinity for it. ... When they have found the truth they recognize its value; they prize it, and meditate upon it. ... They say, It is just like God: it is the manifestation of his glorious goodness, the reflection of his loving, benevolent, wise and just character. And therefore they love the truth and the God who gave it: they treasure it up in their hearts and con it over again and again; and as they look into it, and admire all its symmetry and beauty, they strive more and more to conform their own characters to the same lines of beauty and seek to commend it by word and conduct to others, that they also may be blessed by it.—*R1950:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day.—Ephesians 6:13

No man ever puts on armor unless he expects to fight. If he is a soldier of the cross, the “sword of the Spirit” is the great weapon with which he will prove his loyalty and strength. The brethren should build each other up in the most holy faith, fighting the good fight,

JUNE 20

DAILY MANNA

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.—1 John 2:15

To fellowship the world is to walk in harmony with its ideas and to conform to its ways. In this sense we may not love it, but must be apart from it and in opposition to it. The way thus pointed out to us is, in some respects at least, a difficult way, and a lonely way, but it is the only way of peace and happiness. This world with the lust thereof is rapidly passing away: it is hollow and unsatisfying and eventually leads to disaster and ruin; but those who delight in the Lord's way have blessed communion and fellowship with him. Their joys come from a source which the world cannot comprehend. They live on a higher plane, breathe a purer atmosphere and enjoy a holier, sweeter friendship than the world could ever offer.—*R1956:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God.—James 4:6,7

While we longingly look forward to our glorious station of the future, when the glory of the Lord shall fill the temple, when "we shall know as we are known," let us not forget that unless we are submissive to the

JUNE 21

DAILY MANNA

*Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly of heart.—
Matthew 11:29*

Truly, in a meek and quiet spirit is the secret of rest. To be meek is to cultivate the graces of patience; of loving submission to the will of God; of abiding confidence in his love and care and in the wisdom of his guiding counsel and overruling providences; and to persistently pursue this course through evil and through good report, or through favorable or unfavorable circumstances. Let the beloved children of God seek more and more to copy Christ's meek and quiet spirit, accepting the providences of God and obeying his precepts and leading as he did, armed with the strength which he alone can supply, and will, to those who take his yoke upon them, and learn of him.—
R1962:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.—Romans 7:18

This discrepancy between the new will, the new mind, and the mind of the flesh and the flesh itself, both reckoned as dead but really quite alive, requiring continual vigilance to restrain them and keep them in line with the new creature's intentions, means quite a

JUNE 22

DAILY MANNA

It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. ... Every man according to his several ability.—
1 Corinthians 4:2; Matthew 25:15

The “pound,” being the same to all, fitly represents that blessing of divine grace which is common to all God’s people—justification. ... Other endowments differ in quantity, according to our natural opportunities, and are generally of the Father,—for instance, the word and the spirit. Our justification while planned by the Father is a gift from Jesus, because he paid for it with his own precious blood. The one “pound” each places all on a common footing as acceptable servants and permits each to show his zeal by his sacrificings. ... But the “talents,” being distributed according to every man’s ability, represent opportunities for the service of God along the lines of such abilities as we possess. They may be talents of education, or money, or influence, or good health, or time, or tact, or genius, with opportunities for their use in God’s service.—
R1972:6; 3948:6; 3869:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.—*1 John 4:21

As perfect love casts out fear, so also it casts out false impressions of evil doing or intention toward us. The

benevolent heart, full of love for others, will rather prefer to suppose that slights are unintentional oversights, or to put some other similar good construction upon the conduct of their friends, only yielding to an appreciation of persecution when its intention is unmistakable. Even then it should think generously of the persecutor, realize his share in the fall, and be disposed to pray for those who despitefully use them and persecute them. Blessed are such ones who thus hold to righteousness and the spirit of love toward their enemies and persecutors, and who may be sure, therefore, that they are being persecuted for the fidelity to truth and righteousness and not for personal idiosyncrasies and peculiarities. Blessed are they, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. The Lord is looking for those who are so faithful to the principles of righteousness that they will exercise it toward their enemies even when being persecuted by them and on its account. If the kingdom of heaven is for such it is assuredly but a little flock. Let us strive the more diligently to be of that little flock—to make our calling and election sure.—*R3736:2* (Hymn 296)

JUNE 23

DAILY MANNA

He that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty.—Matthew 13:23

The different measures of fruitage—the thirty, sixty, and hundred-fold, or the ten pounds and the five, mark differences in obstacles to be overcome, etc., rather than unfaithfulness in the use of the means of grace. Some may work long and diligently for small results, while the same effort in others of more resolute will and of greater continuity may accomplish great things. Some by slips and occasional backslidings, from which they subsequently recover, lose time and opportunities which can never be regained, although they are forgiven and generously reinstated in the divine favor, and thenceforth run with diligence and patience to the end.—*R1973:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.—Ephesians 4:1,2

We show our appreciation of God's mercy toward us by schooling ourselves in his character and becoming more and more merciful and generous toward all the household of faith. And if merciful toward the breth-

JUNE 24

DAILY MANNA

If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.—Romans 8:17

Reading the Father's plans for ourselves, in the light of his will exemplified in his dealings with our Master, we may settle it at once that it is not his will to keep us from all pain and trial and sufferings, and to carry us triumphantly to glory on flowery beds of ease. Quite the reverse, indeed, must be our course if we would follow in the footsteps of him whom God set forth to be, not only a satisfaction for the sins of the whole world, but also a pattern to the church, which is his body. And this much learned of God's plan and will promptly teaches us that we must not expect and should not ask freedom from pain and trouble, which his wisdom has ordained to be the path to glory.—*R2000:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.—Matthew 24:42

All of the wise virgin class should be in the attitude commanded in this parable. They should have a knowledge of the fact that the Bridegroom is coming; they should have lamps and a full supply of oil. Those living in this ready condition will be neither alarmed

nor surprised at the message when they hear it as it is now going forth: “Behold, the Bridegroom is present.” We are living in the *parousia* [presence] of the Son of Man—the wise virgins are already falling into line in the procession and entering in to the marriage; the full number will soon be found and the door will be shut. All in this watching attitude of heart, with the full measure of the spirit of the Lord in their hearts will be very quickly attracted by the first intimation that the Bridegroom is present. These, trimming their lamps, examining the Scriptures, will quickly discern the truthfulness of the announcement, and speedily prepare and take their places with the wise virgins. The announcement, the truth upon this subject, is indeed a testing, proving which of the professed virgins of the Lord have the oil in their vessels, the right spirit of humility, patience, love, devotion, interest in the things of the Bridegroom. Such and such only are desired by the Bridegroom or will be permitted to enter.—*R3869:4* (Hymn 318)

JUNE 25

DAILY MANNA

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.—Colossians 4:2

Every trial of faith and patience is an occasion for prayer for the promised succor. Every failure to gain victory is an occasion for a prayer for forgiveness, and as well for divine blessing, that the lesson of our own weakness may be deeply impressed, so that in the next similar trial we may promptly apply for and lay hold upon the “grace to help” promised. Every victory over self is an occasion for prayer that we be not high-minded and puffed up, but kept humble and watchful for the next attack from the great adversary. Every service for the truth becomes an occasion for a prayer of thanks for the privilege of serving the great King, and mayhap to have suffered something for his cause; and a reason for supplication for further opportunities for service and grace to use them wisely.—*R2006:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.—Jude 3

Sometimes it might seem like contention for the faith once delivered to the saints for one person to argue with another on scriptural subjects, and yet his real motive in so doing might be pride. Pride is a part of selfishness; therefore in contending for his own ideas

JUNE 26

DAILY MANNA

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.—Hebrews 3:1

It is God's will that every member of the body of Christ should be touched with a feeling of the world's infirmities, in order that, when exalted to the kingdom, they may be very tender, sympathetic and generous, when, as the royal priesthood, they shall judge the world. Our Lord and Master, who had none of the imperfections of the fallen race, but was holy, harmless and separate from sinners, needed to take from men their sicknesses and infirmities in order that he might be touched with a feeling of our infirmities and be a faithful High Priest. It would be thoroughly illogical to suppose that the lessons necessary to the preparation of the High Priest for his office and service are not necessary to the underpriests who are called to suffer with him and to reign with him.—*R2029:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.—Ephesians 1:11

The question naturally arises, Why should God test faith rather than works? The answer is that all kinds of works are dependent upon the ability of the worker,

and that the whole race of Adam has become unable to do perfect works, on account of the fall of their first parents. None can be perfectly just, perfectly wise, perfectly loving; to be so in our present imperfect condition is impossible. Therefore, in his wisdom and love, God avoids making his test along those lines in which we are absolutely incompetent, and makes it along the line of faith—in his wisdom, his love, and his promises. To doubt any of these would be to weaken the basis of our hope. We realize that we are in a fallen condition, that we are dying like the remainder of the race. We have heard through the word of God that he has provided a Savior, but we see that things continue much as they were, despite all that God and Christ have done. Our faith, however, assures us that God, who knew the end from the beginning, is working all things according to the counsel of his own will and that in due time he will establish righteousness in the earth.—*R5115:2* (Hymn 197)

JUNE 27

DAILY MANNA

Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God, who hath also sealed us.—
2 Corinthians 1:21,22

The seal or mark of the new creature is the possession of the Spirit of Christ. The manifestations of this Holy Spirit are three-fold. (1) Love supreme to God and joyful loyalty to his cause even at the cost of suffering. (2) Love of the brethren—unselfish, noble, pure—a desire for their welfare, which is always alert to do them good. (3) Love, sympathetic, for the world, prompting to good works, as opportunity may afford, and to a desire and effort always to live peaceably with all men.—R2032:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

*As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.—*Isaiah 55:9

It is when we get the grand sweep of the divine plan that we can see God's ultimate purpose of vanquishing sin and blessing all the families of the earth with the knowledge of his goodness and with a favorable opportunity for reformation—when we come to see that the election of the Jewish Age and also of this Gospel Age are but means to that grand end of blessing the world. Then we begin to discern how high

JUNE 28

DAILY MANNA

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.—Proverbs 3:7

Nothing is more dangerous to the child of God than self-conceit: it blocks the way to true progress and reformation of heart, and hinders true usefulness to others, and especially usefulness in God's service; for his word declares, "God resisteth the proud, but showeth favor unto the humble." Instead of self-confidence, wisdom dictates a distrustfulness of self, remembering its weaknesses and imperfections, and correspondingly the greater reverence for God and reliance upon him, which more than anything else will strengthen and enable us to depart from the evil of our fallen estate.—*R2060:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich.—Revelation 3:18

Whenever a new trial is presented to the Christian, if he will but call to mind this precept of the Lord, it will stimulate courage, nerve to patient endurance, and quicken to self-sacrifice. "Gold tried in the fire"! How can it be tried without the crucible and the flame? How otherwise can the dross be eliminated? There is no other way. Wherefore, "think it not strange"; let the fire burn; let the dross be consumed; and see to it,

beloved, that in the heat of the flame you remove not the “living sacrifice” from the altar. Remember that the eye of the great Refiner is upon you; and as the refiner of gold watches the metal in the crucible to see his image reflected in it, so the Lord, the great Refiner, has his eye upon you. He is watching to see how the precious metal of your character reflects his image. Or, in plain language, in every trial he watches to see what influences control our actions, whether they be influences of present advantage or worldly policy, or personal friendship, or earthly loves—of husband or wife, or children, or houses, or lands, or whether they be honor among men, or love of ease, or love of peace at any cost; or whether, on the other hand, we are controlled by the naked principles of truth and righteousness; and whether we will defend these principles with zeal and energy at any cost of labor or suffering, or both, and so fight the good fight of faith to the bitter end—even unto death.—*R1944:5* (Hymn 93)

JUNE 29

DAILY MANNA

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
—Matthew 5:8

The thought of “pure in heart” is not perfection of conduct, nor of word, nor of thought, but perfection of intention as respects all of these. Our desire and effort must be for perfection—in thought, word and deed. The standard before us, to which our hearts, wills, must give assent, is the divine standard, “Be ye perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Matt. 5:48) God has set no lower standard than this absolute perfection, but he has provided for us grace, mercy and peace through Christ, if we will walk in his footsteps,—this purity of heart being one of the essential steps in the narrow way.—R2587:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the Lord which sanctify you.—Leviticus 20:7,8

This means, set yourselves apart to God, and he will set you apart. We have a part in this work, and God has a part. If we make a full consecration, God will consecrate us; he will accept us and set us apart for himself. He gives us the indication of this acceptance in the begetting of his Holy Spirit. Such soon begin to

JUNE 30

DAILY MANNA

*In the time of harvest, I will say to the reapers ...
Gather the wheat into my barn.*—Matthew 13:30

The time is short; the harvest work is great; the laborers are few; our time is consecrated; we must labor while it is called day, knowing that a night cometh wherein no man can work. We have consecrated our lives even unto death; we are commissioned of the great Lord of the harvest to seek for the true “wheat” and to gather it into the barn. What time have we for frivolities or worldliness or the many social amenities? Rather, we must content ourselves with giving very little attention to these things, and must press along the line, engaging heartily in the work given us to do, if we would have the approval of our Master, his “well done, good and faithful servant.”—R2675:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The very God of peace sanctify you wholly.—1 Thesalonians 5:23

There is a certain difference between the words sanctification and consecration, though they are sometimes used almost interchangeably. The word consecrate has the thought of surrender. Consecration is a definite step, taken at a certain moment. It is the yielding up of the will and of all to God. Whoever has not thus definitely surrendered his will, himself,

JULY 1

DAILY MANNA

Walk as children of light ... proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.—Ephesians 5:8,10

If we be sanctified to God by the truth—if our wills be dead, and the Lord's will be fully accepted as ours, in thought, word and act, we have attained the will of God and will win the prize as “overcomers”—even if, opportunities being denied us, we never preached, never gave to the poor and never suffered as martyrs for the truth's sake. Let us all note well this point,—“This is the will of God [concerning you] even your sanctification.” Let nothing becloud or obscure this truth;—neither other truths nor errors. Let it dominate our course in life, and then, if God's will is really our will, we have a clearly marked pathway before us, which is very important.—*R2412:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And Isaac went out to meditate [to pray—margin] in the field at eventide.—Genesis 24:63

How impossible it is for a child of God, remembering and impressed by the events of the day, as to the Lord's wisdom and care and the surety that all things shall work for good—how impossible, we say, for such a one to retire to rest without thankfulness of heart to him upon whose power and prom-

JULY 2

DAILY MANNA

Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it.—1 Corinthians 4:12

If you are a faithful pupil (in the school of Christ) it will not be long until you see that the perfect law of liberty, the law of Christ, is a discernor of the very thoughts and intents of the heart, and that while you must hate all sin, you cannot hate any sinner and yet have the love of God perfected in your heart. If even so much as a bitter feeling against our traducers and malingers arise, it is to be fought, and so complete a victory gained over it that every fiber of our beings will be in sweet accord with our great Teacher's instructions, "Love your enemies. Pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you. Bless and injure not."—R2412:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ... And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.—Romans 5:1,3-5

JULY 3

DAILY MANNA

I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.—Psalm 16:8

He who has buried his own will completely in the will of the Lord can know no disappointment; but in every affair of his life he sees by faith divine appointment or supervision, and hears the word of the Lord in all of life's affairs assuring him, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." It is one of the evidences of reaching the graduating condition of heart, when we are able to take the oppositions of the great adversary and of the world and of our own flesh patiently, uncomplainingly, uncomplainingly, "joyfully"—as a part of the disciplinary experience meted out to us by our all-wise and all-loving Lord.—*R2412:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord shall judge his people.—Hebrews 10:30

If the Lord's people get into trouble through not being sufficiently watchful, the Lord will give them some experiences which will be good for them, if rightly received. Let us remember the warning words of the Apostle Paul: "If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged of the Lord." (1 Cor. 11:31) This means that when we neglect to judge ourselves, he has to do it for us. Then we are being chastened with a

JULY 4

DAILY MANNA

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?—Isaiah 53:1

The call of the church in the present time is to let the light shine and thus attract persecution, and to endure the persecution for righteousness' sake, and to be rightly exercised by it in patience, brotherly kindness, pity and love—toward the persecutors and toward all men. Let all, then, who see the prize, and who see the light of God's glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord, be faithful to the Father's conditions, calling, service. Let all such give attention to this ministry (service) which we have received, and faint not; be not discouraged, whether men hear or whether they forbear, whether they think ill of us or whether they speak ill of us; let us remember that our report at the end of the trial is to be rendered to the Lord himself, when he is making up his jewels.—*R2415:3,6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth.—Psalm 60:4

We are to tell forth this glorious message. We are to tell it in our actions, in our words, by the printed page, by pictorial presentations to the eye, and in every way that the Lord shall give us the opportunity. ... If we refrain from telling the glad tidings, the result

JULY 5

DAILY MANNA

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth ... and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.—2 Corinthians 10:4,5

Let us remember that the first condition of acceptance with God is loyal obedience to his word, the evidence of love for him and faith in him. Let us remember, also, that the second qualification he will look for in us is love for the brethren, readiness to be, to do and to suffer, to die on behalf of those who are really, truly consecrated children of God, seeking to walk in his ways.—*R2415:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.—Psalm 121:4

Think for a moment of the memory that never fails; of the judgment that never errs; of the wisdom that plans for eternity without the possibility of failure, and that times that plan with unerring precision for the ages to come; of the power and skill which can harness even every opposing element, animate or inanimate, and make them all work together for the accomplishment of his grand designs; of the tireless vigilance that

JULY 6

DAILY MANNA

What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.—Psalm 25:12

It is not for us to supervise the trials and difficulties which may beset us. It is for us to make an unreserved consecration of ourselves to the Lord and then leave to him the decision of how great shall be our trials and besetments—how great our sacrifices in following his leadings. The Lord may see that some need special trials more than others, and those things which to some would be great trials and imply great sacrifices, to others, because of greater love for the Lord and his cause, and greater zeal for service, the sacrifice might be, as the apostle expresses it of his own, light afflictions, which are but for a moment, and which are working out a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.
—R2416:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it.—Ecclesiastes 5:4

Whoever has not seen his need of making resolutions, making vows to the Lord, has not recognized the first principle of Christian development. He who finds from the enemy's attack where his wall is weakest, and who then repairs the weak places as quickly as ascertained, does so by resolution to the Lord—

JULY 7

DAILY MANNA

Behold the Lamb of God!—John 1:36

All of the Lord's servants should call attention to the Lord and not to themselves. Let us each bend our energies to pointing men to the Lamb of God, and not to self-seeking. Modesty is a gem, wherever found, one of the graces of the spirit, which all of the Lord's consecrated ones should seek to have largely developed and well polished. And let us remember that following Jesus, in the best sense, means that we walk in his paths, strive to do as nearly as we are able what he would do today, taking our lessons from what he did and said personally, and from the instructions which he has left for us, through the apostles, respecting the path of fellowship in his sufferings, the path to glory and joint-heirship in his kingdom.—*R2418:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And he [Abraham] removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent ... and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.—Genesis 12:8

It was doubtless to be free from the immoral influences of the Canaanites, and to have his people separated from these, that Abraham removed subsequently to the mountainous country near Bethel. There he established his home; there he reared an altar to the

JULY 8

DAILY MANNA

The church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.—1 Timothy 3:15

The Lord's church, the only one to which the name ecclesia, body or church, is properly applicable, is so insignificant, so unostentatious, and comparatively so poor in this world's riches, that it is not recognized nor recognizable from the worldly standpoint. It is neither man-made nor man-ruled; nor are its members enrolled on earth, but in heaven. (Heb. 12:23) Its head and bishop is the Lord, its law is his word: it has but one Lord, one faith, one baptism; and it is built upon the testimonies of the holy apostles and prophets—Jesus Christ himself being its chief cornerstone. —*R2429:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.—Matthew 20:12

Whoever is begotten of the Spirit, and therefore able to appreciate and run for the prize of the "high calling" of the Gospel Age, may know that he is called by the only call yet issued: and if willingly he shall sacrifice his all, he may be as sure of the prize as any other one running the same race. Such a disposition is an evidence of a timely consecration and acceptance and

JULY 9

DAILY MANNA

When he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.—John 10:4

The voice of the good Shepherd is a blending of various sounds in a manner in which they are blended by no other voice. His voice sounds forth the chord of justice commingled with the chord of love, and the whole intoned with wisdom and with power. Other theories, plans and schemes of men and devils have no such harmony of sound as has the message which the great Shepherd has sent us through his Son. Moreover when the true sheep hear the voice of the good Shepherd, it satisfies their longings as nothing else could do. They will no longer be in danger of being attracted by other sounds, or voices, theories or schemes, but will reply to all,

“Jesus has satisfied; Jesus is mine.”

—R2672:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, until I find out a place for the Lord.—Psalm 132:4,5

As it was in David's heart to build the temple, so naturally the desire comes to the Lord's people in the present time to establish the things of the Lord and his

JULY 10

DAILY MANNA

All bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.—Luke 4:22

This should be true as far as possible with all of the Lord's footstep followers: their speech should be with grace, with moderation, the overflow of hearts full of loving sympathy for the truth and all who love and seek it. Their words should always be well within the limits of reason and righteousness, and strictly in conformity to the word of the Lord. And their manner, their conduct, as living epistles, should harmonize with these so that even their enemies would marvel, and take knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus and learned of him.—R2437:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.—Psalm 4:8

We are invited to cast all our cares upon the Lord, knowing that he careth for us. And we have the encouraging assurance in the midst of present trials that we shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away, if in steadfast sobriety and humility we work out our salvation with fear and trembling, having been first redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, and thus through faith having gained the privilege of working it out. And we are comforted in the midst of trials with

JULY 11

DAILY MANNA

Whosoever is begotten of God sinneth not, ... but keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.—1 John 5:18

So long as the heart (the mind, the will) is holy, in harmony with God and righteousness,—that is to say, so long as the seed of our begetting, the spirit of holiness, continues in us,—the new mind cannot approve of sin, but must and will be its opponent. Even though many of the battles fought are with the members of our fallen and weak human nature, their appetites and desires, we nevertheless, as “new creatures,” are separate and distinct from the flesh, and the weaknesses and imperfections of the flesh are not imputed to the new creature in Christ Jesus, but are reckoned as covered, hidden under the merits of our Lord’s redemptive sacrifice.—*R2440:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places.—Isaiah 45:3

We must come into Christ, as members of his body, the true church, by sacrifice, before we can have the opportunity of even searching for these hidden treasures, or of finding any of them. And then, as we progress faithfully in our sacrificial service as priests, walking in the footsteps of the great High Priest, we

JULY 12

DAILY MANNA

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.—John 8:36

The true disciples heeding the word of the great Teacher, and continuing in all things to be his pupils, are not only set free from superstitions and ignorance, but also from the service of sin; and receive instead a correct appreciation of their own natural weaknesses and blemishes, and of the divine mind—the truth. In consequence, their freedom is one which blesses instead of injuring them; one which brings humility instead of pride and boastfulness; one which brings patience instead of anger; one which brings generosity and benevolence instead of spitefulness and selfishness; one which brings joy and peace instead of discontent and bitterness of spirit. Truly, the Son alone can make us free indeed.—R2440:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.—John 20:31

The only faith that will stand the test and bring us off conquerors over the spirit of the world, the flesh, and the adversary, is the hope set before us in the gospel, of which Jesus as the Messiah is the center. That is the hope of the world—the hope that Christ having re-

JULY 13

DAILY MANNA

Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness.
—2 Corinthians 11:14,15

If it be asked, How could Satan be interested in doing a good work? We answer, the adversary thus assumes the garment of an angel of light and mercy, not to lead to the Light of the world—not to lead to the cross of Christ—not to lead to the Bible—but to lead away from these, to another hope of salvation, and to another teacher, to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect. And be it remembered that our Lord's words indicate that when matters come to this condition, where Satan will cast out Satan and heal disease, it is a marked evidence that his throne is tottering to its fall—that, so to speak, this is the last extremity of the adversary's efforts to deceive.—*R2669:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses.—Matthew 18:35

Forgiveness in your hearts is the condition which is always to obtain there: we should never harbor any other feeling than that of forgiveness and good will toward all, no matter how seriously they may have

JULY 14

DAILY MANNA

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, ... and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.—
Ephesians 4:31

From his high standpoint of appreciation of the divine law, the advanced Christian sees that in the Lord's sight hatred is murder, slander is assassination, and the destruction of a neighbor's good name is robbery and rapine. And any of these things done in the church, among the professed people of God, is doubly evil—the assassination and robbery of a brother. The only exception to this rule, "Speak evil of no man," would come in where we might know of an absolute necessity for making known an evil—where the relating of the evil would be contrary to our heart's wishes, and only mentioned because of necessity—because of love for others who, if not informed, might be injured.—*R2444:6; 2445:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.
—John 16:24

In the cultivation of the spirit of praise, thanksgiving, and loving appreciation of all the manifest goodness of God is the Christian's secret of a happy life. And in order to the cultivation of such a spirit it is necessary that we continually call to mind his acts of mercy and

JULY 15

DAILY MANNA

Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor ... and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.—1 Corinthians 13:3

In our ministrations to others we are not to forget that money is not the only thing of which people are sorely in need—some need love and sympathy who do not need money. Our Lord was one of these: his own heart, full of love, found comparatively little companionship in the more or less sordid minds of even the noblest of the fallen race represented among his apostles. In Mary he seemed to find the depth of love and devotion which was to him an odor of sweet incense, of refreshment, of reinvigoration, a tonic: and Mary apparently appreciated, more than did others, the lengths and breadths of the Master's character. She not only delighted to sit at his feet to learn of him, but also delighted, at great cost, to give him some manifestation of her devotion, her love.—R2448:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins.—Acts 13:38

The apostle does not refer to something that was done by our Lord as the archangel before “he was made flesh,” nor does he refer to any work to be done by him in his new, highly exalted condition, “set down with his

Father in his throne” and partaker of his divine nature; but he here refers to the work done by “the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all.” Thus the apostle again emphasizes the fact that “as by man came death, by man also came the resurrection of the dead.” Yes, this is the center of the gospel proclamation that the failure of the first perfect man was fully offset by the sacrifice of the man Christ Jesus, and that it was to this end that it was needful for our Lord to leave the glory which he had with the Father before the world was, to become poor (in the sense of taking our lower nature—but not its blemishes, for he was “holy, harmless, and separate from sinners”); and yielding up this human nature a ransom- price or corresponding price for the life forfeited by father Adam for himself and his race. This is the basis upon which every offer to grace is presented by the Scriptures. And now, he who was the Father’s agent in the redemptive work is to be the Father’s agent also in the work of “blessing” all the redeemed with ample opportunities for return to divine favor—the first step of which is the forgiveness of sins.—*R2150:1* (Hymn 68)

JULY 16

DAILY MANNA

Be ye filled with the Spirit.—Ephesians 5:18

The measure of our filling will correspond with the measure of our emptying of the spirit of self-will, and filling with the spirit of faith and obedience. And although the obedience cannot do otherwise than manifest itself in the daily life, nevertheless it is the obedience of the intention, of the will, of the heart, that the Lord regards in his consecrated people. Hence some whose hearts are thoroughly loyal to the Lord may be pleasing to him, while not the most pleasing to some of those with whom they come in contact; while others, “highly esteemed among men” because of outward moralities, may be an “abomination” in the sight of God, because of coldness or dishonesty of heart. Nevertheless, he that hath the new hope in him, and the new spirit, will seek to purify himself, not only in his thoughts, but also in his words and deeds and all his affairs, inward and outward.—R2456:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.—Acts 14:22

Our word tribulation is derived from the Latin tribulum, the name of a roller or threshing machine used in

JULY 17

DAILY MANNA

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee.—Isaiah 26:3

This is not worldly peace, not the peace of indifference, not the peace of sloth, not the peace of self-indulgence, not the peace of fatalism; but it is the peace of Christ—"my peace." Looking back we can see that the Master preserved his peace with God under all conditions. It is a peace which implicitly trusts to the divine wisdom, love, justice and power, a peace which remembers the gracious promise made to the Lord's faithful—that nothing shall by any means hurt his faithful, and that all things shall work together for good to them that love God. This peace can accept by faith whatever divine providence permits, and can look through its tears with joyful expectancy for the ultimate blessings which the Master has promised, and of which the present peace and joy are merely foretastes.—R2456:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse ... and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing.—Malachi 3:10

It behooves us, dear friends, to look about us to note to what extent we have been faithful to our covenant of

sacrifice and to remember that it is not a sacrifice for a day or a year, but “even unto death.” A little while and the trials will be over, but until that little while is past we are in the trial time, and it is proving us either worthy or unworthy of the glorious favors which we seek, the chief blessing, joint-heirship. If we appreciate it let us seek it in the Lord’s way, let us see to what extent there are other things in our lives that we might render unto the Lord and which he will accept, not through the worthiness of the deeds or the sacrifices, but through the merit of Christ. Let us see if the days and hours as they pass are spent in a consecrated manner; let us note to what extent moments and days are spent in some selfish manner, or wasted upon others beyond the reasonable requirements of duty as marked out in the divine word. Let us see to what extent we perform our vows unto the Lord; let us take note of what of time or influence or money we are using in the divine service and what proportion this bears to the whole.—*R3685:5* (Hymn 177)

JULY 18

DAILY MANNA

In the last days perilous times shall come. Men shall be traitors, heady, ... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.—2 Timothy 3:1,4

The true Christian is not “heady;” on the contrary, his consecration to the Lord figuratively decapitated him. He lost his head, renounced his own will and self-rule, and submitted himself as a member of the body of Christ, to the absolute control of Jesus, the Head. ... The true Christian, therefore, in every affair of life,—in respect to its pleasures as well as in respect to its burdens and trials,—appeals to his Head for direction, to know how and what to do or say—yea, to have even the very thoughts of his mind in full conformity to the will of God in Christ.—*R2461:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.—Luke 11:28

It is important that we should hear the word of the Lord, that we search the Scriptures, that we have them well at our command, that we be able to give an answer to him that asketh us a reason for the hope that is in us, and we need more than all this. We need to obey the word, to practice it to the extent of our ability. True, we cannot come up to the demands of perfection, for God’s law is perfect, but we can have the

JULY 19

DAILY MANNA

The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?—John 18:11

How the grace of humility shines out in all the little affairs of our dear Redeemer's ministry; even at the moment of his surrender to his enemies he does not boast that his course is a voluntary one, nor seek praise as a martyr! He declares the simple truth that the Father required this of him as an evidence of his personal loyalty to him. He confesses himself a servant of God, a Son who learned obedience by the things which he suffered. No other lesson, perhaps, is more needed by the Lord's followers than the one of willingness to drink the cup which the Father pours—a recognition that the Father is guiding and directing in our affairs because we are his, as members of the body of the Anointed One.—*R2468:6; 2780:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

God ... hath made us able ministers of the New Testament.—2 Corinthians 3:5,6

Our position is that of ambassadors for God, explaining to men his mercy and his provision of the New Covenant, through which all may be blessed and recovered if they will. So many as receive our message with joy and turn from sin to follow our Lord may be invited to become members of the body of Christ, the

JULY 20

DAILY MANNA

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman ... every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.—John 15:1,2

As even the best branches in the vine, which give evidence of fruit-bearing, require pruning, so even the most honest and earnest of the Lord's people require the Lord's discipline and providential care—otherwise they might soon run to woodmaking also, and fail to bring forth much fruit. The true child of God whose will has been entirely immersed into the will of the Lord is neither offended nor discouraged by these prunings. He has learned something at least of his own un wisdom, and has confidence in the wisdom of the great husbandman. Hence when divine providence estops his efforts in some directions, he takes the thwarting of his plans joyfully, assured that the Lord's will and the Lord's way are the best, and intended to work out a blessing.—R2465:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day.—Acts 26:22

In referring to the preservation of his life, the apostle does not give credit to Lysias, the commander of the garrison at Jerusalem, but declares that he obtained help of God, by whom he had been sustained to the

JULY 21

DAILY MANNA

To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. — John 18:37

It was our Lord's faithfulness to the truth that brought upon him the opposition of those who were blinded by the adversary. It was his witness to the truth that cost him his life, and it was the giving of his life in defense of the truth that constituted the redemption price. Similarly all of the Lord's followers are to bear witness to the truth—the truth in respect to God's character and plan. It is such witness to the truth that is to cost all the true followers of Jesus their lives in presenting themselves living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God through Christ Jesus. Let each one who hopes to be a joint-heir with the Prince of Life in the kingdom witness to the truth—a good confession respecting the kingdom, its foundation and ultimate superstructure in glory.—R2471:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.—John 15:4

Our Lord gives us an intimation that the growing of much fruit is not wholly dependent upon ourselves, and that even while we abide in him as fruitbearing

JULY 22

DAILY MANNA

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.—Psalm 34:18,19

A just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again.
—Proverbs 24:16

If at any time we find we have taken a wrong course which is irretrievable, we may expect it to bring the disappointments as the Lord has foretold: but he may permit it to bring, as well, some blessings in the way of contrition of heart, and humility toward the Lord, and greater zeal, watchfulness and faithfulness for the future. Thus even some of the blunders of life may become stepping-stones to higher planes of grace and truth.—R3223:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Faith without works is dead.—James 2:20

Self-examination along this line is very proper. If we have heard, seen, tasted, of the grace of God and enjoyed it, and if no desire to serve our gracious Father or to assist others to the same blessings that we enjoy has been manifested, it implies that our spiritual vitality is very weak and in danger of perishing. But if, on the contrary, we find ourselves burning with fer-

JULY 23

DAILY MANNA

If any provide not for his own, ... he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.—1 Timothy 5:8

“The faith” includes thoughts of love, sympathy, interest and care for others, especially for them of the household of faith. How it gives us an insight into our Lord’s sympathetic nature, to find him thinking in the interest of others at the very time when he himself was overwhelmed in trouble! His own agony did not hinder him from thinking of his mother, and making provision for her comfort. ... We note the choice of John: it was doubtless because, first of all, of his loving, tender disposition; secondly, his zeal for the Lord and the truth; and thirdly, his courage in pressing near to be with his dying Master in his closing hours, at the risk of his own life. Let us note these characteristics, as being those which the Lord approves, that noting them we may cultivate them in ourselves, and thus be granted special opportunities for service by this same Master.—R2474:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.—Nahum 1:7

While appreciating very gratefully this special love and care for us as his people, in the comfort, encour-

JULY 24

DAILY MANNA

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.—James 5:16

Communion with the Lord in prayer brings increased confidence in the Lord's supervision of our affairs; increased faith in all the exceeding great and precious promises of his word; increased realization of his leadings, past and present; increased love for all the brethren of Christ, and increased solicitude for their welfare and spiritual progress. Prayer is thus closely and actively identified with progress in spiritual things, progress in the fruits of the spirit, toward God, the brethren, and all men.—R2692:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.—Acts 4:33

Our text tells us that this witnessing was done with power, great power. It was not made secondary to politics, to social questions, to evolutionary theories or higher critical dissertations. It, and it alone, constituted the apostolic theme. And so it should be with us. The resurrection of the Lord and its value and significance to the church and the world through the divine plan should be ever prominent in our witnessing. Not only by their words and logical presentations did the

JULY 25

DAILY MANNA

There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?—James 4:12

It is in harmony with this thought that the Apostle Paul declares in one place that neither the world nor the brethren were capable of judging him—that only the Lord, who could read the heart and know all the conditions and testings and weaknesses to be striven against, could properly judge. He even declares, “Yea, I judge not mine own self.” (1 Cor. 4:3) It is an excellent plan neither to condemn others who claim to be walking conscientiously as children of the Lord, nor even to condemn ourselves under similar circumstances. We should simply press along day by day, doing the best we can to cultivate the heavenly graces and to serve our Master, leaving all the results with the Lord.—*R2480:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.—1 Peter 2:21

Our text is especially appropriate and should always be remembered, not only in severe persecutions but also in the lesser ones, when our names are cast out as evil, when men “shall separate you from their com-

JULY 26

DAILY MANNA

To him that overcometh will I give ... a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.—Revelation 2:17

The overcomers must all be proven to be such as would sacrifice every other thing for the Lord; such as would sacrifice the love and fellowship and approval, if necessary, of every other being, in order to retain the love and favor of the Lord. We believe that this test is coming daily closer and closer to the Lord's consecrated people, and it behooves every one of us to remember that this is one of the elements of our trial, and to set our affections on the heavenly things accordingly, and to mortify or deaden all such affections toward earthly beings and things as would bring these into competition with our Lord in our affections, service, etc.—*R2480:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

They ... went everywhere preaching the word.—Acts 8:4

Some dear Christian people make the mistake of preaching on sociology, the beauties of nature, the things of the world. Others continually dabble with errors and errorists. Such things may have their time and place in connection with the message; but all who would serve the Lord should remember that we are commissioned

JULY 27

DAILY MANNA

We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.—Daniel 6:5

All are not leading spirits, as was Daniel, nor are all given to visions and revelations and interpretations, as was he; but all will have the same spirit of devotion to principles of righteousness, which devotion will be tested under divine providence, step by step, through the narrow way, as they seek to walk in the footsteps of him who set us an example—our Daniel, our Leader, our Lord Jesus. Let all, then, who have named the name of Christ depart from iniquity; let all such be faithful: “Dare to be a Daniel.”—R2494:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.—Psalm 96:2,3

All who are of the truth hear the truth, and love to bear witness to the truth. Yet in our case, as in the Master’s case, the world knoweth us not. It knows us not because it knew him not. The world, especially the religious world of Christendom, is disposed to crucify us as it crucified him, only we are living in a more civilized time, and the scribes, the Pharisees, and the doc-

JULY 28

DAILY MANNA

If ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye.
—1 Peter 3:14

It is only when we are hated because of our loyalty to the truth (directly or indirectly) that we are to take satisfaction therein, or to think that we are suffering for righteousness' sake. As the apostle points out, some suffer as evildoers and as busybodies in other men's matters, or because of ungentleness, uncouthness, or lack of the wisdom of moderation, which the Lord's word counsels. It is our duty not only to study the Lord's will, but also to consider well the circumstances and the conditions which surround us, and to seek to adopt such a moderate course in life as would first of all have divine approval, and secondly, cause as little trouble, inconvenience and displeasure to others as possible, and then to confidently rely upon the Lord's supervising wisdom and providence.—*R2493:3,6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.—John 6:63

Our text shows that however dark and parabolic were our Lord's teachings, nevertheless, rightly understood, his message is one that is spiritually helpful and life-giving to those who can and do understand it.

JULY 29

DAILY MANNA

Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.—Daniel 3:17

The Lord's providences vary, and it is not for his people to decide when shall come remarkable deliverances, and when they shall apparently be left entirely to the will of their enemies without any manifestation of divine favor on their behalf. Sometimes, the Lord's people who are bound, restrained of liberty to proclaim the truth, find, as did the three Hebrews, that the fire burns the cords and sets them free, and really gives them larger opportunities to testify to the glory of our God than they could have had by any other course. It is not, therefore, for us to predetermine what shall be the divine providence in respect to ourselves; we are to note the point of right and duty and to follow it regardless of consequences, trusting implicitly to the Lord.—*R2496:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Continuing instant in prayer.—Romans 12:12

Prayer, communion with God, is indispensably necessary to our spiritual welfare; and the appreciation of the privilege of communion with the Most High and with our Redeemer, or the lack of such appreciation, as the case may be, indicates tolerably clearly our fervency or our coldness with reference to the things of

JULY 30

DAILY MANNA

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines.
—Canticles 2:15

Many deal slackly with themselves in respect to little violations of their consecration vow, saying: “What’s the use of such carefulness and so different a life from that of the world in general?” Ah! there is great use in it, for victories in little things prepare for greater things and make them possible: and on the contrary, surrender to the will of the flesh in the little things means sure defeat in the warfare as a whole. We who have become “new creatures,” reckonedly, in Christ, know that we are to be tested (if our testings have not already commenced), and should realize that only as we practice self-denials in the little things of life, and mortify (deaden) the natural cravings of our flesh in respect to food, clothing, conduct, etc., will we become strong spiritually and be able to “overcome.”—*R2496:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Who is a God like unto thee, that ... retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy.—
Micah 7:18

The heathen gods are all vengeful. The God of the Bible alone lays claim to being a God of love “whose mercy endureth forever,” as one of the Psalms repeats

JULY 31

DAILY MANNA

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire.

—1 Corinthians 3:13

The apostle speaks of this time of fiery trial, and, likening the faith and works of a zealous Christian to a house built of gold, silver and precious stones, he declares that the fire of this day, in the end of this age, shall try every man's work of what sort it is, and shall consume all but genuine faith and character structures. But we are to remember that such loyal characters grow not suddenly, in a few hours or days—mushroom like,—but are progressive development, fine-grained and strong like the olive tree.—R2496:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.—Psalm 145:10-12

The prophet intimates that all the saints shall have the privilege of thus declaring the kingdom, and of thus honoring the name of our God; and this seems to be literally fulfilled today, for the Lord seems to be bringing to the attention of all his saints (his consecrated people everywhere) the present truth; to the intent that they may have its light upon their pathway, making manifest

unto them the glorious character of our God, through a knowledge of his great plan of the ages. Moreover, the Lord seems to be putting it within the power of every one of his saints to thus glorify his name and to speak forth the truth to others. To some he has granted the talent of oratory and opportunity to use it and to speak forth his praises in this way; to others he has granted a talent for private conversation, that they may thus tell of his kingdom and speak of his glorious majesty and make known his plans to such as have hearing ears. To others still he has given the privilege of declaring his message through the circulation of the printed page; and to some he seems to have given opportunities for using all of these various methods of singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. And we may rest assured that none can be of the company of the Lord's saints in this time, and know of his goodness and his wonderful honor and majesty, and not have a desire to tell the good tidings of great joy to all who have an ear to hear; and those who are most earnest, most zealous in proclaiming the message are sure to have the most blessing in their own hearts, and in their own experiences, and to grow the most in grace, in knowledge, and in love.—*R2714:6* (Hymn 118)

AUGUST 1

DAILY MANNA

Death and life are in the power of the tongue.—
Proverbs 18:21

The tongue's influence exceeds that of all our other members combined: and to control it, therefore, in the Lord's service, is the most important work of the Lord's people in respect to their mortal bodies and the service of these rendered to the Lord. A few words of love, kindness, helpfulness,—how often have such changed the entire course of a human life!—yea, how much they have had to do with molding the destiny of nations! And how often have evil words, unkind words, slanderous words, done gross injustice, assassinated reputations, etc.! or, as the apostle declares, “set on fire the course of nature”—awakening passions, strifes, enmities, at first unthought of. No wonder he declares such tongues “set on fire of Gehenna”—the second death!—*R2447:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If any man serve me, let him follow me.—John 12:26

It is time for the establishment of the true kingdom—it is just at hand. It is time for the gathering of the elect out of every quarter, every district of this figurative Babylon in which the Lord's people are captives to these devices of Satan; it is time for a reassertion of the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free; it is time that the Lord's

people should recognize him as their only King and Director; it is time for them to hear the words, “Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of.” (Isa. 2:22) It is time for the Lord’s people to realize that the Lord is entirely competent to conduct his own work in the way most pleasing to himself, and most advantageous to those who are truly his; it is time for them to look to the Lord to see what agents, what channels of truth, what ministries of service in spiritual Israel he has provided or is providing. When we come to realize the situation, we find that all this matter of recognizing popes, cardinals, bishops, doctors of divinity, etc., is contrary to the divine arrangement—in direct antagonism to the same; but that, nevertheless, it has not hindered and will not be permitted to hinder, the accomplishment of the Lord’s work and the gathering of the true Israelites, the elect, the precious, the Lord’s jewels, out of nominal Israel. This work of the Lord is going gradually on, regardless of what the people in general may do.—*R3217:3* (Hymn 312)

AUGUST 2

DAILY MANNA

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.—Psalm 95:6

Our judgment is that it is impossible for any Christian to maintain a proper, consistent walk in life, and to build up such a character and faith structure as are represented by the apostle as composed of “gold, silver and precious stones,” without prayer; more than this, without regularity in prayer—we would almost be inclined to say, without kneeling in prayer: and we believe that the experiences and testimonies of the truest and best of the Lord’s people who have ever lived will corroborate this.—*R2501:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.—Psalm 42:11

Do any of the faithful in tribulation for Christ’s sake yet lack the peace? It is because you lack faith to lay hold of the promises—the exceeding great and precious promises made to those who take up their cross and follow in his footsteps—suffering with him. But if you have peace without the suffering, while all men speak well of you, beware! That

AUGUST 3

DAILY MANNA

Separate yourselves from the people of the land.—
Ezra 10:11

Someone has well said: “The Christian in the world is like a ship in the ocean. The ship is safe in the ocean so long as the ocean is not in the ship.” One of the great difficulties with Christianity today is that it has admitted the strangers, the “people of the land,” and recognized them as Christians. It does injury, not only to the Christians, by lowering their standards (for the average will be considered the standard), but it also injures the “strangers,” by causing many of them to believe themselves thoroughly safe and needing no conversion, because they are outwardly respectable, and perhaps frequently attendants at public worship.
—R2512:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.—Jeremiah 31:3

The whole world is seeking for happiness. The few who have truly found Jesus, and who have made a full consecration of their hearts to him, and to whom he has given the water of life—these few have found the happiness which the world is seeking in other

AUGUST 4

DAILY MANNA

The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves.—2 Timothy 2:24,25

Some of the Lord's dear people have greatly injured their influence in the truth by display of too large a degree of self-confidence, self-assurance, in speaking of the divine plan to others—especially to the learned. Meekness is a jewel wherever found, and is especially desirable as an adjunct and sling for the truth. Let the truth be shot forth with all the force it can carry, but always with meekness and humility; and the question form of suggesting truth will often be found the most forceful.—R2559:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.—Ephesians 1:22

Dearly beloved, the time is short, the great prize we seek is near, the "mark" or standard of character to be attained is plainly set before us, and the Scriptures are luminous with illustrations of the necessity for complete consecration to the Lord, showing us that it means deadness to self. Shall we not each see to it that by the grace of God every other head and authority is

AUGUST 5

DAILY MANNA

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.—Romans 8:28

Remembering this, all the Lord's people should be content with the lot which providence seems to mark out for them—not indolent, but content, when they have done all that their hands find to do—not restless, peevish, dissatisfied, complainers against God and his providence. It may be that the Lord is fitting and preparing us individually for some special service, and that the permitted experiences alone will prepare us for that service. We are to remember also that we are incompetent to judge of our own imperfections, and hence incompetent to judge of the experiences which would be most helpful to us.—R2562:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful.—1 Timothy 1:12

Ah, yes, what a blessed satisfaction it is to us to know that while the Lord knows of our every word and every deed he is pleased to count us something different, even from our words and our deeds—something better! Our words do not always represent the full sentiments of our hearts; our conduct does not come up to the standard: after the words have been spoken and

AUGUST 6

DAILY MANNA

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.—James 4:7

If we are positive in our rejection of temptation it increases our strength of character, not only for that time, but also for subsequent temptations; and it disconcerts to some extent our adversary, who, noting our positiveness, knows well that it is useless to discuss the matter with persons of strong convictions and positive characters; whereas if the question were parleyed over, the result would surely be an advancing of further reasons and arguments on the adversary's part, and a danger on our part that we would be over-matched in argument, for, as the apostle declares, the devil is a wily adversary, and "we are not ignorant of his devices." Prompt and positive obedience to the word and spirit of the Lord is the only safe course for any of the brethren.—R2567:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.—Proverbs 14:12

This text is worthy of being committed to memory by all. Its lesson is that we are not competent to guide and direct our own affairs; that we need divine counsel. Human judgment would be unreliable even if supported by absolute knowledge; but in view of our defi-

AUGUST 7

DAILY MANNA

If a man contend in the games, he is not crowned unless he strive lawfully.—2 Timothy 2:5, Diaglott

Jesus observed God's times and seasons and methods. He never recklessly exposed his life until from the prophets he recognized that his hour had come to be delivered into the hands of his enemies. He did not make long prayers on the street corners to be heard of men, nor exhort the multitude with noisy harangue; as the prophet indicated, he did not lift up his voice nor cry aloud in the streets. (Isa. 42:2) He chose God's methods, which are rational and wise, and which are effective in selecting from among men the class which he desires to be heirs of the promised kingdom. Let those who would so run as to obtain the prize, mark these footprints of the Master, and be filled more and more with his spirit.—*R3070:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye are the light of the world.—Matthew 5:14

In order to have the Holy Spirit in large measure, we must keep near to the Lord, for if we get away from him, the light will go out. If we neglect the privilege of prayer or of study of the Scriptures or of fellowship with the Lord through failure to think of him, the illumination of the Spirit will grow dim. On the other hand, it will become brighter in proportion to our real-

AUGUST 8

DAILY MANNA

Into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.—Luke 10:5,6

Each laborer in the present harvest should note well the Lord's instruction in these verses. Wherever the Lord's representatives go peace should go, not strife, confusion, turmoil, quarreling. True, the truth will prove to be a sword that will arouse opposition, yet it should be the truth that causes the opposition and division and not any rudeness or unkindness of word or action on the part of the Lord's representatives. There are plenty of things to aggravate mankind in this our busy day, and all who have received the Truth should receive also its spirit "speaking peace through Jesus Christ."—R3347:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.—1 John 5:1

He who loveth the Father must love the Son also, who is the Father's express image and who has manifested to us in his own flesh the glorious character of the Father. As the Son loved the Father, prayed to the Father, and felt that he must be about the Father's business, and finally died in the accomplishment of

AUGUST 9

DAILY MANNA

If the light that is in thee be [come] darkness, how great is that darkness!—Matthew 6:23

The “harvest” is a time for winnowing the “wheat”—a sifting, a separating time, and it is for each of us to prove our characters: “Having done all, stand!” The tests of this “harvest” must be like those of the Jewish or typical “harvest.” One of them is the cross, another is the presence of Christ, another is humility, another is love. The Jews were reprovèd because they “knew not the time of their visitation.” The matter is doubly distressing for those who have once seen the light of present truth, and afterward go into the “outer darkness.” It implies unfaithfulness.—*R3437:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Remember Lot's wife.—Luke 17:32

We believe there are some now who need to have their attention called to the antitype of this typical incident referred to by our Lord. Quite a number are disposed to sympathize and fraternize with those who have come under divine condemnation. We are told by St. Jude that the destruction of Sodom was “set forth as an example” or type. Those who assume to be more gracious or long-suffering than the Lord, make of themselves opponents, who instead of being students of the principles of righteousness, attempt to be

AUGUST 10

DAILY MANNA

If there be any consolation [comfort] in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.—Philippians 2:1,2

What exhortations these are to unity, peace, brotherly kindness! How they suggest to us patience, forbearance, gentleness, helpfulness and comfort one toward another in the church; that thus the spirit of the Lord may abound in all, that each may make the greatest possible progress in the right way. Dear brethren and sisters, let us more and more be worthy of the name of Barnabas—Comforter of the brethren. Let us have the Holy Spirit abounding in us more and more, for this is the Lord's good pleasure; that with it dwelling in us richly we may be all sons and daughters of comfort in Zion, representatives of our Father, and channels of the Holy Spirit, as well as of the truth.—R3436:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.—1 Thessalonians 5:4

Our present attitude, dear brethren, should be one of great gratitude toward God, increasing appreciation of the beautiful truth which he has granted us the privilege of seeing and being identified with, and increas-

AUGUST 11

DAILY MANNA

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—Revelation 2:10

We are to anticipate a second attack upon the true church (not upon the nominal system), and this may mean, as in the case of John the Baptist, a second and a seemingly complete victory of the Babylonish woman and her paramour, the world, over the faithful members of the body of Christ in the flesh. We shall certainly not be surprised if the matter so result; but this and all things must work together for good to those who love the Lord. We must all die to win our heavenly prize beyond the veil. The Elijah class this side of the veil must and will be vanquished, but the apparent defeat only hastens the kingdom glories.—R3326:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.—Psalm 89:15

Our Lord in symbol pointed out to us the fact that the message of his grace in the closing days of this Gospel Age would be so different from the commonly accepted message, misnamed the gospel, that it would properly be termed a new song, although it would be the old song of Moses—the message of blessing typified by the writing of Moses and by all the ceremonies

AUGUST 12

DAILY MANNA

Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. ... Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.—Psalm 19:12-14

It would appear that every intelligent Christian would continually pray this inspired prayer, for cleansing from secret faults, that he might thus be restrained from presumptuous sins: and thus praying heartily, he would also watch against these beginnings of sin and keep his heart in a cleansed and pure condition, by going continually to the fountain of grace for help in every time of need. He who seeks to live a life of holiness and nearness to the Lord by merely guarding against outward or presumptuous sins, and who neglects the beginnings of sin in the secrets of his own mind, is attempting a right thing in a very foolish and unreasonable way.—R2249:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.—Romans 5:1

This scripture would not apply to any who have not come to the point of consecration and acceptance and who are merely approaching through the court. These

AUGUST 13

DAILY MANNA

We are ambassadors for Christ.—2 Corinthians 5:20

If we as Christians could keep this thought always prominent before our minds what a dignity it would add to our character! what a transforming power it would be! what an assistance to the new nature in its battle with the low and groveling tendencies of the old nature now disowned by us and reckoned dead! “Our citizenship is in heaven,” says the apostle. While still living in the world we are not of it, but have transferred our allegiance and citizenship to the heavenly kingdom. . . . And now, as appointees of our kingdom, while still living in the world amongst aliens and strangers, we as representatives and ambassadors should feel both the dignity and the honor of the position and the weighty responsibilities, and ever keep in memory the apostle’s words, “Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”—*R3330:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Lord, Increase our faith.—Luke 17:5

If we believe that we are in the harvest time of this age, and that the harvest work is in progress, and we participators in it, let us believe also that the great Chief Reaper is thoroughly able to use us as well as bless us in his service; and let none look at clouds

AUGUST 14

DAILY MANNA

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?—Matthew 10:25

However graciously stated, the truth is a sword which penetrates in every direction, and which as our Lord foretold, frequently sets parents against children and children against parents, because the darkness hateth the light and opposeth it in every possible manner. In view of the Lord's teachings regarding this subject, and of how the wisest presentation of it may be ultimately misconstrued, it behooves every one who would serve the truth faithfully to be as careful as possible not to be misunderstood;—to let it be clearly understood that we neither participate in nor advocate anarchy of any kind; but on the contrary, are standing for righteousness and the highest of laws, the divine law.—*R3131:3,5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.—Matthew 4:11

Our Lord's utter refusal of every other way of carrying out his mission than the one which the Father had marked out, the way of self-sacrifice, the narrow way, was indeed a great victory. The adversary left him,

AUGUST 15

DAILY MANNA

Now we exhort you, brethren ... be patient toward all.—1 Thessalonians 5:14

This seems to imply that the better balanced amongst the Lord's people should look with sympathy upon and exercise patient forbearance not only toward the weak and those who lack courage, but toward all; including those who have too much courage and self-push. ... Growth in knowledge helps us to grow in this grace of patience, for as we appreciate more and more the heavenly Father's patience with us it helps us to apply the same principle toward others. ... The thought that our heavenly Father has favored and called any one should make us extremely careful how we would cooperate with the Lord in respect to the call, and be as helpful as possible to all those who are seeking to walk with us in the footsteps of our Lord in the narrow way.—R3136:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.—John 4:23

Worship in spirit and in truth does not apply simply to prayer, praise, supplication, and thanksgiving. It goes deeper than all these and takes hold upon the affections, upon the heart, and hence signifies not an

“act of worship” but rather a life of worship—a life in which, through the begetting of the Spirit and the knowledge of the divine plan, the individual becomes so at one with God and so in unison with the law of God and all the features of the plan of God that it is, in the words of our Lord, his meat and his drink to do the Father’s will. This is worship in spirit and in truth. It will find its expression in bended knee and in orderly and reverential demeanor in approach to God in personal prayer, in family prayer and in company with the household of faith, and it will find its expression also in all the acts and words of life. The captivated heart will seek to bring every talent of the body into complete subjection to the will of God and of Christ. The whole of this is the worship which God seeketh; and, surely, only those who are thus captivated to the Lord in heart, and who serve him in spirit and in truth and endeavor to have his will done in their hearts, words, and conduct are in the full sense the true worshipers whom the Lord seeketh; the “little flock,” the faithful “royal priesthood.”—*R2071:6* (Hymn 202)

AUGUST 16

DAILY MANNA

In everything give thanks.—1 Thessalonians 5:18

Having the condition of heart which is in fellowship with the Lord and fully devoted to the doing of his will, the Lord's people not only implore his blessing at the beginning of each day, and present their thanks at the close of each day, but in all of life's affairs they seek to remember that they have consecrated their all to the Lord, and by faith look up to him in all the affairs of life;—and in proportion to the importance of their undertakings they, by faith, realize the association of God's providence with all the interests of life and give thanks accordingly. This is the will of God concerning us;—he wills that we live in such an attitude of constant regard for his will and for his blessing;—and he wills it in respect to us because it will be the condition most favorable to our progress in the narrow way, and which will best assist us in making our calling and election sure.—*R3136:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.—Psalm 122:6

These words are as true of the Jerusalem the higher and her children of peace as of the earthly Jerusalem. Those who are praying the Lord's blessing upon his cause are seeking to serve it and are proportionately blessed. Those who are indifferent to the welfare of

AUGUST 17

DAILY MANNA

Quench not the Spirit.—1 Thessalonians 5:19

The spirit of the Lord amongst his people is compared to “a flame of sacred love” for the Lord and all connected with his cause: this flame is enkindled through the divine message in each one individually, when begotten of the Holy Spirit, and appertains, therefore, to the church collectively, under the guidance of that Spirit. In proportion as the church grows in knowledge and in love and in fellowship with the Lord this “flame of sacred love” will make it a light in the world,—a city set on a hill, which cannot be hid.—*R3137:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.—1 John 3:18

This is a personal matter. Each one of us is under this testing. If not yet, sooner or later, undoubtedly, this willingness to sacrifice in the interests of the brethren will prove each one of us either loyal, faithful to our covenant, or contrariwise—unfaithful. Let us make this matter of love for the brethren and laying down our lives for the brethren a matter of personal study and of practical application to our own hearts, minds, thoughts,

AUGUST 18

DAILY MANNA

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.—1 Thessalonians 5:21

However much they should ever come to respect prophesying, or public speaking, the Lord's people should learn proportionately not to receive what they might hear without proper examination and criticism: they should prove all things that they hear, should exercise discrimination of mind, as to what is logically and scripturally supported, and what is mere conjecture and possible sophistry. They should prove what they hear with a view to holding fast everything that stands the test of the divine word, and shows itself to be in accordance with the Holy Spirit; and they should as promptly reject whatever will not stand these tests.—*R3137:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.—2 Peter 3:17

All who seek to teach the divine plan to others are exposed to peculiar temptations, so that the honor of serving the Lord and his people demands a correspondingly larger measure of the graces of the Holy Spirit, as well as of knowledge. The tendency of

AUGUST 19

DAILY MANNA

Abstain from every form of evil.—1 Thessalonians 5:22, Revised Version

The exhortation is that everything that is evil, whether it have a good form or a bad form, is to be resisted and opposed. . . . To abstain from every appearance of evil is another thought—a different one from what the apostle's words in the original would warrant; nevertheless, they represent a sound principle. We surely should abstain not only from evil things, whatever their form or garb, but we should abstain so far as possible from doing things that we know to be good, which our friends or neighbors might misunderstand and consider to be evil things. The spirit of a sound mind dictates that not only evil in its every form, but everything that has an evil appearance even, should be avoided—that our influence for the Lord and the truth may be the greater.—*R3137:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you.—Haggai 2:4

All who have confidence in the Lord may rely upon his assurance that he has all things needful for the accomplishment of his purposes. "The Lord knoweth them that are his." Therefore, in the language of the text, let us all be strong and work, for God is with us;

AUGUST 20

DAILY MANNA

Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.—Acts 17:23

The apostle's method is worthy of imitation. All wise people distrust novelty, and incline to say that whatever is valuable has long been. We, like the apostle, should endeavor to show that the true gospel is not a new theology, but the old theology; not a new gospel, but the old gospel,—the one foretold to Abraham; the one declared by the Lord Jesus himself and by all his apostles. In proportion as we would show that errors prevail today, which had their origin in the Dark Ages, we must show that we are not forging a new theory equally erroneous, but that we have discarded the errors of the Dark Ages, and have gone back to the first principles and precepts and instructions of the gospel, as announced by the Lord and his authorized representatives, the apostles.—R3139:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.—Isaiah 61:1

The anointed ones are not to spend their time endeavoring to break the hard hearts of the worldly, for this is not a part of their commission. ... The message is to "bind up the brokenhearted." How much there is of this very kind of work that needs doing! The poor in

AUGUST 21

DAILY MANNA

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.—Matthew 6:33

The Lord's people of spiritual Israel will do well to bear this thought continually in mind—that spiritual interests are to be given the preference always; that temporal affairs are to be managed and controlled from the standpoint of the everlasting welfare;—from the standpoint of spiritual growth and development and prosperity;—from the standpoint of the best interests and influences upon their children. They should not only hesitate to follow any suggestion that would take themselves and their families into unfavorable, godless surroundings, but they should determine that not under any consideration would they follow such a suggestion;—that on the contrary the Lord's people should be their people, even though this meant less of the comforts and luxuries of this present life.—*R3110:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen [nations], I will be exalted in the earth.—Psalm 46:10

This command, "Be still," corresponds to the still small voice which Elijah heard—to what we as the antitypical Elijah are now hearing from the word of

AUGUST 22

DAILY MANNA

Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?—Luke 2:49

Should we not all have the Master's spirit, expressed by his words? The Lord's true saints have no business of their own, for they gave their all to the Lord at consecration. Their business they manage as trustees for the Lord—not to be turned over at their death, in prosperous condition, to their children or their friends, possibly to their injury. It is to be used by the trustee as wisely as he knows how before death; for then his trusteeship ends, and he must render his account.—*R3148:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Grow up into ... Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.—Ephesians 4:15,16

The apostle's thought seems to be that while each new creature may be considered as a complete member of Christ, and have all the parts of his own character thoroughly lubricated with the spirit of love, in addition to this all the new creatures are to recognize themselves as members one of another, and of the body of

AUGUST 23

DAILY MANNA

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.—1 Corinthians 13:13

As love is the most excellent thing, so is it the most enduring, ... for will not faith practically come to an end when we shall see and know thoroughly? And will not hope practically be at an end when we shall reach the fruition of all our hopes and be possessors of the fullness of our heavenly Father's promises? Love, however, will never fail, even as it had no beginning. God is love, and since he was without beginning, so love was without beginning; because it is his character, his disposition; and as he endureth forever, so love will endure forever.—*R3151:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.—Galatians 5:25

The apostle explains that those who have become Christ's followers have crucified the flesh with the passions and desires thereof. They have voluntarily agreed that they will live contrary to the emotions and desires of the fallen flesh. He urges, If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk! It is the Spirit of God which has quickened us and which ultimately is to perfect us. But it can perfect us only if we are led by it and walk in its ways. Otherwise we will not be fit

AUGUST 24

DAILY MANNA

Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.—John 17:11

As we come to consider this beautiful expression of the Lord's sentiments with reference to the church, we catch a glimpse of the glory of the blessed oneness of the divine family. It is a oneness of purpose, a oneness of confidence, a oneness of sympathy, a oneness of love, a oneness of honor, and a oneness of mutual possession. This oneness our Lord described as already existing between himself and the Father, but so far as his disciples are concerned it was and still is prospective; and its full accomplishment is the ideal goal toward which we are taught to aspire.—R3160:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favor is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.—Psalm 30:5

In view of this knowledge of the wonderful day about to dawn, how shall we who are hoping to be of the kingdom class of that day deport ourselves now? How shall we live? Ah! says the apostle, if we are "children of the day," we are to show it. We are God's representatives and ambassadors. We are to tell the people about the light and knowledge and glory of God that is

AUGUST 25

DAILY MANNA

We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.—1 John 3:2

Let the hope that we shall soon experience our resurrection change, and be made like our dear Redeemer, and see him as he is, and share his glory in the great *epiphania*, or shining forth of the sons of God in the glory of the kingdom, enthuse us—let this energize our hearts, loose our lips, and strengthen us for every duty, privilege and opportunity—to serve our Master and the household of faith. If this hope has been an anchor to the Lord's people for so many centuries, how much more does it mean to us who are living now in the very time of his presence waiting for his *apokalupsis*—his revealing in the glory of the kingdom!—*R3193:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.—Psalm 92:1

There are millions of people in the world who have never heard of God's wonderful plan; therefore our mouths should be used in praising God. We should be continually remembering the Lord in all of our moments of rest, whether upon a bed, or wherever it may be. The great and holy laws of God find expres-

AUGUST 26

DAILY MANNA

Love ... is kind.—1 Corinthians 13:4

It is no more obligatory upon the Lord's people to denounce every wrongdoer whom they may meet in the street than it is for them to tell all homely persons they may see of their lack along the lines of beauty. ... Politeness is always a part of Christian character. In the world it may be a polish, but in the Christian it is not merely a veneer, but represents the true sentiments of the heart, developed along the lines of the spirit of life—love. Love leads to gentleness, patience, kindness, etc., and even in the case of disobedience it will hesitate to utter an unkind word, and will avoid the same so far as duty will permit.—*R3194:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

In the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.—Ephesians 2:7

All this abundance of grace and glory is the possible inheritance of even the weakest saint who, trusting not to his own ability to make his calling and election sure, humbly looks to God for strength from day to day to endure hardness as a good soldier. If any man attempts to do this in his own strength he must surely fail, for the fiery trial that is to try everyone will prove too much for the mind of the flesh; but God who

AUGUST 27

DAILY MANNA

Henceforth know we no man after the flesh.—2 Corinthians 5:16

The apostle did not mean that we should pay no attention to the shortcomings of the flesh, either in ourselves or in other members of the body. All fleshly weaknesses should be striven against, and they may frequently demand rigorous treatment in the interest of the new creature; but nevertheless, we are to distinctly differentiate between the new creature and his weak mortal body, and are to love and sympathize with the brother, while it may be necessary for us, in his interest, and also in the interest of the church, to reprove or rebuke or otherwise correct his wrong course. The apostle's definition as to how we are to know the two classes apart is that the unregenerate will mind the things of the flesh, while the regenerate will mind the things of the spirit.—R3202:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee.—Mark 5:19

Oh, that we all might be diligent to be thus faithful stewards of the grace of God, and faithful representatives of our great Redeemer—not only witnessing with our lips, but in all the departments of life testifying that we are now sane, that we have now the spirit

AUGUST 28

DAILY MANNA

Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season.—2 Timothy 4:2

This cannot mean that we are to violate the laws of reason and decency by intruding the good tidings upon others at times inconvenient and unseasonable to them; but it does mean that we are to have such a love for the truth, such an earnest desire to serve it, that we will gladly accept the opportunity to do so, however inconvenient it may be for ourselves. It is the chief business of our lives, to which life itself even is subservient, and hence, no opportunity for service must be laid aside.—*R3211:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee.—2 Chronicles 14:11

Let the world fight its fight: the Lord will supervise and the results will be glorious eventually. Let us who belong to the new nation, to the new kingdom that is not of this world, who use no carnal weapons, but the sword of the spirit—let us fight the good fight of faith, lay hold upon the glorious things set before us, and not only stand ourselves, but help all those begotten of the same Spirit and members of the same heavenly army corps to stand, complete in him who is the Head of the body, the Captain of our salvation.

AUGUST 29

DAILY MANNA

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss.—
James 4:3

Let us learn to pray aright, as well as to labor and to hope aright; and in order to do so let us be swift to hear, slow to speak, swift to hearken to the word of the Lord and to the lesson which he has already given us, and to his method of instructing us and guiding us and blessing us. Let us be slow to tell him what our preferences are; indeed let us seek to attain that development of Christian character which will permit us always not to seek our own wills, but the will and the way of our Father in heaven.—R3217:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.—Colossians 3:23

The Lord leaves his people free from restraints; free from threats; free from compulsion; to the intent that they may present their bodies living sacrifices day by day. Now, as then, whoever grows cold may discontinue his sacrificing, but himself will be the loser. We want to keep distinctly before our minds that while God condemns sin, and while his people have no liberty in this respect, but are obligated to do their best to withstand sin, it is different in the matter of sacrifice. The Lord is calling for freewill offerings, and what-

AUGUST 30

DAILY MANNA

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.—Matthew 5:16

Not only shall it be true that the Lord's Anointed One shall be head and shoulders above all others, "the chiefest among ten thousand, the one altogether lovely," but it should also be true to a considerable extent that all those who are intimately associated with the members of the body of Christ in the present life—before he is proclaimed King of the whole world—should be able to recognize the largeness and grandeur of character in those whom the Lord is choosing for this place of honor in the affairs of men. They should be able to take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus, should see their largeness of heart, their moral heights—should discern in them the spirit of a sound mind.—*R3218:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.—Psalm 37:3

As we think of the Lord's goodness promised to the world in general in his own due time, in the sweet by and by, and as we look back also and see his gracious care over those of ancient times who trusted him, what shall we say respecting ourselves of this Gospel Age,

who have much advantage every way over those of olden times as well as over those of the age to come, in that we have the special favor and blessing of the Lord in the knowledge of his gracious plan and an adoption into his family? Shall we not reckon that he who was careful in the past, who will delight in giving blessings in the future, is now ready and willing to pour out to each of us as his children blessings, especially spiritual, to the extent of our willingness and faith to receive? If while we were yet sinners God loved us so as to redeem us, much more now that we are forgiven and accepted into his family, and adopted and made joint-heirs with our Lord Jesus prospectively, may we not expect of the Lord continually, day by day, the blessings and favors which he assures us he is well pleased to bestow upon us? Surely faith can trust him, come what may! While the Lord is now pouring out his Spirit upon his servants and handmaidens, it is for them to see that they are emptied vessels—empty that he may fill them—enlarged more and more that they may be more and more filled with the Spirit of God.—*R3431:5* (Hymn 313)

AUGUST 31

DAILY MANNA

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thy hand, O king; but if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.—Daniel 3:17,18

The answer of the Hebrews to Nebuchadnezzar, “Our God whom we serve,” is worthy of note. They not only acknowledged God and worshiped him but they additionally served him, according as they had opportunity. ... Let us resolve, dear brethren, as did the three Hebrews, that we will worship and serve only the Lord our God—that we will neither worship nor serve sectarianism, in any of its many forms, nor mammon, with its enticements and rewards, nor fame, nor friends, nor self. God “seeketh such to worship him as worship him in spirit and in truth,” is the declaration of our Lord and Head.—R2496:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Keep yourselves in the love of God.—Jude 21

Whether I am something or nothing in God’s estimation is to be measured by my love for him, for his brethren, for his cause, for the world in general, and even for my enemies, rather than by my knowledge, or fame, or oratory! Yet we are not to understand that

SEPTEMBER 1

DAILY MANNA

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.

—Acts 9:15

It is because we see Jesus to be the Father's choice that we unite ourselves to him; because we see the Father's character manifested in him that we leave all to follow him. Similarly, if we lend our aid, our support to any human being in connection with the divine plan and service, it should be simply upon this ground—not merely a personal magnetism or favoritism, but because our hearts are touched by the Lord with a realization of the leader being of his appointment.—*R3218:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.—1 Corinthians 13:13

It seems impossible to describe love, this wonderful quality without which nothing is acceptable in the sight of God! The apostle does not attempt to define love, but contents himself with giving us some of its manifestations. Those who possess a love with such characteristics are able to appreciate it, but not able otherwise to explain it. The fact is that love, like life and light, is difficult to define; and our best endeavors

SEPTEMBER 2

DAILY MANNA

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.—1 Peter 1:22

Knowledge is to be highly esteemed in the church, and to be regarded as an evidence of progress, of growth; for none can grow strong in the Lord and in the power of his might—in grace—unless he grows also in knowledge. We properly esteem most highly those whose love for the Lord and for his truth are evidenced by zeal in the study of his word, and whose favor with God is evidenced by their being guided more and more into the deep things of God. Nevertheless, as in the earthly family we love and care for the babes and immature, so also in the household of faith the little ones and the dwarfs are to be cared for and loved and helped that they may grow strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.—*R3219:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Love ... is kind.—1 Corinthians 13:4

Am I kind in my methods, seeking to guard my manner and my tones, knowing that they have much to do with every affair of life? Have I this mark of love pervading my actions and words and thoughts? Do I think of and am I considerate of others? Do I feel

SEPTEMBER 3

DAILY MANNA

I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.—Hosea 6:6

He who gives his will, his heart, to the Lord, gives all; he who gives not his will, who comes not in obedience of heart unto the Lord, can offer no sacrifice to the Lord that could be acceptable. "Behold to obey is better than sacrifice," is a lesson which should be deeply engraved upon the hearts of all the sanctified in Christ Jesus. To have the spirit of obedience is necessary too, and whoever has the spirit of obedience will not only obey the divine will, but will seek to know the divine will more and more that he may obey it. It is of this class that the Scriptures declare, "His word was found and I did eat it;" and again, in the words of our Lord, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: thy law is written in my heart."—R3225:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Love envieth not.—1 Corinthians 13:4

Have I the love that "envieth not," the love that is generous, so that I can see others prosper and rejoice in their prosperity, even if, for a time, my own affairs be not so prosperous? This is true generosity, the very reverse of jealousy and envy, which spring from a perverted nature. The root of envy is selfishness; envy will not grow upon the root of love. Love rejoices

SEPTEMBER 4

DAILY MANNA

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.—1 John 4:18

Mighty, imposing and terrifying indeed is the influence of fear, except upon those who have learned to know the Lord through previous experiences, and to trust him even where they cannot trace him. The giant of fear and despair must be met with the pebble from the brook, "It is written." The sling of faith must propel the word of promise with such force as to slay the adversary and to deliver us from his domination. ... Thus armed only with the word of God, and trusting in his rod and staff, we may well be courageous and answer imposing sectarianism as David answered the Philistine, "Thou comest to me with a sword and a spear and a javelin: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of ... Israel, which thou hast defiled."—*R3231:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.—1 Corinthians 13:4

Have I the love that is humble, that "vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up"? the love that tends to modesty, that is not boastful, not lifted up? Have I the love that would prompt to good deeds, not to be seen of men, but that would do the same if no one saw or knew

SEPTEMBER 5

DAILY MANNA

Jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.—
Canticles 8:6

Jealousy is one of the great foes that confronts every Christian. It should be slain on sight as an enemy of God and man and of every good principle; and to the extent that its presence has defiled the heart even for a moment, a cleansing of the spirit of holiness and love should be invoked. Jealousy is not only a cruel monster of itself, but its poisonous fangs are almost certain to inflict pain and trouble upon others, as well as to bring general woe and, ultimately, destruction upon those who harbor it. Jealousy is sin in thought, wickedness in thought, and is very apt to lead speedily to sin and wickedness in action. The mind, if once poisoned with jealousy, can with great difficulty ever be cleansed from it entirely, so rapidly does it bring everything within its environment to its own color and character.—*R3231:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

[Love] *doth not behave itself unseemly.*—1 Corinthians 13:5

Have I the love which is courteous, “doth not behave itself unseemly”? Pride is the root out of which grows much of the unseemly conduct, impoliteness,

SEPTEMBER 6

DAILY MANNA

There shall no evil befall thee.—Psalm 91:10

Nothing shall by any means hurt us. Things may interfere with our fleshly interests or comfort or course of affairs; but when we remember that we are not in the flesh but in the spirit, that it is as new creatures that the Lord has promised us the kingdom in his due time, we can realize that no outside influence can interfere with our real interests, our spiritual interests, nor hinder our attaining to the glories of the kingdom which the Lord has promised to his faithful ones. Only our loss of confidence in the Lord and our unfaithfulness to him could separate us from his love and his promises.—*R3232:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

[Love] *seeketh not her own.*—1 Corinthians 13:5

Have I the love which is unselfish, which “seeketh not her own” interests exclusively, which might even be willing to let some of her own rights be sacrificed in the interests of others? Or have I, on the contrary, the selfishness which not only demands my own rights on every occasion, but which demands those rights regardless of the conveniences, comforts, and rights of others? To have love in this particular means that we will be on

SEPTEMBER 7

DAILY MANNA

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.—2 Corinthians 5:17

These new creatures in Christ Jesus know each other not according to the flesh but according to the spirit. In each other's spirits or new minds there are the noblest sentiments, the highest aspirations, that which is good, true, noble, pure—whatever may be their weaknesses according to the flesh. They love each other from the new standpoint of intention, will, harmony with God, and their friendship for one another grows increasingly as they perceive each other's energy in fighting the good fight of faith against the evil influences of the world, the flesh and the adversary. Nor tongue nor pen can properly express the love, the friendship, which subsists between these new creatures in Christ Jesus, to whom old things have passed away, and all things have become new.—R3233:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

[Love] *is not easily provoked.*—1 Corinthians 13:5

Have I the love which is good tempered, “not easily provoked” to anger—love that enables me to see both sides of a question, that gives me the spirit of a sound mind, which enables me to perceive that exasperation

SEPTEMBER 8

DAILY MANNA

Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.—James 4:4

God has purposely placed the matter in such a position that his people must take their choice, and lose either the divine friendship and fellowship, or the worldly friendship and fellowship; because those things which the Lord loves are distasteful to the worldly, and those things which the worldly love, evil deeds and evil thoughts, evil-speaking, are an abomination in the sight of the Lord, and those who love and practice such things lose his fellowship—they are not of his spirit. “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”—R2444:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

[Love] *thinketh no evil.*—1 Corinthians 13:5

Have I the spirit of love which “thinketh no evil,” which is guileless, not suspicious of evil or looking for faults in others, not attributing to them evil motives? Have I the love which seeks always to interpret the conduct of others charitably, to make all possible allowance for errors in judgment rather than to impugn the motives of the heart? Perfect love is good intentioned itself; it prefers and, so far as possible, endeavors to view the words and conduct of others

SEPTEMBER 9

DAILY MANNA

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life.—Philippians 2:15,16

It is the duty of every child of God to be very active in the dissemination of the truth—in letting his light shine, and in keeping it trimmed and burning. “Trimmed and burning!” what does it mean? It means that we must give very close attention to the words of life that we may come to an exact knowledge of the truth, and that we must carefully and faithfully trim away every vestige of error as fast as it becomes apparent to us—whether it be an error in doctrine or in our daily walk and conversation—so that the pure light of divine truth may shine out with as little obstruction as possible through the medium of a clear and transparent character.—*R3243:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

[Love] rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.—1 Corinthians 13:6

However profitable error might be, love could take no part in it, and could not desire the reward of evil. But it does take pleasure in the truth—truth upon every subject, and especially in the truth of divine revelation,

SEPTEMBER 10

DAILY MANNA

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.—Ephesians 4:29

The depraved taste hedges itself behind conscience, and declares that it is always right to speak the truth, and hence God cannot have meant that speaking the truth would be slander; but that in condemning evil speaking and slander, as works of the flesh and the devil, he must have meant the speaking of that which is false, untrue. This is a great mistake: a slander is equally a slander, whether it be true or whether it be false, and is so regarded, not only in the law of God, but also in the laws of civilized men. A slander is anything which is uttered with the intention of injury to another, whether true or false, and the laws of men agree with the law of God, that such injury to another is wrong.—*R2444:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

[Love] *beareth all things.*—1 Corinthians 13:7

Have I the love that “beareth all things”; that is impregnable against the assaults of evil; that resists evil, impurity, sin, and everything that is contrary to love; that is both able and willing to endure for the cause of God, reproaches, reproofs, insults, losses,

SEPTEMBER 11

DAILY MANNA

Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.—Luke 14:27

The Lord's cross-bearing consisted in the doing of the Father's will under unfavorable conditions. This course brought upon him the envy, hatred, malice, strife, persecutions, etc., of those who thought themselves to be God's people, but whom our Lord, who read their hearts, declared to be of their father, the devil. Since we are walking in the same "narrow way" that our Master walked, we may reasonably expect that our crosses will be of similar kind to his—oppositions to our doing the will of our Father in heaven—oppositions to our serving his cause and letting the light shine out as our Master and Leader directed.—R3237:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

[Love] *believeth all things.*—1 Corinthians 13:7

Have I the love that "believeth all things"; that is unwilling to impute evil to another unless forced so to do by indisputable evidences; that would rather believe good than evil about everybody; that would take no pleasure in hearing evil, but would be disposed to resent it? Perfect love is not suspicious, but is, on the contrary, disposed to be trustful. It acts on the principle that it is better, if necessary, to be de-

SEPTEMBER 12

DAILY MANNA

In your patience possess ye your souls.—Luke 21:19

“Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing,” the apostle explains. Very evidently patience, therefore, includes other graces of character—implies their possession to a certain extent. Amongst the Lord’s people patience surely must be preceded by faith, and the degree of patience very generally measures the amount of faith. The Christian who finds himself impatient and restless evidently is lacking in faith toward the Lord; for otherwise he would be able to rest in the Lord’s gracious promises, and wait for their fulfillment. After using reasonable diligence and energy he should be content to leave the results and times and seasons with the Lord.—*R3245:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

[Love] *hopeth all things.*—1 Corinthians 13:7

This hopeful element of love is one of the striking features in the perseverance of the saints, enabling them to endure hardness as good soldiers. Its hopeful quality hinders it from being easily offended, or easily stopped in the work of the Lord. Where others would be discouraged or put to flight, the spirit of love gives endurance, that we may war

SEPTEMBER 13

DAILY MANNA

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!—Psalm 133:1

Like our Lord, let us seek to be peacemakers, and to dwell together with all the brethren in the unity of the spirit, in the bonds of peace. Let our activities, our combativeness, etc., be engaged against the great enemy and all the works of sin,—including those in our members, our own fallen flesh. We, and all the brethren, will thus find sufficient engagement for every combative element of our nature, in ways well pleasing to the Lord, and employment for every lovable and helpful quality we possess, in building one another up, and doing good unto all men as we have opportunity, especially to the household of faith.—*R3246:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.—2 Peter 1:8,11

All of God's people, all begotten of the Holy Spirit, are inspired by the spirit of the Father, the spirit of love, the spirit of justice and loyalty. But how about

SEPTEMBER 14

DAILY MANNA

Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.—1 Peter 2:12,19

We may be evil reported of and slandered, but all who know us, who have dealings with us, should find from experience our loyalty to principle, our endeavor that the words of our mouths as well as the meditations of our hearts and the conduct of life should be pleasing to the Lord and an honor to his name and cause, that God may be glorified through Christ, to whom belongs the glory and the kingdom forever.—*R3248:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

With us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles.—2 Chronicles 32:8

What a lesson is here for all of the Lord's people of spiritual Israel today! When our proudest, strongest foes seem triumphing over us the most, when they are loudest in their denunciations of the Lord and his promises, is the very time when we should lay hold on the Lord's promises with the greatest confidence. Indeed, we give it as our experience that those who are

SEPTEMBER 15

DAILY MANNA

Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.—2 Corinthians 6:17

Those who conscientiously live separate from the world in spiritual matters, and recognize as brethren only those who confess to circumcision of the heart and adoption into God's family, will find themselves opposed by moralists, liberalists and higher critics, as well as by the masses, who hate the light, because it condemns their darkness—doctrinal and otherwise. Nevertheless, this is the only good and safe course to pursue. Better far is it that only true Israelites should be recognized as brethren, and thus the true wheat be separated from the tares.—*R2512:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.—Ephesians 1:18

It requires time for heart and head so to expand as to take in a glimpse of such a wonderful blessing as this which God has provided for the elect. But whoever gets even a faint glimpse of the greatness of God's favor toward the church will not be surprised that in the divine plan so liberal an allowance as nearly nine-

SEPTEMBER 16

DAILY MANNA

The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.—Psalm 29:11

If you have trials and temptations which you are able to overcome, and which are working out in your character patience, experience, brotherly kindness, sympathy and love, rejoice and offer the prayer of thanksgiving and acknowledgment of divine mercy and help. If your trials seem heavier than you can bear, and likely to crush you, take the matter to the great Burden-bearer, and ask his help in bearing whatever would do you good, and release from all that would do you no good, but which would injure you.
—R2006:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Little children, keep yourselves from idols.—1 John 5:21

Evil is insidious, and every parting of the ways, every leaving of the divine path, signifies a separation from righteousness to a degree we are unable to estimate at the beginning. Let us learn that the only safe course to pursue is to trust in the Lord and to be glad to have whatever his providences may mark out for us, and to refuse to have anything contrary to his will, however desirable it might be, however gratifying to human ambition. Let us learn the lesson that ambition is a

SEPTEMBER 17

DAILY MANNA

Christ in you, the hope of glory.—Colossians 1:27

Every true child of God must have a definite individual Christian character which is not dependent for its existence upon the spiritual life of any other Christian. He must from the word of truth, proclaimed and exemplified by other Christians, draw those principles of life, etc., which give him an established character, a spiritual individuality of his own. So positive and definite should be the spiritual individuality of every one, that, should even the beloved brother or sister whose spiritual life first nourished ours and brought us forward to completeness of character fall away (which the apostle shows is not impossible—Heb. 6:4-6;—Gal. 1:8), we would still live, being able to appropriate for ourselves the spirit of truth.—*R3250:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.—Psalm 24:3,4

Those who have made a full consecration of heart to the Lord constitute the pure in heart under the law of love. But notwithstanding the purity of their hearts, their intentions, their wills, to fulfill the royal law of love,

these have a battle to wage. The law of their members, depraved through inherited sin, is the strong law of selfishness, in opposition to the new law to which they have pledged themselves—the law of love. Yet their inability to live up to the requirements of that new law must be through no lack of will, no lack of intention of the pure, loyal heart. Whatever failure they make, however short they may come at times of obtaining the victory, it must be solely because of weakness of the flesh and the besetments of the adversary, which their pure hearts failed to resist. Here the Lord's promises are helpful, assuring them that he knows their weaknesses and frailties, as well as the wiles of the devil and the influence of the spirit of the world, which are contrary to the spirit of love. He tells them that they may go freely to the throne of heavenly grace, there to obtain mercy in respect to their failures to live up to the high standard which their hearts acknowledge and to which they strive to conform. He also assures them that they may find grace to help in every time of need.—*R5123:4* (Hymn 150)

SEPTEMBER 18

DAILY MANNA

My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.—Exodus 33:14

The Lord is ever present with his people. He is always thinking of us, looking out for our interests, guarding us in danger, providing for us in temporal and spiritual things, reading our hearts, marking every impulse of loving devotion to him, shaping the influences around us for our discipline and refining, and hearkening to our faintest call for aid or sympathy or fellowship with him. He is never for a moment off guard, whether we call him in the busy noon hours or in the silent watches of the night. How blessed the realization of such abiding faithfulness! And no real child of God is devoid of this evidence of his adoption.—*R3251:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

At evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.—John 20:19

Many are so situated that they are unable to gratify the desires of their hearts in respect to assembling frequently with others of like precious faith, to talk over the good things of the Lord's word of promise; but the isolated should not feel disappointed that the

Lord's word says that he will meet with the twos and threes, and does not promise the same to the solitary. They should rather look about them to see what provision the Lord has made whereby at least two can meet and discuss his word together. ... We may be well assured that those who have opportunities for meeting together, and speaking together, and who fail to use the opportunities, are manifesting a lack of interest in our great salvation, and that such are very likely to lose the remainder of their interest, and failing of the Lord's instructions given to such, may fail also to be among the "jewels" whom he will gather. If on the contrary one feels little interest in the heavenly things, little disposed to discuss the features of the divine plan and its promises, and happy only when conversing on worldly matters, business, etc., it is an unfavorable sign. The Lord is not likely to approach such and open their understanding respecting the Scriptures, as he surely is pleased to do to those who are hungering and thirsting after truth.—*R2802:1; 2801:6* (Hymn 329)

SEPTEMBER 19

DAILY MANNA

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. —
John 17:17

Our Lord always links the progress and development of our spiritual life with our receiving and obeying the truth, and every child of God should beware of that teaching which claims to be in advance of the word, and that Christ or the Holy Spirit speaks to such advanced Christians independently of the word. It cultivates spiritual pride and boastfulness, and renders powerless the warnings and exhortations of the sacred Scriptures because the deluded ones think they have a higher teacher dwelling in them. And Satan, taking advantage of the delusion, leads them captive at his will.—*R3251:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Brethren, pray for us.—1 Thessalonians 5:25

It is not for us to exert force in opposition, not to shout loudly about our rights. We are to remember that in becoming soldiers of the cross we voluntarily gave up all earthly rights in order that we might be participators with the Captain of our salvation, who permitted all of his rights to be taken from him, even unto death. As the followers of Jesus are made a spectacle to the world and to angels, they are also permitted to strengthen and build up one another in the most holy

SEPTEMBER 20

DAILY MANNA

Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, ... to revive the spirit of the humble, and ... the heart of the contrite ones.—Isaiah 57:15

Let us ever keep in memory that a broken and contrite heart the Lord never despises, will never spurn. Therefore, into whatever difficulty any of the Lord's people of the new creation may stumble, if they find themselves hungering for the Lord's fellowship and forgiveness, if they find their hearts contrite and broken, let them not despair, but remember that God has made a provision through the merit of Christ which enables him to accept and justify freely from all sin all that come unto him through Jesus—through faith in his blood. ... Those who have broken and contrite hearts on account of their sins may know that they have not committed "the sin unto death," for their condition of heart proves this, as the apostle declares: "It is impossible to renew again unto repentance" any who have committed the sin unto death.—R3255:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.—John 6:33

The more people are satisfied with earthly things the less inclination they will have for the heavenly things,

and the more we are satisfied with the heavenly things the less of appetite will we have for the earthly things. The new nature flourishes at the expense of the old nature, and the new ambitions, hopes, and desires at the expense of the old. Likewise when the old nature flourishes it is at the expense of the new in all of life's affairs. Let us, then, realizing the difference between the food that perisheth and the food that brings divine blessings—eternal life—let us choose the latter, let us feed more and more upon the Lord and upon his word, and thus grow strong in the Lord and in the power of his might, and be more and more weaned from the world, its spirit, its hopes, its ambitions. We seek a heavenly country, a heavenly kingdom, a heavenly nature, and heavenly qualities, fitted and prepared for that heavenly nature. We have found the great Life-giver, the one who can and does supply this bread from heaven. It is our great privilege to be the dispensers of this bread. "Give ye them to eat." "He that hath an ear let him hear."—*R3334:4* (Hymn 96)

SEPTEMBER 21

DAILY MANNA

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.—Psalm 23:4

The sheep of the little flock fear no evil because of the Lord's favor, because he is with them, on their side, and has shown his favor in the redemption price already paid. He is with them, too, in his word of promise—his assurance that death shall not mean extinction of life, but merely until the resurrection, an undisturbed sleep in Jesus. What wonder that these can walk through the valley of the shadow of death singing and making melody in their hearts to the Lord, calling upon their souls with all that is within them to praise and laud and magnify his great and holy name, and has called us to joint-heirship with our dear Redeemer, who loved us and bought us with his precious blood.—*R3269:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.—Ephesians 6:11

The Lord's children are to see to it that they are not deluded into sin and into the service of sin; to that extent they would be deserting their colors and taking their stand as opponents of the Lord. When Christians take a decided stand against Satan and his wiles they

are relieved from his attacks—not that he flees from them in the sense that he is fearful of harm to himself, but that he will leave them. He will retreat just as a general of an army would retreat from a city after having found that its gates were strongly protected and that attack was useless. If the adversary finds one well protected and resisting him with a firm will, he will at once retreat. But if there be any parley with sin, any tendency to consider a matter when it is seen to be sin, an entrance is at once made for the adversary; and he will renew the attack and press the matter, placing it in the most alluring light, in order that he may take control, that he may enter the heart where he has found the weakness. Hence it is of the utmost importance that the child of God should make a positive and prompt decision when he realizes that he is being enticed to evil. A moment's hesitation is very dangerous. Those who take their stand for the Lord, who give themselves fully and unreservedly to him, he has agreed to protect. He may permit them to be assailed for a time, but he will deliver them so long as they remain loyal and true; and they will be made stronger as the result of the temptations.—*R5896:6* (Hymn 44)

SEPTEMBER 22

DAILY MANNA

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.—Psalm 23:6

The goodness and mercy which we anticipate beyond the veil has its beginning here already and is thus to be appreciated. Whoever knows nothing of the joys of the Lord in the present time will evidently not be prepared for the joys of the Lord in the kingdom, whatever blessings and joys he may attain to under the administration of the kingdom during the Millennial Age. There is then joy and rejoicing granted to the Lord's faithful ones, not a momentary matter connected with their first acceptance of the Lord and their consecration of themselves to him. The goodness and mercy of the Lord is not to be looked back to as a thing of the remote past, but is to be recognized and appreciated as a thing of the present. Day by day God's goodness and mercy follow us, refresh us, strengthen us, bless us.—R3270:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, ... The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him a habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.—Exodus 15:1,2

If it was appropriate, as we all admit that it was, that the Israelites should give glory to God for their deliverance from the bondage of Egypt, much more is it appropriate that spiritual Israel should recognize the still greater deliverance from the power of Satan and the thralldom of sin accomplished for us through the blood of the Lamb of God who died for our sins. If the illiterate people who had been in a measure of slavery for a long period and who had not the advantages of this Gospel Age were prompted to give thanks to the Lord, how much more should we, who have tasted of his goodness, show forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light! (I Peter 2:9) What wonder, then, that the Scriptures everywhere refer to the Lord's people as being ministers, servants, of the truth, and declare that the Lord has not only lifted our feet from the horrible pit and miry clay of sin and death, but has additionally put into our mouths a new song, even the loving-kindness of our God (Psalm 40:2,3).—*R3998:6* (Hymn 79)

SEPTEMBER 23

DAILY MANNA

Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.—Jude 3

Our good fight of faith consists in a considerable measure in our defense of the word of God, which includes also our defense of the character of God. This will mean our willingness to stand for the truth at any cost and against any number of assailants—against the creeds and theories of men, which would misrepresent the good tidings of great joy which the Lord and the apostles have announced, and which shall, thank God, yet be unto all people. As the apostle again says, “I am set for the defense of the truth.” We can do no less than defend the truth. The truth is God’s representative, Christ’s representative, and hence our standard, and as true soldiers we must defend our standard, even unto death.—*R3274:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Be thou strong and very courageous.—Joshua 1:7

There never was a time when more strength of character and more courage were needed than just now. We need to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. ... We do not know in what form some of our trials and tribulations will come. But we who are living in this “evil day,” yea, in the very close of this day—in the final “hour of temptation”—surely need

SEPTEMBER 24

DAILY MANNA

I keep under my body, and bring it unto subjection: lest ... I myself should be a castaway.—1 Corinthians 9:27

There is a tendency for the body, the flesh, to arise from its condition of reckoned deadness, hence the new nature needs to be continually on the alert to maintain its ascendancy, to fight the good fight of faith and to gain the prize as an overcomer. These battlings of the new mind against the flesh are a good fight in the sense that they are fightings against sins and weaknesses that belong to the fallen nature. They are a fight of faith in the sense that the entire course of the new creature is a course of faith, as the apostle says, "We walk by faith and not by sight." ... It is a fight of faith in the sense that no one could keep up this battle against his own flesh and its propensities and desires, except as he can exercise faith in the promises and in the Lord as his helper.—R3275:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.—Psalm 63:5,6

Whoever has time for meditation will receive a great blessing if his thoughts shall turn toward the Almighty, acknowledging his goodness, seeking to give

SEPTEMBER 25

DAILY MANNA

Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness [justification], and sanctification, and redemption [deliverance].—1 Corinthians 1:30

He who redeemed us, or bought us with the sacrifice of his own life, gives us, as our Prophet or Teacher, wisdom by his gospel, to see our fallen state and himself as our helper; as our Priest, he first justifies us and then sanctifies or consecrates us, as his under priesthood; and finally, as King, he will fully deliver the faithful from the dominion of sin and death, to the glory, honor and immortality of the divine nature;—for “God will raise up [from the dead] us also, by Jesus.”

“Hallelujah! What a Savior!”

Truly he is able and willing to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him.—*R3281:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.—Psalm 130:5,6

In every experience of sorrow and distress, and when the strain of the jarring discords and the stinging vexations and wounds that make the heart bleed, threaten to overwhelm the spirit, let the child of God remember

SEPTEMBER 26

DAILY MANNA

Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth into an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.—Ephesians 2:20-22

Let us, as day after day rolls by, remember our three-fold relationship to this temple: (1) We are still in process of preparation as living stones. (2) As members of the royal priesthood carrying the ark we are marching from the tabernacle into the temple condition; some of our number have already entered in and some are still on the way. (3) As the Lord's people the time has come for us to know, to sing with the spirit and understanding, the new song of divine mercy, justice, love and truth. Let us be faithful in each of these respects, fulfilling our parts, and ere long our course will be ended and the glory of the Lord will fill the temple.—R3284:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Go ye ... and teach all nations.—Matthew 28:19

Surely he who was careful to supervise the sowing work is not less interested and careful in respect to the reaping. Let us then thrust in the sickle of truth with energy and courage, remembering that we serve the Lord Christ, remembering that we are not responsible

SEPTEMBER 27

DAILY MANNA

Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.—Matt. 4:7

Temptations continually assail the Lord's people—suggestions to do some wonderful works in his name, and to thus prove to themselves and to others that they are heaven's favorites. The lesson for us to learn is that the work which the Father has given us to do is not a work of convincing the world or of showing his favor toward us and our greatness in him, but rather that we should quietly and humbly, yet as effectively as reason and propriety will permit, let our lights shine, and show forth the praises of him who hath called us from darkness into his marvelous light, and from a desire to be wonder-workers to the reasonable position of servants, ministers of the truth.—R3298:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.—John 14:3

Let us, dear brethren, keep well before our minds the Master's promised return, and now in the time of his *parousia* (invisible presence) let it have its full weight and influence upon our every word and act; yea, upon our very thoughts. Let us hope that we shall soon experience our resurrection change, and be made like our dear Redeemer, and see him as he is, and share his glory in the great *epiphania*, or shining forth

SEPTEMBER 28

DAILY MANNA

Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith.—1 Peter 5:8,9

This thought of Satan's opposition to us, and that we are contending not merely with flesh and blood but with principalities and powers and wicked spirits in high positions of power, would be appalling to us did we not on the other hand realize that by positiveness of decision we acquire great helps and assistances by other unseen powers. From the moment of our positive resistance of temptation and positive standing up for the Lord and his cause, we become stronger in the Lord and in the power of his might, and greater is he that is for us than all that be against us.—R3300:4

Hesitancy after the wrong is seen increases the power of the temptation.—R2568:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.—Psalm 45:13

The Lord is seeking those who worship him with all their souls, with all their strength, and with all their minds. These whole-souled ones are the class the Lord is especially seeking as the queen of the Millennial Kingdom, the bride, the Lamb's wife, and joint-

SEPTEMBER 29

DAILY MANNA

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord.—Proverbs 16:5

One of the severe ordeals of the new creature is the conquering of the love of the spirit of worldliness under the leadership of pride. Worldly pride challenges faith in God and obedience to him, and only those who are of good courage and full of confidence in the Lord can overcome this giant. It is necessary, too, that the victory should be made complete—that pride should be thoroughly humiliated, killed, so that it can never rise up again to destroy us. It is an individual battle, and the only proper armament against this giant is a stone from the brook, the message of the Lord, showing us what is pleasing and acceptable in his sight, and assuring us that he that humbleth himself shall be exalted and he that exalteth himself shall be abased. As the poet has expressed it:—

“Where boasting ends, true dignity begins.”

—R3231:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.—
John 13:17

We may never become entirely satisfactory to ourselves in thought, word, and deed while in the flesh; and we may never, therefore, be entirely satisfactory

SEPTEMBER 30

DAILY MANNA

The love of Christ constraineth us.—2 Corinthians 5:14

It seems impossible to describe love itself; the best we can do is to describe its conduct. Those who possess a love with such characteristics are able to appreciate it, but not able otherwise to explain it—it is of God, godlikeness in heart, in the tongue, in the hands, in the thoughts—supervising all the human attributes and seeking fully to control them. As disciples or pupils of Christ, we are in his school, and the great lesson which he is teaching us day by day, and the lesson which we must learn thoroughly if we would attain the mark of the prize of our high calling in all its various features and ramifications, is the lesson of love. It takes hold upon and relates to all the words and thoughts and doings of our daily lives. As the poet has said,

“As every lovely hue is light,
so every grace is love.”

—R3150:2; 3151:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light.—Exodus 13:21

OCTOBER 1

DAILY MANNA

I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.—Psalm 39:1

Probably every person of experience will fully agree with the statement that the tongue is potent in its influence beyond any other member of the body, for either good or evil. Experience teaches also that with the vast majority it is easier to control any other organ than the tongue. So skillful a servant is it that every ambition and passion and inclination of the fallen nature seeks to use it as a servant or channel for evil. It requires, therefore, on the part of the Christian, increased vigilance, wisdom and care so as to govern this member of his body and bring it into subjection to the new mind in Christ, that it shall be not a hindrance to himself or to others, but, on the contrary, a help in the narrow way.—*R2156:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
—Galatians 6:7

While each act and word and thought has its bearing upon the ultimate results in every Christian's life, nevertheless no one thought, no one word, and no one deed carries the deciding weight, either for good or for evil. The more loyal we are, the more faithful we are,

the fewer slips we make, the more like our Redeemer we shall be, and the brighter will be our reward, for as the apostle declares, "For one star differeth from star in glory, so also is the resurrection of the dead." Those, then, who are of the world may know that every good and every evil act of theirs will have a weight and influence in respect to their trial for life or death under the messianic kingdom arrangements. And every Christian who has entered into a covenant to become dead with Christ that he may also live with him, to suffer with Christ that he may also reign with him—all such should know that every word, every thought, every act, has a bearing upon the great results. Hence, as the apostle says, all such should walk through life circumspectly, wisely, seeking to know and to do the things pleasing to God, and to attain the highest reward.—*R5226:5* (Hymn 348)

Space available for recording birthdays and special occasions.

OCTOBER 2

DAILY MANNA

Forgetting those things which are behind.—Philippians 3:13

We forget the things that are behind, because it is right that we should do so. Because God forgets them, and declares that he has cast all of our imperfections behind his back; that our imperfections are all covered from his sight, by the merit of him who loved us and who died for us, and whom we love, and in whom we are trusting, and in whose steps we are seeking to walk with more or less imperfection according to the defects we have inherited in the flesh. We are not meaning to suggest that slips or failures should be lightly esteemed or quickly forgotten; they should be rectified to the extent of our ability, and divine forgiveness should be sought for these defects daily.—*R3306:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.—Ephesians 4:32

Each and every one of the new creatures, sons of God, accepted through the merit of Jesus, is held responsible for his own weaknesses; but divine power has provided for the cancellation of these freely for Christ's sake, upon their acknowledgment and request for for-

OCTOBER 3

DAILY MANNA

Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them.—Psalm 119:165

Our requests should be, increasingly, for grace and wisdom and the fruits of the spirit and opportunities for serving the Lord and the brethren, and for growing more and more into the likeness of God's dear Son. ... Under these conditions who can doubt that the promised "peace of God beyond all understanding" would "guard" such "hearts" and their "thoughts"? This peace would of itself dispel one of the great evils that afflict the hearts of many. Selfishness and ambition would find little room in a heart so filled. Divine peace can dwell in our hearts, and rule in them, so as to keep out the worry and turmoil of the world, even when we are surrounded by these disadvantageous conditions—even when the adversary himself is besetting us through deceived agents.—*R3306:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as i have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.—John 15:10

Let us, dearly beloved, be more than ever careful respecting the word of the Lord; let us not by negligence give evidence of a decay of love. Our Lord points out that his continuance in the Father's love, as

the well beloved Son, with all which this implies, was because of his obedience to the Father's will; and that following the same line, he must require that we should be obedient to him if we would abide in his love and share his throne and glory. Our Lord's instruction and commandments are not intended to terrify us, nor to deprive us of happiness. On the contrary, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11) Those who give surest evidence of living nearest the Lord well know that obedience to the Lord's words, together with the privilege thus obtained of abiding in him and his love, is the greatest joy, a joy which wholly outweighs all the trifling pleasures which the world has to offer. It is the joy and peace which "passeth all understanding," which rules in the heart, and which brings with it the promise, the assurance, "not only of the life which now is, but also of that which is to come."—*R5082:6* (Hymn 172)

OCTOBER 4

DAILY MANNA

Jesus saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.—Matthew 4:19

All of life's affairs will teach us lessons profitable throughout its future, if we will receive them. Perhaps there was something particularly helpful in the fishing business—something peculiarly like the great work in which the apostles were to engage the remainder of their lives. Our Lord intimates this in his call. Fishing requires energy, tact, proper bait and that the fisherman keep himself out of sight. And these four things are requisites in the spiritual fishing in which the Lord privileges us to engage. We are to remember that as fish are easily alarmed when they find that any one wishes to take them, so humanity is shy of being captured by anything—especially if they have the least suspicion that they may lose their liberties: and thus consecration appears to the world.—R3308:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Work ... while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.—John 9:4

Ask yourself, What am I doing? Then lay aside weights and hindrances, and multiply your efforts. Be assured that if you are not a servant of the truth in some of the many ways now open, you are unworthy of it, and will lose your hold on it, because now is

OCTOBER 5

DAILY MANNA

Consider him who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.—Hebrews 12:3

Alas, how many of God's true children become weary and faint in their minds, and are in danger of losing the chief prize because they have failed to think upon, to study out, to comprehend, to consider the Lord and what he faithfully endured of opposition. As they would consider his perfection and how, as represented in him, the light shined in darkness and was not appreciated, so they would expect that the light shining from them would not be appreciated either. As they would consider how the Lord suffered in every sense unjustly and for righteousness' sake, and then would reflect that their own conduct, even though well meant, is imperfect, it would strengthen them to endure hardness as good soldiers, and not to be weary in well doing, and not to faint under opposition.—R3313:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.—Philippians 4:13

Whether born with too much or with too little self-esteem, those who come into God's family are put into the school of Christ to be taught, corrected—made right, in harmony with divine standards. Those

naturally self-conceited must learn meekness—by instructions if they will—otherwise by experiences. And they should learn to rejoice even in humiliating experiences. They are evidences that God’s providence is supervising their affairs and preparing them for the kingdom; for without meekness and humility none will be fit for it. As the self-conceited must learn humbly to trust God and not rely on themselves and thus secure balance, so the naturally self-depreciative must learn a lesson of confidence. Not self-confidence, not self-reliance is the most desirable, but rather, confidence in God and reliance upon his promised “grace to help in every time of need.” This maintains the desirable humility and meekness, yet gives the courage and force suggested by the apostle’s words: “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” As Paul again declares, “Our sufficiency is of God”!
—*R5113:3* (Hymn 93)

OCTOBER 6

DAILY MANNA

Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of ... the Son of man came not to destroy men's lives but to save them.—Luke 9:55,56

So with all of the Lord's disciples: their continual study should be to avoid that hypocritical disposition to sentence and to destroy other people while desiring mercy for themselves. The rule which the Lord establishes is that we must expect from him mercy only in proportion as we shall exercise this grace toward others. The faultfinding disposition that is ready to accuse and condemn everybody, indicates a wrong condition of heart—one which all the Lord's people should be on guard against. Mercy, goodness, love, are the elements of character which he desires to see in the spiritual Israelites, and without which we cannot long continue to be his children.—R3316:4,6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.—Romans 12:10

The truth seems to take hold on the stronger characters rather than on the weaker ones. The former have in their flesh more of the firmness, grittiness, and combativeness than have many others, who are too pliable and “wishy-washy” to be acceptable to the Lord as members of the “little flock” of overcomers. Thus we

OCTOBER 7

DAILY MANNA

Every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand.—Matthew 7:26

The hopes built upon the Lord's promises and unaccompanied by works are hopes built upon the sand. It is only a question of time until the great testing time shall come and such hopes will be shown to be worse than useless. They will be shown to have deceived their possessor, who thought himself safe in his assurances of a share in the kingdom. On the contrary, those who build with obedience, their hearts as well as their tongues confessing and honoring the Lord, their deeds corroborating their faith, and their fruits bearing testimony of their vital relationship with the Lord—these shall pass through all the storms of life and shall never be moved, never be shaken, because they are on the foundation.—R3318:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.—Philippians 2:14,15

In following in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus, running the race for the great prize set before us in the

OCTOBER 8

DAILY MANNA

Be not deceived, ... he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.—Galatians 6:7,8

We sow to the flesh every time we allow the fleshly, selfish, unjust, unrighteous desires of the flesh to have sway in our hearts and lives, and each sowing makes easier the additional sowing and makes more sure the end of that way which is death—second death. On the contrary, each sowing to the Spirit, each resistance to the desires of the flesh toward selfishness, etc., and each exercise of the new mind, of the new will, in spiritual directions toward the things that are pure, the things that are noble, the things that are good, the things that are true, is a sowing to the Spirit, which will bring forth additional fruits of the Spirit, graces of the Spirit, and which, if persevered in, will ultimately bring us in accord with the Lord's gracious promises and arrangements—everlasting life and the kingdom.
—R3323:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.—1 Samuel 12:24

OCTOBER 9

DAILY MANNA

Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?—Matthew 8:26

Each experience should be helpful to us. If at first we were fearful and cried aloud, by and by we received the succor, with perhaps the reprimand, “O thou of little faith;” but as lesson after lesson has come to us, the Master will expect—and we should expect of ourselves—greater faith, greater trust, greater peace, greater joy in the Lord, greater confidence in his presence with us and his care over us, and in his power to deliver us from the adversary and from every evil thing, and to bring us eventually in safety to the port we seek—the heavenly kingdom.—*R3325:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.—Psalm 103:2,3

The Prophet David may have appropriated these words to himself as a Jew, and may have thought of his own physical healing and blessing as evidences of the Lord’s favor under the Law Covenant. But the prophetic application of this Psalm to spiritual Israel is still more interesting. The spiritual Israelites are new creatures, and have this treasure in earthen vessels. With these it is the new mind that recognizes his heal-

OCTOBER 10

DAILY MANNA

Ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.—Colossians 3:9,10

Only in our minds, in our wills, have the old things passed away and all things become new. Actually, this change will be accomplished when this mortal shall have put on immortality, when this corruptible shall be raised in incorruption—raised in glory, in power, spirit beings. But meantime, in order to be counted worthy of a share in the first resurrection, it is required of us that we shall demonstrate our willingness of mind, our earnest desire to be all that the Lord would have us be; and in no way can this be better demonstrated to the Lord and to ourselves, or prove more helpful, than by keeping a strict surveillance of our hearts and of our thoughts.—*R3307:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.—Philippians 3:14

No Christian should be satisfied with a long delay in reaching the mark. The milk of the word should be received, its strength should be appropriated, spiritual sight and spiritual energy should quickly follow, and strong meat of divine truth should speedily bring to

full maturity the Christian character. And once attained, it should be held at any cost through all the trials and difficulties which the adversary, and the world, and the flesh, might be permitted to bring against us. The severest temptations come after we have reached the mark—temptations to slackness in service of God; temptations to withhold parts of our sacrifice; temptations to deal unkindly, uncharitably, unlovingly with the brethren, or unjustly with our neighbor, or ungenerously with our enemies. All of these must be resisted as we prize our eternal life, as we prize the promise of joint-heirship and fellowship with our Redeemer in his kingdom. Whoever sees this subject clearly must realize that as a Christian he has to do with a great proposition which will thoroughly test his loyalty, his courage, his zeal, his love. He will need to remember the Lord's comforting assurances of grace to help in every time of need if he would come off a victor and not be dismayed, nor have his courage beaten down by the adversary's attacks.
—*R4470:5* (Hymn 4)

OCTOBER 11

DAILY MANNA

Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.—Isaiah 52:11

The divine method seems to be to make a clear separation between the servants of God and the servants of evil. The privilege of testifying for God or being ambassadors for the truth is a favor reserved for the Lord's own people. He seeketh not the evil one nor the fallen demons nor evil men or women to be heralds of the good tidings. The Lord's people should note this matter carefully, and resent the services of any who do not give evidence of being in heart-union with the Lord. "Unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to take my covenant into thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and casteth my words behind thee" (Psalm 50:16,17).—R3309:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee.—Psalm 91:9,10

God has so arranged that only the truly consecrated will be kept from stumbling into error in this evil day. Every day we learn to appreciate more and more the divine favor which has anointed the eyes of our understanding, and permitted us to see the internal strength and beauty of the divine word and plan. If, then, we

OCTOBER 12

DAILY MANNA

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow.—
Matthew 6:28

Our Lord calls attention to how such simple things in nature should be studied, be considered. The lessons to be learned in connection with all the affairs of life will be helpful to such as approach the study from the right standpoint, of faith in the Creator, and a realization that he is necessarily the embodiment and representative of the very highest and very noblest qualities of which the human mind could conceive;—that he is perfect in justice, perfect in wisdom, perfect in power, perfect in love. ... The heart that thus considers makes progress, grows in grace, in knowledge, in love. The heart that fails to consider the little things fails to be able to appreciate the larger things, and thus is hindered from a proper consideration of God and from a proper appreciation of his plan, and thus from a proper appreciation of his character.—R3313:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The wise shall understand.—Daniel 12:10

Dearly beloved, we are permitted to enjoy wonderful things! By the grace of God we are privileged to see the meaning of things that were once mysterious, not only to us, but to our parents. While some in Babylon are going into infidelity, some out of Babylon are

becoming stronger spiritually, entering by hope “into that which is within the veil.” If Christ is our Forerunner, we shall enter there with him. To do so will mean to become partakers of The Messiah, as symbolically represented. The true church is to become associated with Christ in his kingdom. Then will come the promised blessings to “all the families of the earth.” As we perceive the consistency of the divine plan of the ages, our hearts are full of thanksgiving to God. We see that the new dispensation will be ushered in with “a time of trouble such as never was”; and that this time of trouble is located, among other ways, by that prophecy which tells that “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased”; that there will be a time of trouble; but that “the wise shall understand.” From what source do the wise receive their instruction? They will understand according to the wisdom from on high—in humility accepting the divine word and being blessed in so doing.—*R5092:6* (Hymn 333)

OCTOBER 13

DAILY MANNA

I will show thee my faith by my works.—James 2:18

While the Lord's people of the present age are not to be judged by their works but by their faith, nevertheless, works will be required. By our works we demonstrate our faith, and, thank God, imperfect works can demonstrate to him the loyalty of our intentions, our wills. . . . If our works demonstrate to the Lord the sincerity of our faith, that faith will be acceptable to him and we will be counted perfect and be granted a share in the kingdom, and all the great and precious things which the Lord has in reservation for those who love him—not merely in word but also in deed—for those who strive by the deeds of life to show forth, to demonstrate, their love.—*R3318:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live.—Amos 5:14

The greatest privilege of the present time is to get into the elect company of God's saints. In order to enter this company faith and obedience are necessary requisites. That faith must recognize Jesus as the Lamb of God, the Sin-bearer. It must recognize him also as the Pattern and Exemplar. The reward will be to those who have his spirit, his disposition, and who will walk through the present life in his footsteps. Such will eventually gain with him glory, honor, immortality—

OCTOBER 14

DAILY MANNA

To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.—Proverbs 21:3

We are to grow in love, and love is the principal thing; but before we can make much development in the cultivation of love, we must learn to be just, right, righteous. It is a proper presentation of the matter that is given in the proverb, that a man should be just before he is generous. It behooves the Lord's people, therefore, the new creation, that they study this subject of justice continually and daily put into practice the lessons inculcated in the divine word. Such as get this proper foundation of character before they begin to build love will find that they are making progress properly. All love that is founded upon injustice or wrong ideas of righteousness is delusive, is not the love which the Lord will require as the test of discipleship.—*R3323:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection.
—1 Corinthians 9:27

Our text is a great lesson of itself. It brings to our attention the fact that, like the apostle, we should recognize ourselves as new creatures in Christ Jesus, for whom "old things have passed away, and all things have become new," and acting from this standpoint

OCTOBER 15

DAILY MANNA

Have faith in God.—Mark 11:22

Our daily experiences since we became the Lord's followers have been guided and guarded apparently by the power unseen, to the intent that as pupils in the school of Christ, we may all be taught of him and develop more and more of the graces of the spirit, and particularly more faith. How important this item of faith is we probably cannot fully appreciate now. It seems to be the one thing that the Lord specially seeks for in those now called to be followers. . . . So according to our faith will we be able to rejoice even in tribulation. We cannot enjoy the sufferings; we can enjoy the thought which faith attaches to them, namely, that these are but light afflictions working our for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.—*R3324:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you.
—1 Peter 3:15

Following this course—of preaching the gospel of hope—we are following the Master and the apostles. They had so much of this spirit of hope, trust, confidence, love, joy, and peace that they could rejoice in tribulation; and they did so. The apostles even sang

OCTOBER 16

DAILY MANNA

He maketh the storm a calm.—Psalm 107:29

We of today represent the Lord's cause in the midst of the raging elements of human passions, oppositions, etc., and our hearts would be at times dismayed except as faith is able to see the Lord with us in the ship, and able to grasp the thought of his mighty power in his own time and way to speak peace to the world. . . . It must not surprise us, however, if a dark hour is before us—if the time shall come when the stormy winds will be so fierce that many will cry out in fear and trembling. Let us learn well the precious experiences of the present time, so that then our faith shall not fail us—so that in the darkest hour we shall be able to sing and to rejoice in him who loved us and bought us with his own precious blood, and to sing the song of Moses and the Lamb.—*R3325:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.—Romans 13:14

Our hearts are already consecrated to the Lord. We are already adopted into his family by the begetting of his Holy Spirit. But our flesh is not perfect, and it continues to love many of the garments of the old nature, which we are to put off. Gradually we are to substitute the new clothing, the livery of heaven, by which all may know us outwardly as well as know us by profes-

OCTOBER 17

DAILY MANNA

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust.—Psalm 91:4

So close to his heart does Jehovah gather his loyal and faithful children that they feel the warmth of his love, and the responsive language of their hearts is, “I will abide in thy tabernacle”—under thy protection—“forever:” “I will trust in the covert of thy wings; for thou hast been a shelter for me and a strong tower from the enemy; for thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.” Psalm 61:4,3,5—*R3331:6*

“I will sing of thy power: yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble.”—Psalm 59:16

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.—John 5:39

As our text points out, the Lord is revealed in the holy Scriptures, and those who would know him should seek their information from that quarter. Under divine providence, apostles, prophets, and teachers are necessary, indispensable. But no words of man are to be taken instead of the word of God. On the contrary,

OCTOBER 18

DAILY MANNA

He that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.—Proverbs 18:9

We cannot see wastefulness in any of the Lord's consecrated people without feeling that, however great progress they have made in understanding the mind of the Lord in some respects, they are still deficient in this particular. An appreciation of the gift and respect for the Giver implies carefulness and a stewardship in respect to all that comes to us from our heavenly Father—things temporal and things spiritual. According to our Lord's parables he is measuring our love and zeal in a considerable degree by our use or abuse of the talents, opportunities, blessings, temporal and spiritual, now bestowed upon us.—R3333:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.—John 4:24

We do well to keep continually in mind the thought that God, with whom we have to do, is a spirit being of unlimited power; that he can read the very thoughts and intents of our hearts and that any worship or service that we could render, that he could accept, must be honest-hearted—rendered in spirit and in truth. He seeketh only such to worship him, and of this class there are but a few at the present time. After the

OCTOBER 19

DAILY MANNA

Freely ye have received, freely give.—Matthew 10:8

Let us be on the alert to give to all who are hungering and thirsting the blessed food which has so greatly refreshed and strengthened us. If they do not get it they will faint by the way as they go looking for other provisions. We have the very thing which all of the household of faith need; without it they cannot maintain their standing, they cannot press on, they shall surely become discouraged. Whatever we may have of financial means for sending forth the bread of life to others, or whatever we may have of knowledge of the truth, is neither to be selfishly hoarded nor selfishly partaken of by ourselves. It is to be consecrated to the Lord, and out of that consecration the Lord will bring blessing to others and increased blessings upon our own heads and hearts.—R3333:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.—Proverbs 11:24,25

The evident lesson here is that the Lord is pleased to see his people cultivate breadth of heart as well as of mind—generosity in proportion to their knowledge of

OCTOBER 20

DAILY MANNA

Be ye wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.—
Matthew 10:16

Oh, that all of the Lord's dear people could learn the value of wisdom in connection with their endeavors to serve the truth! Our Lord not only taught us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, but he exemplified this lesson in his own course, saying on another occasion to the apostles, "I have many things to tell you, but ye cannot bear them now." We, too, should learn that there are opportune and inopportune times for mentioning certain truths, and that there are wise and unwise methods of presenting them. It is not enough that we do not speak untruths; it is not enough that we speak the truth; additionally we should see to it that we speak the truth in love, and love that is trained uses wisdom that it may accomplish more good.—*R3339:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—
Matthew 5:10

Our text applies the general principle enunciated by our Lord, "Through much tribulation shall ye enter the kingdom." This is not because divine power is not able to shield us from the tribulations, nor because our

OCTOBER 21

DAILY MANNA

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

—Luke 11:2

This expresses adoration, appreciation of divine goodness and greatness, and in a corresponding reverence. In addressing our petition to the Lord our first thought is to be, not a selfish one respecting ourselves, nor a thought respecting the interests of others precious to us, but God is to be first in all of our thoughts and aims and calculations. We are to pray for nothing that would not be in accord with the honor of our heavenly Father's name; we are to wish for nothing for ourselves, or for our dear ones, that he would not fully approve and commission us to pray for. Perhaps no quality of heart is in greater danger of being blotted out amongst professing Christians than this thought of reverence for God.—R3352:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.—Psalm 84:11

Our text is a great encouragement to the David class, the beloved class, the anointed ones, the members of Christ. To these the Lord God is both a sun and shield; he not only enlightens these, but he will not suffer them to be injured by the blessings which he bestows

OCTOBER 22

DAILY MANNA

Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of?
—Matthew 20:22

The courage of our Lord in the narrow way fills us with admiration. What a strong character was his! He had no thought of turning back; he was intent upon accomplishing his Father's will—upon sacrificing himself in the interest of others. A noble pattern the apostles saw before them—greatness in humility, victory through service. It is well that we should have clearly before our minds that unless we partake of his cup and are immersed into his death, we can have no share in his kingdom of glory. Let us then count all things else as loss and dross to obtain this necessary experience. As it comes to us let us not be fearful, nor think strange of the fiery trials that shall try us, as though some strange thing had happened unto us. On the contrary, even hereunto were we called, that we might now suffer with the Lord and by and by be glorified together with him.—R3362:2,5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ.—Ephesians 2:4,5

OCTOBER 23

DAILY MANNA

Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.—Matthew 20:27

Amongst the Gentiles the rulers are lords, who do no serving but are served, but among the followers of Jesus the rule is to be reversed; he who would serve most was to be esteemed most highly. What a beauty there is in the divine order of things! How thoroughly all who are right-minded can sympathize with the principles here laid down! How reasonable they are and how contrary to the spirit of the world. Truly, the Lord's followers will in this sense of the word be a peculiar people in their zeal for good works—for serving one another and for doing good unto all men as they have opportunity.—*R3363:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.—Jude 20

To some, prayer at any time is irksome, tedious, but to the true Christian prayer constitutes one of the greatest of God's blessings. His privilege of approaching the throne of heavenly grace to obtain mercy and also to find grace to help in every time of need is a privilege the value of which cannot be too highly esteemed. ... These blessed privileges of

OCTOBER 24

DAILY MANNA

And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, ... and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.—Luke 23:26

We have often wondered, where were Peter and John and James that they did not see the Master's burden and run to proffer assistance? If disposed to envy Simon his privilege of assisting the Master in the bearing of the cross, let us reflect that many of the Lord's brethren are daily bearing symbolic crosses, and that it is our privilege to assist them, and that the Lord agrees to reckon any service done to his faithful followers as though it were rendered to his own person. ... As the wooden cross was not our Lord's heaviest burden, so, too, his followers have crosses which the world sees not, but which the "brethren" should understand. "Bear ye one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ."—*R3369:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.—John 12:46

The Holy Spirit is the light of the church, by which we are being specially guided into the truth. The Apostle Peter tells us that we have a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto we do well that we take heed as unto a

OCTOBER 25

DAILY MANNA

Deal courageously, and the Lord shall be with the good.—2 Chronicles 19:11

Whoever has a duty to perform let him not fear, and while seeking to do unpleasant tasks in a kindly manner, both justly and lovingly, let us fear not man, but rather fear the Lord and be intent on pleasing him. Let the world fight its fight: the Lord will supervise and the results will be glorious eventually. Let us who belong to the new nation, to the new kingdom that is not of this world, use no carnal weapons, but the sword of the Spirit—let us fight the good fight of faith, lay hold upon the glorious things set before us, and not only stand ourselves, but help all those begotten of the same Spirit and members of the same heavenly army corps to stand, complete in him who is the Head of the body, the Captain of our salvation.—*R3395:4; 3393:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities [imputing them to us], O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared [reverenced].—Psalm 130:3,4

How precious are such assurances when the soul is painfully conscious of its infirmities, of its utter inability to fully measure up to the perfect law of righ-

OCTOBER 26

DAILY MANNA

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.—1 Peter 5:7

This is a very consoling and encouraging suggestion from the word. However, the Lord's people are to learn more and more distinctly, as their years of membership in God's family and tutelage in the school of Christ go on, that they are not to ask the Lord to guide their efforts according to their wisdom; that they are not to request that their wills shall be done either on earth or in heaven, but rather, telling the Lord their burdens, great and small, they are to realize and appropriate to themselves his sympathy and love, and to apply to their own hearts as a balm the consoling assurances of his word, that he is both able and willing to make all of their experiences profitable to them if they abide in him with confidence and trust.—R3409:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept.—Isaiah 30:29

It is a fact that those who have tasted that the Lord is gracious, those who have received the joy which no man can take from them, those who have tasted of the grace of God in Christ, will not only rejoice and literally sing musical songs with their lips, but they will also rejoice to have their entire lives a song of praise

OCTOBER 27

DAILY MANNA

My times are in thy hand.—Psalm 31:15

All of the Lord's consecrated servants devoted their lives to sacrifice when they became followers of the Lamb and if they could but realize their consecration continually, they would be ready for the consummation at any moment at the Lord's pleasure and by whatever means or channel his providences may permit. The Lord's consecrated ones of the Elijah class are to remember that not a hair of their heads could fall without their Father's knowledge and permission, and the attitude of their hearts should be that expressed by our dear Redeemer—the Head of the Elijah body—"The cup which my Father hath poured for me, shall I not drink it?" The language of their hearts should be that expressed by the poet:

"Content whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me."

—R3408:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.—Lamentations 3:25,26

Let us make no mistake. It is a question of inheritance or no inheritance, among them which are sanctified.

OCTOBER 28

DAILY MANNA

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because he hath anointed me, ... to comfort all that mourn, ... to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning.—Isaiah 61:1-3

Our commission is to seek out the meek and the mourning ones, who have appreciated their own shortcomings and weaknesses, and who are looking for refuge and deliverance. It is part of our commission to point them to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world, to point them to the beauty of the resurrection for the ashes of death, and the glories which the Lord has promised by and by to take the place of the spirit of heaviness and disappointment and sorrow and trouble of this present time. It is our commission to tell such that “Joy cometh in the morning,” and to assist them to arise and at once put on the garments of praise, and to begin to walk in newness of life, with a “new song in their mouths—even the loving-kindness of our God.”—*R3436:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.—Psalm 141:2

At the close of each day let us square our day's account with the Lord at his throne of grace, recount-

OCTOBER 29

DAILY MANNA

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ... persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus. —2 Corinthians 4:8-10

Those who joyfully endure for the Lord's sake, the truth's sake, the greatest shame, the greatest ignominy, the greatest trials, the greatest persecutions in this present life, and thus have experiences most like those of the Master and Pattern, we may be sure will in proportion to their faithfulness manifested in such sacrifices, have a future great reward;—as the apostle has declared, “star differeth from star in glory.”—*R2762:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And Zaccheus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.—Luke 19:8

We believe that many today make a mistake in that they do not more fully follow the course of Zaccheus—in that they continue to hold on to something which really, rightfully, belongs to another; and secondly, that they do not consecrate more of their wealth of money or property or time or talent

OCTOBER 30

DAILY MANNA

No man can serve two masters.—Matthew 6:24

“Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Experience and observation corroborate this; and hence as a rule we find that people are either cold or hot in spiritual things ... We are to “seek first (chiefly) the kingdom of God.” It is to be our chief concern and to receive from us all the time, attention, thought, energy, influence and means we have—the things needful for the present life being understood to be excepted; and our love and zeal will be manifested by the proportion of even these which we are willing to sacrifice in the interest of heavenly things.—*R2765:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.—Acts 8:4

Dear brethren, he who was with and guided the early church is with us with equal power. He who guided in that harvest time is guiding now, and will continue to guide his work to the end. We may have experience with similar characters to that of Judas, Alexander the Coppersmith, Jannes and Jambres. But the Lord is able to make all these work together for good to us and through them all to fulfill his gracious promises. He may permit persecutions, imprisonments, or things corresponding on a different plane, but let us never

OCTOBER 31

DAILY MANNA

Because thy lovingkindness [favor] is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.—Psalm 63:3

Those who have tasted of the Lord's grace, those who have come to realize his favor as better than life, and who have joyfully laid upon his altar every earthly good thing, and hope and ambition, rejoice to tell the good tidings to others; they rejoice to tell forth the praises of him who called them out of darkness into his marvelous light. The message is too good to keep; they not only do not require to be hired to tell it, but they are willing that the telling of it, and the enjoying of God's favor in connection with the telling, shall cost them something—cost them trouble, cost them money, cost them the loss of earthly friendship, cost the straining, if not the breaking, of some home ties, cost them the frown of the world and of churchianity.—R2852:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord.—Malachi 3:7

The thought everywhere held out in the Scriptures is that God's mercy endureth forever—that is, "olam," or to a completion. A small portion of the world of mankind at the present time has received God's favor to the extent of being justified and made partakers in

NOVEMBER 1

DAILY MANNA

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.—Psalm 141:3

The number of watchmen, or pickets doing duty and standing guard over our actions and words will be fewer in proportion as the picket line guarding our minds, our thoughts, is a strong one. It is here that we need to be especially on the alert. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." This general truth is particularly exemplified in the regenerate, who are more open in their conduct and language, proportionately, than others. Having the right sentiments at heart they are less on their guard in respect to their manner of expression perhaps than previously; but all the more, they need to remember the words of the apostle, "If any man sin not with his lips, the same is a perfect man." James 3:2—R3305:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.—Isaiah 54:10

How wonderfully the Lord has guided his people! His children have ever been his constant care. No good thing hath he withheld from them, and all things have been made to work together for their good if they

NOVEMBER 2

DAILY MANNA

It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good. —
1 Samuel 3:18

We know not what is for our highest welfare. Sometimes those things which we crave and desire to grasp, considering them to be good, might really be to our disadvantage. Blessed are they who are able by faith to pierce the gloom of every trial and difficulty and perplexity, and to realize that “The Lord knoweth them that are his,” and that he is causing all things to work together for their good.—*R2806:4*

We are to wait patiently for the Lord, and to take patiently such experiences as his providences may mark out for us, questioning not the wisdom, the love and the power of him with whom we have to do.—*R2888:2*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.—Isaiah 14:7

Thank God for the prospect of an unshakable kingdom, whose King shall reign in righteousness and whose princes shall decree justice (Isa. 32:1; Prov. 8:15) and under whose dominion the whole earth shall be at rest. (Isa. 14:7) This is the kingdom which the prophet declares will indeed be “the desire of all

NOVEMBER 3

DAILY MANNA

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.—Matthew 26:41

Some make the mistake of praying without watching; others make the mistake of watching without praying; but the safe and only proper method is that which our Lord directed, to combine the two. We are to watch, and to be on our guard against the encroachments of the world, the flesh and the devil. We are to watch for all the encouragements of the Lord's word, the evidence of their fulfillment, the signs that betoken his presence and the great changes of dispensations just at hand. We are to watch for everything that will strengthen us in faith and hope and loyalty and love and while watching we are to pray without ceasing. We are to pray together as the Lord's people; we are to pray in our homes, as families; we are to pray in secret, in private.—R2775:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.—Psalm 55:17

Unquestionably the best men and women in the world are those who pray, and pray regularly, who bow the knee, as did Daniel. (Dan. 6:10) Unquestionably the moments thus taken from earthly affairs are well

NOVEMBER 4

DAILY MANNA

He made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant.—Philippians 2:7

As no man is able to serve two masters and satisfy both, and do justice to both, their interests conflicting, no more can we serve God and righteousness, and at the same time be pleasing and acceptable to the adversary and those who are in harmony with him who now rules in this present dispensation, the “prince of this world.” All of the Lord’s consecrated people, those who would lay up treasures in heaven and be rich toward God, must be willing to become of no reputation amongst those who are not consecrated, and who, whatever their professions, are really serving mammon, selfishness, and the present life, and not sacrificing these interests to the attainment of the heavenly kingdom.—*R2717:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Behold, the Bridegroom.—Matthew 25:6

The announcement, the truth upon this subject, is indeed a testing, proving, which of the professed virgins of the Lord have the oil in their vessels, the right spirit of humility, patience, love, devotion, interest in the things of the Bridegroom. Such and such only are desired by the Bridegroom or will be permitted to enter. In view of this it is evident that our work in the

NOVEMBER 5

DAILY MANNA

Having an High Priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.—Hebrews 10:21,22

Let us remember that he who has begun the good work changes never, and that if our hearts are still in harmony with him, if our faith is still clear and firm in the great atonement, if our consecration is still full and complete, so that we seek not our own wills but his will to be done in our affairs, then we may indeed have the full assurance of faith, because knowing that God is unchangeable, and knowing that we are still in line with his promises and arrangements, we know that all of his gracious providences are still being exercised on our behalf. This is full assurance of faith—full confidence in the Lord.—*R2643:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

With the mouth confession is made unto salvation.—Romans 10:10

This implies that a dumb believer will never make his calling and election sure. We do not refer to those who are naturally dumb: but understand the word “mouth” in the same sense that we speak of the “ears” of our heart, and the “eyes of our understanding.” A heart that sees and hears the grace of God, and that truly accepts the same, must in due time become so

enthused with the things heard and seen that it cannot refrain from some outward manifestation of its joy and peace and hope and trust and thankfulness. As the apostles declared, “We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” All Christians who, having received the light of truth, having seen the grace of God in the divine plan, having tasted that the Lord is gracious, having heard the wonders of “so great salvation, which began to be spoken by our Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him”—these must not, cannot, keep silence nor put their light under a bushel. If they do, it means the extinguishment of their light, the stoppage of their growth; and persevered in this would ultimately mean to them destruction in the second death: for those who are ashamed of the Lord and his word, after they have discerned clearly, not only are not fit for the kingdom, but of such the Lord would be ashamed under any and all conditions.—*R2966:5* (Hymn 261)

NOVEMBER 6

DAILY MANNA

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.—Romans 12:1

To render all we have to the Lord's service is not only a reasonable thing, but an offering far too small—far less than what we would like to render to him who has manifested such compassion and grace toward us. And we should feel thus, even if there were no rewards attached to such a consecration of ourselves. But inasmuch as God has attached great rewards and blessings, we should feel not only that a refusal to accept would be an indication also of weakness of mind, of judgment, which is unable to balance the trifling and transitory pleasures of self-will for a few short years, with an eternity of joy and blessing and glory, in harmony with the Lord.—R2642:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.—1 Peter 1:5

In our journey through life almost daily we come to places and circumstances which, wrongly received, may change our entire course from fellowship and relationship to God to sin and opposition to him. What Christian has not realized certain crises in his life in

NOVEMBER 7

DAILY MANNA

And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God.—Revelation 20:4

Although this beheading is figurative and not literal, it nevertheless has a deep significance. . . . It signifies, not only death to self-will, but also to be cut off from all other heads, governments and lawgivers, and to recognize no “head” but Jesus, whom God hath appointed to be the Head of the church, which is his body. . . . It means, not only to be cut off from institutional heads and authorities, but also to cease to have heads and wills of our own, and to accept, instead, the headship, the will, of our Lord Jesus. It is the same thought that is drawn to our attention by the apostle in Romans 6:3, where he declares that we are baptized into the body of Christ, as members of that body, under the one Head, Christ, by being baptized into his death,—a full consecration of our wills, and ultimately a full laying down of our lives, faithfully unto death.—*R2700:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Brother shall deliver up the brother to death.—Matthew 10:21

Alas, that this should be so—that the love of God should at any time fail to constrain us so that we

NOVEMBER 8

DAILY MANNA

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.—Exodus 20:7

Although this commandment was not given to spiritual Israel we can readily see how the spirit of it comes to us. ... We have taken the name of Christ as our name. We are counted as members of the body of Christ. The holy name of the Head belongs to all the members of the body. The honored name of the Bridegroom belongs to his espoused. What carefulness the thought of this should give us, and how appropriately we should say to ourselves:—"I must see to it that I have not taken the Lord's name in vain,—that I appreciate the honor, dignity and responsibility of my position as his representative and ambassador in the world. I will walk circumspectly, seeking as far as possible to bring no dishonor to that name, but contrariwise to honor it in every thought and word and deed."—*R3331:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.—1 Corinthians 1:26

How strange! Yet it is just like the Lord to pass by the self-righteous and the proud, and to declare that only those who humble themselves shall be exalted

and those that exalt themselves shall be abased. This fact, then, that God will accept none but the humble accounts for the fact that those who have received the message in humility are chiefly the mean, the ignoble. It is only the humble-minded, taught in the school of Christ, who are able and willing to accept the ignoble ones who rally to the Lord's standard and who may be accepted. To love the ignoble signifies that we must view them from the divine standpoint and love them as God loves them—not because of their ignoble and mean qualities, but in spite of these; because of their heart's desires toward God and righteousness. As we come to love and appreciate all those who stand for and strive for those principles, we take our position with God and view the situation from the divine standpoint, having compassion upon those who are weak and out of the way and doing all we can to assist them, if they are of those who love righteousness and hate iniquity and are striving in harmony with their ideals.—*R4269:4* (Hymn 194)

NOVEMBER 9

DAILY MANNA

The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.—Galatians 5:17

Here is the great and continual battle, for although the new will asserts itself and puts the body under and compels its subjection to the new mind, nevertheless the mortal body, not being actually dead, is continually coming in contact with the world and the adversary and is continually being stimulated by these and reinvigorated with earthly cares, ambitions, methods, strivings, conflicts and insubordination to our new will. No saint is without experiences of this kind—fightings without and within. It must be a fight to the finish or the great prize for which we fight will not be gained. For although the new creature masters the mortal body by the Lord's grace and strength repeatedly, nevertheless until death there can be no cessation of the conflict.—R3275:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together.—Hebrews 10:25

As David desired to be near to the tabernacle, close to the Lord, so we, members of the Beloved, should find ourselves longing for a closer walk with God, a near-

NOVEMBER 10

DAILY MANNA

Love ... rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.—1 Corinthians 13:6

Are the principles of right and wrong so firmly fixed in my mind, and am I so thoroughly in accord with the right and so opposed to the wrong that I would not encourage the wrong, but must condemn it, even if it brought advantage to me? Am I so in accord with right, with truth, that I could not avoid rejoicing in the truth and in its prosperity, even to the upsetting of some of my preconceived opinions, or to the disadvantage of some of my earthly interests? The love of God, which the apostle is here describing as the spirit of the Lord's people, is a love which is far above selfishness, and is based upon fixed principles which should, day by day, be more and more distinctly discerned, and always firmly adhered to at any cost.—*R3151:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.—2 Corinthians 12:9

Ah, says the apostle, if having this affliction means more divine grace, then I am content to keep it and

NOVEMBER 11

DAILY MANNA

Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue [fortitude].—2 Peter 1:5

One great difficulty with the Lord's people is that, even when determined for a right course and thus resisting the temptation, they do not take sufficiently positive action. Many say to the tempter, I have concluded not to yield at this time. Thus they leave in their own minds an opportunity open by which the tempter may return. Our Lord's course was the proper one: we should dismiss the tempter once and forever. We should take our stand so firmly that even the adversary would not think it worth while to come back at us along that line; "Leave me, adversary—I will worship and serve my God alone."—*R3299:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.—Acts 11:21

The word hand as a symbol signifies power and direction. Here we have the true secret of all successful Christian work which will have the divine approval. Each individual Christian, so to speak, is a finger of the Lord. ... If we would be used and useful as God's agencies, ambassadors, we should seek to be impulsed and guided by him. We are to hear his voice

NOVEMBER 12

DAILY MANNA

Be not faithless, but believing.—John 20:27

It is impossible for us to come near to the Lord except as we shall exercise faith and trust in him, in his goodness, in his power, in his wisdom, in his love. Faith is a matter of cultivation, of development. The same apostles who cried out in terror when the storm was upon the Sea of Galilee gradually grew stronger and stronger in faith until, as the records show, they could and did trust the Lord in his absence and where they could not trace him. Similarly it should be a part of our daily lesson to cultivate trust in the Lord, and to think of the experiences in the past in our lives and all of these lessons in his word, that thus our faith in him may become rooted and grounded.—R3338:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Certainly I will be with thee.—Exodus 3:12

Our text is an inspiration to the Lord's people everywhere and at all times, when endeavoring properly to do any part of the Lord's work, heeding his call through the word. If God be for us, and if God be with us, who can prevail against us eventually? There may be with us, as there were with Moses and his service, various difficulties, trials, vexations, and disappointments, for we have the treasure of the new nature in earthen vessels, and the weaknesses and imperfec-

NOVEMBER 13

DAILY MANNA

Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of.—

Matthew 6:8

Our petitions, our requests, our cries to the Lord, therefore, should be for the holiness of heart, for the filling of his spirit, for the spiritual food, refreshment, strength; and as for the natural things, he knoweth the way we take and what would be to our best interests as new creatures. We are to leave this to him: he would not be pleased to see us importuning him for things which he did not give us, for to do so would not be an exemplification of faith in him, but the reverse—an exemplification of doubt, a manifestation of fear that he was forgetting or neglecting his promise to give us the things needful.—R3338:6

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Prepare to meet thy God.—Amos 4:12

The right way to prepare to meet God and to hear his decision respecting the character is not as usually supposed, to begin to get pious when we feel the approach of sickness or death or in the presence of calamity. From the moment we become believers in Christ and turn from sin and seek forgiveness and thus become eligible to God's favor, we are urged to present our bodies living sacrifices to him and thus to receive of him an adoption of his spirit to fellowship. This in

NOVEMBER 14

DAILY MANNA

Take heed unto yourselves ... grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.—Acts 20:28-30

It is necessary for the discipline, trial and final proving the church of God that they should be subjected to these adverse influences; for to him that overcometh them is the promise of the great reward. If we would reign with Christ, we must prove our worthiness to reign by the same tests of loyalty to God, of faith in his word, of zeal for the truth, of patient endurance of reproach and persecution, even unto death, and of unwavering trust in the power and purpose of God to deliver and exalt his church in due time. To such faithful ones are the blessed consolations of Psalm 91.—*R3331:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.—John 20:29

Now, while it is dark, before the Sun of righteousness has arisen with healing in his beams, to scatter all the doubts and fears and hindrances, the Lord puts a premium upon faith, and only those who can and do exercise it may and do have certain rewards, privileges, opportunities, and blessings. Of the Gospel-Age little

NOVEMBER 15

DAILY MANNA

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.—1 John 2:6

He is to walk as our Lord walked, in his general deportment and relationship to everything that is good and correspondingly to avoid everything that is evil. He is to walk as nearly as possible in the footsteps of Jesus. This, however, does not mean that he either should or could, in an imperfect body, walk up to all the perfection of his Lord, who even in his flesh was perfect. It means just what it says, that we should walk as he walked—in the same way, in the same direction, toward the same mark and standard that he recognized and established.—R3237:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way.—Hebrews 12:13

What does the apostle mean? He does not mean that we should literally shovel a path smooth, nor does he refer to our literal feet. All will agree to this. Evidently the apostle's teaching is that each one of the Lord's sheep has more or less of earthly blemish (imperfection), in consequence of which lameness it is difficult for him to make steady progress in the footsteps of our Lord. He urges that as we find out what our weaknesses are, physical and mental, we should endeavor

NOVEMBER 16

DAILY MANNA

She hath done what she could.—Mark 14:8

It is not our privilege to come into personal contact with our dear Redeemer, but it is our privilege to anoint the Lord's "brethren" with the sweet perfume of love, sympathy, joy and peace, and the more costly this may be as respects our self-denials, the more precious it will be in the estimation of our Elder Brother, who declared that in proportion as we do or do not unto his brethren, we do or do not unto him. ... Our alabaster boxes are our hearts, which should be full of the richest and sweetest perfumes of good wishes, kindness and love toward all, but especially toward the Christ—toward the Head, our Lord Jesus, and toward all the members of his body, the church; and especially on our part toward the feet members who are now with us, and on whom we now have the privilege of pouring out the sweet odors of love and devotion in the name of the Lord, because we are his.—*R2448:5; 2744:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb.—Revelation 15:3

We who hope to be members of the bride class and joint-heirs with him are expected to learn to sing the song of Moses the servant and the song of the Lamb,

NOVEMBER 17

DAILY MANNA

He shall give his angels [messengers] charge concerning thee, to guard thee in all thy ways.—Psalm 91:11

That is, God will raise up some faithful pastors and teachers who will “watch for your souls as they that must give an account.” True, there shall arise false teachers, perverting the word of the Lord and seeking by cunning sophistries to subvert your souls; but if in simplicity of heart God’s children require a “Thus saith the Lord” for every element of their faith, and carefully prove all things by the word, they will be able to distinguish readily the true from the false. And having done so, the Apostle Paul (Hebrews 13:17) counsels us to have confidence. The Lord, our Shepherd, will care for the true sheep.—R3332:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Jesus Christ maketh thee whole.—Acts 9:34

Our text is from Peter’s words to Aeneas, the paralytic, whom the apostle found at Lydda and healed. We are not told that he was one of the saints; the presumption, therefore, is that he was not, but that at most he was a friend to some of them, and that thus the apostle’s attention was drawn to him. The fact that he had been bedfast, helpless, eight years, testified that the healing was a miracle. Its fame spread abroad, and

NOVEMBER 18

DAILY MANNA

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.—Psalm 34:7

How it enlarges the confidence of a Christian to realize that whilst earthly powers may be in opposition, and whilst he may be really of himself powerless to resist adversaries, and whilst in addition to the flesh and blood adversaries he may realize that he battles also with spiritual wickedness in exalted places—against Satan and his minions of darkness—yet that, on the other hand, “greater is he that is on our part than all that be against us,” and that all the heavenly hosts are subject to the divine will and may be employed for the advancement of the divine cause according to divine wisdom.—*R2140:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.—Genesis 12:2

The fulfillment has already commenced in our hearts, but that is not the end, not the fulness, not the ultimate meaning of the promises; for by and by this holy nation (the body of Christ, the church), shall be great indeed when filled with the divine blessing and power as God’s glorified kingdom. We realize too that while it is our blessed privilege to let shine upon others the light which the Lord by his spirit has graciously

NOVEMBER 19

DAILY MANNA

Let us watch and be sober.—1 Thessalonians 5:6

Let us watch in the sense of taking careful notice of all the directions which the Lord our God has given us, respecting what would be acceptable service to him. Let us watch ourselves, striving to walk as nearly as possible in the footsteps of the great High Priest. Let us be sober in the sense that we will not be frivolous; that while happy, joyous in the Lord, free from the anxious cares that are upon many others through misapprehension of our Father's character and plan, we may, nevertheless, be sober in the sense of earnest appreciation of present opportunities and privileges in connection with the Lord's service;—not thoughtlessly negligent, letting opportunities and privileges slip through our hands to be afterwards regretted.—*R3056:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.—Revelation 21:7

Those addressed are not the bride class, selected during the Gospel Age, but the sheep class of Matthew 25—such of mankind as during the Millennial Age become the Lord's sheep and obey his voice. To these at the end of the Millennial Age, in harmony with the Father's plan he says, "Come, ye blessed of my

NOVEMBER 20

DAILY MANNA

If ye do these things, ye shall never fall.—2 Peter 1:10

The contingency is not in the doing of these things perfectly, and regardless of the righteousness of Christ to cover our transgressions and compensate for our daily shortcomings; but, if added to our faith in the imputed righteousness of Christ, we have cultivated all these graces to the extent of our ability, we shall not fall. When we have done all that we can do, we are still unprofitable servants, not daring to trust in our own righteousness, but in the ample robe which is ours by faith in Christ, while, with consistent “diligence,” we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that the righteousness of Christ is only applied to such as desire to forsake sin and pursue that “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.”—*R2155:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Wait, I say, on the Lord.—Psalm 27:14

Some of us have learned by experience that to attempt to go before the Lord in any matter is dangerous. We are not wise enough to guide ourselves. Indeed, as the poet has expressed it, “We fear to touch things that involve so much.” If we could recognize the delicacy of our situation at times, it would make us more modest and cautious. Not only our own interests and eter-

NOVEMBER 21

DAILY MANNA

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.—James 1:2

All wish frequently, no doubt, that the testings were all over and that we were accepted to a place amongst the overcomers; but patience and faith and trust are to do a refining work in our hearts, making us mellow, willing and obedient to the Lord. Let the good work go on. Let us rejoice if our trials have brought us lessons of any kind that are profitable to us;—that have tended to make us stronger in character, more firm for truth and righteousness, more aware of our own weaknesses, and more on guard against the same. Even those conflicts which have resulted in only partial victories have possibly been to our advantage. Even on points in which there may have been absolute failure, the result may be a strengthening of character, a crystallization of determination for greater zeal in that direction again, and a humility of heart before the Lord in prayer.—*R3001:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.—Ephesians 5:14

When the believing, converted, consecrated, begotten, sleeping “new creature” has been awakened—when the eyes and ears of his understanding have been opened to see the true conditions of the world, and to realize himself as a new creature in Christ—his next duty is to

“arise.” His arising from the dead signifies the activity of the new mind, the new will, in directing and controlling his mortal body. This implies effort; the putting forth of all the energy of the new creature. It requires no effort to sleep, or to lie after one gets awake; but to rise requires the exercise of every muscle. Arising is not an instantaneous act, but a process requiring one movement after another, until it is fully accomplished; so also is the arising of the new creature from the dead conditions of sin and trespass against the laws of righteousness and truth and purity; it requires his every effort, and is a work of time. Indeed all experienced Christians who have followed the apostle’s injunction to arise from the dead have found that it requires days, months, years, of energetic effort to rise up above, superior to the fallen tendencies of his own flesh, common to the world of mankind. He finds that even after he has risen fully up, so that he does not wilfully practice sin, nor countenance it in any sense or degree, he still must be on his guard lest he be entrapped by the weaknesses of his mortal body; or by the allurements of the world; or by the temptations of the adversary; and thus stumble again over some of the things of sin and death from which he had arisen by the Lord’s grace.—*R2967:1* (Hymn 20)

NOVEMBER 22

DAILY MANNA

The zeal of thine house hath consumed me.—Psalm 69:9

Cold, calculating people may have other good qualities, but there is no room for coldness or even lukewarmness on the part of those who have once tasted that the Lord is gracious. With such, the love enkindled should lead to a consuming zeal. It was thus with our Lord Jesus, and this was one of the reasons why he was beloved of the Father. Let all who desire to be pleasing in the Lord's sight become so filled with the same spirit of zeal for righteousness and truth that it will consume them as sacrifices upon the Lord's altar. Thus they will be most pleasing and acceptable to him through Jesus our Lord.—R2289:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.—Ephesians 5:20

As for the days of national thanksgiving, we, as citizens of the heavenly kingdom, have no special need of them; for every day should be with us a day of thanksgiving for all things—for the prosperity of our "holy nation" under the righteous authority of Christ our King, for its peace and joy and its glorious hope, for its privileges of spiritual enlightenment and bless-

ing, for the perfection of its laws and the shaping of its course and destiny, and for the needed discipline as well, which is to prepare it for its future exaltation and glory. Let the people of the world and less enlightened Christians give thanks, as doubtless many of them do, out of a sincere heart, for the common blessings of this present life—for the air and sunshine and rain, for bountiful harvests and for seasons of comparative peace with the nations abroad. Yes, blessed be God, out of his abundant mercy these rich blessings are common to all—to the just and to the unjust—and it is well that the attention of all men should be called to mark and consider them. ... And while the world thus marks and rejoices in, and in some cases returns thanks to God for the truly glorious common blessings which our loving and benevolent Father showers alike upon the evil and the just, let our hearts not only rejoice in these things, but also in the higher spiritual favors bestowed upon the sons of God, giving thanks always and for all things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.—*RI490:1* (Hymn 324)

NOVEMBER 23

DAILY MANNA

Ye have need of patience [cheerful endurance, constancy] that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.—Hebrews 10:36

Here we see that it is not merely to do the will of God that is the test, but that after having attained to that point, that mark of character in our hearts, in our wills (if only partially in the flesh) we should, by patient endurance, establish God's righteous will as the law of our hearts, the rule of life under all circumstances and conditions. Then, and not until then, will we be in the heart condition of fitness for the kingdom. The Apostle James says, "The trying of your faith worketh patience" (patient endurance); that is to say, if our faith stand the trial it will work this character of patient endurance. Of course, on the other hand, if we do not attain to patient endurance, it will mean that our faith has not stood the test satisfactorily, that we are not fit for the kingdom.—R2792:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.—Psalm 110:7

We perceive that if it was necessary for our glorious Lord from the heavenly courts to drink of the brook of experience, and gain wisdom by the things he suffered, endured, and thereby to demonstrate his confi-

NOVEMBER 24

DAILY MANNA

Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward man.
—Acts 24:16

Our consciences require regulating, as do all the other features of our fallen nature. If our consciences are to be regulated we must have some standard by which to set and regulate them. The conscience is like a watch whose dial is properly marked with the hours, but whose correctness as a timekeeper depends upon the proper regulating of its mainspring, so that it may point out the hours truthfully: so our consciences are ready to indicate right and wrong to us, but they can only be relied upon to tell us truly what is right and what is wrong after being regulated in connection with the new mainspring, the new heart, the pure will, brought into full harmony with the law of love, as presented to us in the word of God.—R2735:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept; ... line upon line.—Isaiah 28:13

The Christian's experience is a continual schooling. Daily we are learning more and more about ourselves and about the wisdom and justice of God. As we learn these lessons day by day, we are learning more to reprobate and correct in ourselves. In thus discovering

NOVEMBER 25

DAILY MANNA

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.—James 1:13

There is a difference between temptations which the Father considers proper and the temptations which come from the adversary. The former are tests of loyalty to God and to the principles of righteousness, and are intended to be a blessing and a help to all those who withstand them, and who thus demonstrate their loyalty to righteousness. The temptations of Satan, on the contrary, are in the nature of pitfalls and snares in evil and wrongdoing, temptations to make right appear wrong and wrong appear right, putting light for darkness and darkness for light. In this sense of misrepresentation and ensnarements in evil, God tempteth no man.—*R3297:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

As an eagle stirreth up her nest.—Deuteronomy 32:11

Thus does the Lord at times permit trials, persecutions, etc., which outwardly seem to imply the wrecking of most precious interests, and sometimes cause surprise to his people by the roughness and jarring conditions. Nevertheless, under divine supervision, the stirring up of the nest and the throwing of responsibility upon his people can be made advantageous

NOVEMBER 26

DAILY MANNA

And the Lord said unto Moses, What is that in thine hand?—Exodus 4:2

If any man would be more abundantly used of the Lord in his blessed service, let him seek first to be fitted for it more and more. Let him imitate that beloved and honored servant, Moses, in meekness, humility, energy and untiring zeal and self-sacrificing service of the Lord. But the wise steward will seek always to cultivate along the lines of his natural abilities, and not expect the Lord to work a miracle for his advancement, and so waste valuable time seeking to develop that which he does not by nature possess.—*R1651:5*

Let us each, therefore, seek by humility, by zeal, by love for the Lord and for his cause, by faith in his power, to be in that condition of heart and mind which will make us ready to be used, and useful in any department of the divine service to which the Lord may be pleased to call us.—*R2904:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.—Acts 9:16

Is any other service than that of our Lord ever entered on these terms—promises of suffering? Surely not. Yet how honest for the Lord not to call his disciples under any misapprehension of the facts! We are called to suffer with him—to sacrifice ourselves, our earthly interests—to share his cross, and by these experiences to prove that we have been begotten of his Spirit, and

that it has been shed abroad in our hearts and constituted us copies of God's dear Son. Faithfulness to this cause insures the reward of joint-heirship with our Redeemer in his kingdom; nor can those kingdom honors be hoped for on any other terms. The apostle understood this, and seems to give the thought also that the more any of the Lord's followers can share of the sufferings of Christ, in the flesh, proportionately will be his share in the glory which by and by shall be revealed to us—in the "members of his body." The expression, "For my name's sake," is comprehensive. It includes everything connected with the divine plan, of which Jesus, the Messiah, is the center. It includes sufferings for the truth's sake, because the truth is vitally connected with the "only name." It includes the brethren because they have named the name of Christ and they are under his name as members of his body. It includes all the work of the Millennial Kingdom because he is the Head of it all, and his name, his honor, is associated with it all. Let us, therefore, be glad of any sufferings which come to us directly or indirectly, because of our faithfulness to the "precious name" and these various interests which are associated with it.—*R4356:4* (Hymn 177)

NOVEMBER 27

DAILY MANNA

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance.—Ephesians 6:18

We are to have the spirit of prayer in all that we say and do: that is to say, our hearts should be going out continually to the Lord for guidance in all of life's affairs, that we may do with our might what our hands find to do, in a manner that will be acceptable to him, and that we may be shielded by him from temptation that would otherwise be beyond our endurance, and that we may be ultimately delivered from the evil one and have a place in our Lord's kingdom. Brethren and sisters, let us more and more remember and put in practice these words of our Lord, "Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation."—R2775:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.—Acts 20:28

The elders everywhere need to take special heed, because in every trial the most favored and most prominent have the severest besetments and tests. Hence the apostle exhorts, "Be not many of you teachers, brethren, knowing that a man shall receive the

more severe testing.” We, likewise, exhort all the elders who in heart are pure, unselfish, that they have nothing but love and good wishes for all mankind, and that they become more and more filled with the fruits and graces of the Holy Spirit, taking heed also to the flock. Remember that the flock is the Lord’s and that you have a responsibility to the Lord, as well as to them. Remember, that you are to watch for their souls (interests) as those who must give an account to the great Chief Shepherd. Remember, that the principal thing is love, in all; and while not neglecting doctrines, give special heed to the development of the Lord’s spirit among the various members of his body, that thus they may become “meet for the inheritance of the saints in light,” and according to the divine will, be not suffered to stumble in this evil day, but having done all to stand complete in Christ, his body, his members, his joint-sacrificers, his joint-heirs.—*R4346:5* (Hymn 183)

NOVEMBER 28

DAILY MANNA

When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?—Job 34:29

Who but he, the “God of all comfort,” can give quietness in the midst of tumults which rise upon the soul like sudden storms upon the sea? Like ocean mariners in peril, we cry unto him, and he bringeth us to the desired haven—blessed haven—of quietness and peace in God. What is the cry which brings this answer of peace? It is not a prayer that all occasion for disturbance shall be removed, for it is not always the divine will to bring peace to the human spirit in that way; it is not always the best way. But there is a cry which never fails to bring the quietness in which none can make trouble. It is the prayer for sweet, trustful loving acquiescence in the will of God.—*R2058:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.—1 John 1:5

The Scriptures represent God as being a light. In the tabernacle he was represented by a brilliant light on the mercy seat, called the Shekinah glory. Our Lord Jesus, filled with the light of the Holy Spirit, was called “the true Light.” And it was he that said of his followers, “Ye are the light of the world. . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good

NOVEMBER 29

DAILY MANNA

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised).—Hebrews 10:23

God's promise is the foundation upon which all that we hope for, either of character or coming glory, is built. Let us prize this truth so that we will not compromise it in any sense or in any degree; let us not only hold the truth in the letter but in the spirit;—in the love of it, because it is true, as well as because it is beautiful and grand. And let us ever remember the importance of patient endurance, that we may not only cultivate the Christian graces, and practice them, but that we may take joyfully the trials, persecutions or difficulties which our Lord may see proper to permit to come upon us for our testing and for the development of this character which he explains to us is of paramount importance, and without which perfect love could neither be attained nor maintained.—*R2793:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore.—Revelation 1:18

There is no more important lesson in connection with the gospel than that of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. The death of Jesus indeed exhibits to us his

NOVEMBER 30

DAILY MANNA

Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.—Matthew 28:20

Surely he who was careful to supervise the sowing work is not less interested and careful in respect to the reaping. Let us then thrust in the sickle of truth with energy and courage, remembering that we serve the Lord Christ, remembering that we are not responsible for the harvest but merely for our energy in gathering what ripe “wheat” we can find. If the labor be great for the finding of a few grains of ripe wheat we are to rejoice the more in those we do find, and learn to love and appreciate that which is scarce and precious. Let us remember, too, while using all the wisdom we can in this service, that the Lord’s object in giving us a share in his work is not so much what we can accomplish as in the blessing that the labor will bring upon us.—*R2811:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Having an High Priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.—Hebrews 10:21,22

If the child of God would draw very near, and would have the blessed realization of the Father’s smile of approval continually, he must seek to have a conscience void of offense toward God and toward men—

a conscience which can truthfully say, I am striving to do that which would be pleasing to the Lord, that which is in full harmony with my covenant of sacrifice; and I am striving also to do that which would justly have the approval of righteous men. Nothing short of this is at all permissible in those who have consecrated themselves to be members of the royal priesthood, to sacrifice their lives in the Lord's service that they may reign with him. Let us never forget that he who has begun this good work in us changes never, and that if we keep our hearts in harmony with him, if our faith is still firm and clear in the great atonement made for our sins, and we continually renew our consecration to him, keeping our all on the altar of sacrifice, letting the Lord consume it in his own way, seeking not our own will, our own way, but his will alone, we have every reason to have full confidence that this good work in us will be finished, that we shall enter with joy into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord, and shall hear his blessed words of approval, "Well done, good and faithful servant."—*R5425:2,5* (Hymn 241)

DECEMBER 1

DAILY MANNA

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.—Matthew 22:39

You would not want your neighbor to use brain and tongue in evil surmises and slanders against you; and you should not do so to him. The law of the Lord commands that all under his covenant shall take heed not to utter one solitary suspicion against a neighbor: and that if suspicion beyond knowledge be forced upon the mind by associated circumstances, the new mind shall promptly, with its native benevolences, counter-balance the suspicions by suggestions of the possibility of misinformation or misinterpretation and always give the apparently guilty the benefit of the doubt.—*R2445:3*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother!—John 19:26,27

Our Lord, so far from thinking of himself and his own anguish was thinking of others. As during his ministry he had gone about doing good, so in his dying hour here he thought of the good, the welfare of others, and in the above words committed his mother to the care of the loving disciple. Beautiful is the lesson! How it

DECEMBER 2

DAILY MANNA

And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized.—
Acts 22:16

There is a directness in this address that is worthy of being copied by all who have an influence upon others, and who are seeking to bring them along in the right way. Urge them to promptness, to full and complete obedience, to a full confession of the Lord and the truth. If they are not inclined to promptly obey after their eyes of faith have seen the Lord, and after their ears have heard his voice, they will be much less likely after a while, when the world and the flesh and the devil will say to them, Do not be an extremist; be moderate; do not make a full consecration of yourself to the Lord. Your neighbors and friends will think you beside yourself, and it will interfere with your hopes and prospects, and turn your friends into enemies. It will cost you too much; go slowly.—R2825:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Through him we ... have access by one Spirit unto the
Father.—Ephesians 2:18

We are never safe from being sidetracked unless we go often to the throne of grace; we cannot be filled unless we keep very close to the great fountain from which our infilling comes. We must daily carry our earthen pitcher to this heavenly fountain to be replen-

DECEMBER 3

DAILY MANNA

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.—Revelation 3:10

This is the special reward of those who are running the race with patient endurance in the present time, in the Laodicean period. While it was not our privilege to escape the hour of temptation, it is our privilege to have a counterbalancing special blessing as a result of living in the time of our Lord's *parousia* (presence). We may have his fellowship, his instruction, his dispensing of spiritual food which is now "meat in due season," in a manner and to a degree in which none of the faithful of past periods enjoyed these. But as we might expect, this greatest favor is correspondingly offset by the subtlety and severity of the trials of this hour of temptation coming upon the whole world. If ever patient endurance was necessary it is necessary now.—R2792:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will.—Philippians 1:15

Let us guard ourselves that our defense of the truth be not from motives of self-glorification but from love for the truth, love for the Lord, for his people, the

DECEMBER 4

DAILY MANNA

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?—
Luke 11:13

If the Lord's consecrated people could all be brought to the point where the chief aim in life, the burden of all their prayers, would be that they might have a larger measure of the spirit of the Lord, the spirit of holiness, the spirit of truth, the spirit of Christ, the spirit of a sound mind, what a blessing it would mean! If then they should wrestle with the Lord until the breaking of the day, their hold upon him would be sure to bring the desired blessing. The Lord has revealed himself to his people for the very purpose of giving them this blessing; nevertheless, he withholds it until they learn to appreciate and earnestly desire it.—*R2866:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.—
1 Corinthians 3:17

The lesson in connection with the building of the temple, the Lord's church, "which temple ye are," is that worldly persons, worldly methods, and worldly aid and wisdom are to be rejected. As all the living stones are to be polished, fitted, and prepared under the eye

DECEMBER 5

DAILY MANNA

Choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.—Joshua 24:15

Let others reverence whom and what they will; we, who have tasted that the Lord is gracious, we, who have come to know him through the power of the spirit by which we are begotten again to newness of life—we can do naught else than reverence our God; and reverencing him we must trust him implicitly; and trusting him implicitly we will gladly walk in whatever way he may mark out for us; and thus trusting and thus walking we are content, whatever lot we see, since 'tis his hand that leadeth us. And let us be assured that, following the true Shepherd after this manner, we shall ultimately reach the heavenly fold. In these assurances we have joy and peace and blessing of heart, even in the house of our pilgrimage, before we reach the heavenly city.—R2873:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.—2 Peter 1:10

The contingency is not in the doing of these things perfectly, and regardless of the righteousness of Christ to cover our transgressions and compensate for our daily shortcomings; but if, added to our faith in the

DECEMBER 6

DAILY MANNA

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.—Proverbs 25:28

The battle with self is the greatest battle, and we have the Lord's word for it that he that "ruleth his spirit (his own mind, will) is better than he that taketh a city," because he has to that extent learned to exercise the combativeness of a true character in the right direction, in self-control. It is after we have had considerable experience in battling with sin and selfishness in ourselves, in casting the beam out of our own eyes, in subduing anger, malice, hatred and strife in our own hearts and flesh—it is then, and by means of this severe battle and experience, that we will be prepared to assist the brethren, and to assist our neighbors in their difficulties—to help them to overcome their besetments and weaknesses.—*R2878:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.—Colossians 3:23,24

The foundation principles of the Christian religion are laid upon these lines, which are the reverse of the world's lines of thought and conduct; namely, that the

greatest one in the church is the one who is the greatest servant, the one who renders most assistance to others. The greatest servant in the church was the great Head of the church himself, who gave even his life on our behalf. And those of his followers who desire to be great in the estimation of the Lord and so esteemed of their fellows, are enjoined that they should follow closely in the Master's footsteps, and with humility of heart be ready and seek to lay down their lives for the brethren. Nor does this mean simply formal service; it means actual service. Our Lord's sacrifice, we see, was not merely a form or a show of interest and of love; it was the giving of his life as the purchase price for ours. So with us; we are not merely to love one another and to serve one another, in word, in profession, in title (as for instance, the word "minister" signifies servant); but we are to serve one another as we are to love one another, "in deed and in truth."
—*R2343:5* (Hymn 157)

DECEMBER 7

DAILY MANNA

When he was reviled, he reviled not again.—1 Peter 2:23

Not because his enemies had found in him something that could properly and justly be reviled and evil spoken of;—nor because his enemies were so nearly perfect that he could find nothing in them to revile and speak evil of; but because he was so full of submission to the divine will that he was enabled to take the scoffs and railings of the people, and to bear these humbly and patiently, and to remember that even hereunto he was called, did Jesus endure patiently and learn the lessons, and prove himself faithful, and develop and demonstrate his true character, and feel and manifest his pity for the people, in their blindness and ignorance, and his love for them.—R2879:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

It is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.—Matthew 10:20

Only those whom God has ordained in the sense of giving them the Holy Spirit of sonship are in any wise commissioned, or authorized, to preach in the Lord's name. All the ceremonies on earth and all the hands of all the bishops cannot give authority to anybody to speak in the name of God. Our Lord Jesus did not begin his ministry until he had received God's ordina-

DECEMBER 8

DAILY MANNA

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.—John 15:18

As our Master was hated without a cause, so let it be with us so far as possible, that the hatred, malice, envy and murder which may be poured out against us may be wholly unmerited by us—that our lives shall be as nearly pure as possible; that so far as we are able our thoughts and words and deeds may show forth the praises of our Lord, and speak of our love for all men, especially for the household of faith. By and by, when the church shall have been glorified, and a new dispensation inaugurated, those who hate us now ... will bow before us, as the Lord's Anointed, and we shall have the great pleasure of lifting them up ... and assisting them back to the full image and likeness of God.—*R2881:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.—Matthew 5:45

When we read our text we see that it tells us that as our God is gracious, loving, merciful, kind, even to the unthankful, even to the unjust, even to sinners, so we should be kind, generous, loving, should do good unto all men as we have opportunity, and especially to the

DECEMBER 9

DAILY MANNA

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.—James 1:12

If we could but keep in memory the fact that every trial, every persecution, every difficulty of life, permitted to come upon those who have made the covenant of sacrifice with the Lord, is intended to prove them, to test their love, to see whether or not their characters are fixed, rooted and grounded in righteousness, and being built up in love, it would put all these trials, difficulties and temptations in a new light before us, and greatly assist us in fighting a good fight and overcoming. We would say, if by these little trials the Lord is proving my love and devotion to him, then, however trifling they may be or however important, I will diligently use them as favorable opportunities to demonstrate to my Lord the fullness of my love and devotion to him and his cause.—R2258:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.—Matthew 6:10

This prayer has been offered for more than nineteen hundred years, and God's children have not yet seen his kingdom established. Shall we cease to pray? Ah,

DECEMBER 10

DAILY MANNA

Them that honor me I will honor.—1 Samuel 2:30

In whatever department of the Lord's service he is pleased to open the door of opportunity to us, we should enter it promptly and with energy—with zeal for him and for the cause to which he has called us. This is one condition of our acceptableness to him. If we are slothful, inattentive to opportunities, undoubtedly they will be removed from us, and given to others, for the Lord is abundantly able to raise up one or another to serve his cause without interfering with, or overruling our free moral agency. Let us more and more appreciate what a privilege we enjoy in being co-laborers together with God, and especially in connection with this great service which our Lord and Master Jesus is exercising, and to fellowship in which we have been called, as his bride and joint-heir.—*R2888:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.—Hebrews 13:6

The world has often wondered at the calmness of the Lord's humble little ones under circumstances which would cause the stoutest heart to quail. But to follow the course in life which will glorify our God and magnify his grace, to be able to meet wisely and coura-

DECEMBER 11

DAILY MANNA

My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.—Proverbs 23:26

The heart, the will, thus given over to God, seeks to know the divine will, to catch the divine thought and to obey it in word and in act; and in proportion as this condition of the new mind is attained, in that same proportion will there begin to be a newness of life in every respect—in ambitions, hopes, sentiments and efforts. It is for this reason that the revelation of the divine will and plan is furnished to believers—that by growing in the knowledge of it, by thinking on these things, by filling the mind with the divine plan and will, the transforming influence may extend into every avenue of life.—*R2891:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.—John 5:36

The miracles which our Lord did were only intended to be sufficient to establish his identity, and were not with the view of establishing a precedent for the healing of the world nor of the church. The Lord's great healing time is designated in the Scriptures, "times of restitution." When those times shall come, when the Millennial Kingdom shall be established, the healing of the nations will be the great work; and it

DECEMBER 12

DAILY MANNA

As he [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he.—Proverbs 23:7

It behooves the Lord's consecrated people to carefully strain out the impurities, and see that they do not enter into our hearts, our thoughts, realizing that with them in, the result will be to work to our defilement, to a greater or less degree. Whoever maintains purity of thought will have comparatively little effort in maintaining purity of word and of action. Whether the impurity come from one direction or another—from the world or the flesh or the devil—its attack must first of all be upon the mind; and if repelled there the victory is won; if not repelled we cannot know what the consequences might be, as the Apostle James declares: "Lust (selfish desire of any kind), when it has conceived (in the mind) bringeth forth sin (develops sinful words or deeds), and sin when it is finished bringeth forth death."—*R2891:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.—Proverbs 3:3

For one to keep the principles of truth and of righteousness before his own mind is to be a thoroughly upright man or woman, one in whom truth, purity,

goodness, will be in control. But a person who has merely these principles in control should cultivate more and more the quality of mercy. We should bind these about our neck. The thought is that of a necklace, or ornamental band. As a man puts around his neck a cravat, with a jewel in it as an ornament, placed where it will be displayed, so these qualities of character are jewels. Give them a prominent place; for they will help to make you better, help to make you more acceptable to the Lord. The preferable place for the display of a jewel is the neck. There a jewel is especially conspicuous and ornamental. So we should fasten these noble qualities of character where they will be manifest in all the affairs of life. Whether we buy or sell, or whatever we do, we should wear these ornaments. They will show what is the character of the man or woman—right on the outside, in the very front. They should be seen as we meet others. There should be nothing mean, nothing contemptible, nothing niggardly about us.—*R5309:2* (Hymn 311)

DECEMBER 13

DAILY MANNA

Lay not this sin to their charge.—Acts 7:60

How great a blessing it would be for all spiritual Israelites to learn well this lesson; viz., that if we accept the results of any matter as being good, and if we realized that we were guided to those results by divine providence, we should think and feel most generously, most kindly, toward those who were the instruments used by providence, notwithstanding the fact that they might have been unwilling instructors, or, like Joseph's brethren, have verily intended opposite results. Those who are enabled to take such a view of affairs and forces operating in their daily lives are enabled "always to triumph through the Lord," as the apostle expresses it. And such find no room for bitterness or railing, either against Satan or against any of his servants.—*R2896:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.—Ephesians 5:16

This signifies buying back the time, as though the time were already mortgaged. And this is so; the cares of this life, its necessities, the customs of the world, our fallen tendencies, all would absorb every hour of life in the things pertaining to this life, whereas as new creatures our new hopes and aims and efforts are

properly centered upon things above, the heavenly, the King's matters. Where may we obtain the necessary time wherewith to study and to refresh ourselves in rehearsing the blessings, the promises, and favors which are ours as new creatures? And where may we obtain the time for telling these good tidings to others? If we allow the spirit of the world to direct us we shall have no time for any of these things and shall fail, but as wise and not as foolish children of the Lord, we will see and appreciate the greater importance of the heavenly things, and be ready to sacrifice our earthly interests and customs and ambitions in favor of the heavenly. Thus we may redeem or buy back the time that we had previously spent for worldly things, that we may henceforth spend such time in the interest of ourselves and others of the new creation and in the service of our Lord and Master, to whom we have consecrated our all, which we find to be so little over and above the things necessary to provide honestly for the life that now is.—*R4190:2* (Hymn 210)

DECEMBER 14

DAILY MANNA

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
—Matthew 5:7

All do not know it, but it is a fact that the grandest quality that man can exercise, and the one which brings the largest amount of blessing itself, is the exercise of the godlike quality of mercy, compassion, benevolence. The Lord lays great stress upon this quality of mercy, declaring that whatever else may be our attainments of knowledge or of grace, if we have not this one we can never be acceptable to him—if we do not have mercy upon others neither will our heavenly Father have mercy upon us. And to insure that we do not consider this mercy to be merely an outward form, an expression of forgiveness and benevolence, our Lord expounds the matter, saying, “If ye do not from the heart forgive one another, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you.” ... Only the merciful shall obtain mercy: and if we have not mercy at the hands of the Lord all is lost; for by nature we were children of wrath, even as others, and under just condemnation.—*R2896:3; 2587:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.—1 John 4:18

DECEMBER 15

DAILY MANNA

The Lord is my shepherd.—Psalm 23:1

The Lord, in calling his people his sheep, chose a very significant emblem of the character he would have manifested in them. The most noticeable characteristics of the sheep are meekness, docility and obedience to the shepherd to whose care they fully entrust themselves. ... The true sheep will carefully listen for the faintest accents of the voice of the shepherd—i.e., he will treasure up his words in his heart, he will study his providences, and he will cultivate that communion and personal fellowship with the Lord which are his privilege. Those who thus abide in him can never go astray.

“They can never, never lose their way.”

—R3116:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.—2 Corinthians 4:10

We understand Paul here to be referring to the human body. The new creature owns this body. With the people of the world there are not two personalities, but merely the one creature. This quality of personality is applicable only to those who have been begotten of the Holy Spirit. The old body is suffering; but the new

creature rejoices, glad to be in the service—gives thanks to God day by day respecting its tribulations, knowing that these are working out “a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” Thus the life of Jesus is manifested through us to the world, and to the brethren. The world cannot understand. They say, “If I were in your place in such a trial, I would be miserable. But you are rejoicing!” So they cannot understand. But we have a newness of life that the world cannot appreciate. All who can appreciate this should daily grow in grace and knowledge. We should show forth more and more of the Lord’s life in our characters and in our bodies. Thus we shall be manifesting more and still more of the Lord’s spirit, doing more of the Lord’s work, becoming more like Jesus—all of which will prepare us for the glory beyond, when the new creature shall be completed, when all the perfections and glories of the new nature will be ours.—*R5671:6* (Hymn 13)

DECEMBER 16

DAILY MANNA

How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, follow him.—1 Kings 18:21

We need to have some touchstone, as it were, some matter which will help us to decide, which will enable the mind to reach a decision quickly. This touchstone should be God's will; so that to perceive the Lord's will in respect to any question would be to settle it—as quickly as discerned. ... Ability to decide quickly, and to decide always on the right side, what the Lord's will is, requires some experience and discipline; but the sooner we begin the sooner we will become proficient. The more energetically we set ourselves to know the Lord's will and to do it, and to show him by our promptness that we delight to do his will, the better and the more quickly will we find our characters established on proper lines.—*R2950:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.—John 10:11

Our Lord wished it to be understood that his life, which would shortly be given, was voluntarily submitted on his part. It was necessary that his disciples should know this, not merely that they might esteem their Lord more highly, but especially that they might

DECEMBER 17

DAILY MANNA

Beloved ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.—Philippians 2:12,13

It was God that provided for us the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, and it is God that has drawn us unto himself and that has promised us all needed grace to walk in the paths of righteousness; and more, even to follow in the footprints of Jesus in the way of self-sacrifice. While, therefore, with fear and trembling—with great carefulness—we endeavor to work out our salvation, it is our privilege always to realize the promised grace to help in every time of need, and to be confident that our best efforts toward righteousness are acceptable to God when presented through the merit of the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us by faith.—*R2154:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.—Judges 7:20

Our Captain, the Lord, has given special instructions to those whom he will specially use in the conflict of evil now in progress. Each one shall follow the exam-

ple of the Captain of our salvation. First, he shall blow upon the trumpet, representing the proclamation of the truth, and proclaim that the sword of the Spirit of truth is of Jehovah and of his anointed Son; and secondly, they shall break their pitchers and let their light shine out. The pitchers represent our earthly vessels, and the breaking of them in order to let the light shine out signifies that to which we are exhorted by the apostle, saying, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, ... your reasonable service." We see how our Chief Captain broke his earthen vessel; we see what a light streamed forth. Our highest ambition must be to follow his example, to walk in his steps, to lay down our lives for the brethren as he laid down his life for us. Meantime the blowing of the trumpet is to progress as well as the shouting in the name of Jehovah, our Captain, and the sword of the Spirit of truth is to be wielded. The result will be victory; the enemies of the Lord will be overwhelmed.—*R4083:5* (Hymn 24)

DECEMBER 18

DAILY MANNA

The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.—Hebrews 13:6

To have the proper course in life, to be able to meet the trials and difficulties of life as they come to us, and to meet them in the proper spirit which the Lord directs—in the spirit of rejoicing in tribulation, and counting such experiences all joy,—it is necessary that all fear of man, which brings a snare, shall be removed. And it is our Lord's direction that we shall fear Jehovah, and not fear our mortal fellows. The righteous are bold as a lion, as well as gentle as a dove, and meek as a lamb. This peculiar combination should be found in every Christian, and we doubt if it will be found elsewhere.—*R2953:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The Lord preserveth all them that love him.—Psalm 145:20

When we note the divine providential care over God's typical people it increases our faith and trust as his spiritual children, for with the apostle we reason that if God so loved us while we were yet sinners as to give his Son for us, much more does he love us now that we are no more sinners, aliens, strangers, foreigners, but consecrated to him and seeking to walk in the footsteps of our Redeemer. Likewise we reason that if

God exercised his providential care in the interests of the typical people he is both able and willing to do as much and more for his spiritual Israel—Israelites indeed in whom there is no guile—those who have entered into covenant relationship with him and are seeking to walk not after the flesh but after the spirit. Our text is in accord with this thought. “The Lord preserveth all them that love him.” True, he has a sympathetic love for the world which has led him to provide a redemption for all in due time—all the redeemed ones will have a manifestation of divine love and care over their interests—but now, during the Gospel Age, divine blessings are conferred upon those who will constitute the church, the body of Christ, who love him more than they love houses or lands, parents or children, or self. All who can thus affirm to their own hearts their loyalty to the Lord, their faith and trust in him, may be assured that all things are supervised for their good and working out for their welfare, in matters temporal and eternal.—*R3658:5* (Hymn 252)

DECEMBER 19

DAILY MANNA

Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.—1 Kings 20:11

The test of endurance is certainly one of the severest tests of faithfulness to which the elect church, the body of Christ, is subjected. It is the test which gauges and registers the strength of every other virtue and grace, and no soldier of the cross will be crowned with the laurels of victory who has not stood this test. . . . In the battle of this day, as in all other battles, the effort of the enemy is to surprise and suddenly attack and overwhelm the Lord's people; and the only preparation therefore, that can be made for such emergencies is constant vigilance and prayer and the putting on of the whole armor of God—the truth and the spirit of the truth.—*RI 656:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. — John 7:37

Our text is quite in line with the lesson intimated—that before anyone can come to the Lord he must thirst, he must have an appreciation of that which the Lord has to give—the water, the refreshment, of eternal life. This means that he must learn that he is a sinner, and under sentence of death, and that there is no hope for a future life except through Christ. The com-

DECEMBER 20

DAILY MANNA

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.—2 Timothy 2:15

There is much significance in that word “study;” and only the studious find the narrow way to the divine approval and acceptance. Study to show thyself approved—study the doctrine; study your course of conduct, to keep it in harmony with the doctrine. Study how to promote the peace and prosperity of Zion, and how to shield yourself and others from the missiles of error and from the poison of an evil, worldly spirit. Study to perform the duties of a faithful soldier of the cross—the seemingly insignificant, as well as the bravest and noblest deeds.—R3097:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Beware of the concision; for we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.—Philippians 3:2,3

No natural man of the fallen race ever had a fully circumcised heart. And such as have it are dead to the world. Its hopes, aims, and ambitions are crucified to them, and they are alive toward God. Anyone who has the realization of such a condition of heart has in this fact a blessed evidence of his acceptance with God

DECEMBER 21

DAILY MANNA

Who is worthy?—Revelation 5:2

Let us, dearly beloved, as we realize that thus far God has counted us worthy to look upon the scroll of his plan which has been unsealed for us by our blessed Lord Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, prove our worthiness to continue to look therein and to read the wondrous things of his law, by faithful obedience and loyalty to it in all things. Let us not undervalue our great privilege in being counted worthy to have some part in the blessed ministry of reflecting the light of divine truth; let us prove ourselves jewels of rarest value, diamonds indeed, heartily receiving and beautifully transmitting to others the light of truth, and faithfully enduring the severest pressure that God may permit to come upon us; for, if faithful in these small things we shall in due time be counted worthy also to reign with Christ in power and great glory.—*R3104:4*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.—Proverbs 29:2

Our text can only have a partial application to any kingdom of man during “this present evil world,” of which Satan has attempted control as the prince thereof. Owing to the inherent weakness of our race even its best specimens are far from absolute righteousness, and consequently no government of the present time,

no government under imperfect men, can fulfill the predictions of our text. This is implied throughout the entire Scriptures, in which the Lord promises that he will establish his kingdom among men, and that under Immanuel's government all the families of the earth shall be blessed. It is for this reason that the Lord's people still pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"; it is for this reason that the apostle declares that the "whole creation groaneth and travaileth together in pain until now" waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. The sons of God, the little flock with their Head the Lord Jesus, will by and by constitute the righteous who will be in authority, in power, in governmental control of the world by divine arrangement, based upon the great atonement sacrifice. Of that time and of that great Ruler, Head and body, it is written, "In his day shall the righteous flourish." In his day Satan shall be bound a thousand years to deceive the people no more, and all the influences of righteousness and truth shall be let loose, that the world may be flooded with the light and knowledge of the glory of God. Under those blessed conditions whosoever will may take of the water of life freely and live forever.—*R3285:5* (Hymn 149)

DECEMBER 22

DAILY MANNA

If a man therefore purge himself ... he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.—2 Timothy 2:21

If any man desire honor from God, let him not fail to seek it in God's appointed way—along the pathway of humility; for the Lord giveth his favors to the humble. If you would be a vessel fit for the Master's use and a vessel of honor, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and he will exalt you in due time. Do not be in a hurry about it either; but whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, beginning and ever continuing to cleanse your earthen vessel, that it may be fit for the Master's use.—R3097:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.—Psalm 51:15

This expression implies that none need expect to have a proper opening of their mouths to show forth the Lord's praises, and give the call from darkness into his marvelous light, unless the Lord shall first have opened their lips with his mercy and truth; for otherwise how could any expect to tell the glad tidings of great joy which shall be unto all people? This equally implies that all who have had forgiveness of sins

DECEMBER 23

DAILY MANNA

A word in season, how good it is! A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.—Proverbs 15:23; 25:11

We are to remember, when talking with those who have an ear to hear and are inquiring the way to the Lord, that there are great crises in the lives of men, momentous occasions, in which one word may be more valuable, more potent, than would be a hundred words or a thousand words at another time, under different circumstances; and we are to be instant in the Lord's service, whether seasonable or unseasonable to ourselves,—gladly ready to lay down our lives for the brethren. ... We are to distinguish, however, between out-of-season to ourselves and out-of-season to others; and to be willing to serve others at any time, however out-of-season to ourselves, if it be in season and opportune for them. We are not to intrude even the gospel itself at inopportune times, however convenient the occasion may be to ourselves.—*R3124:1*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.—Revelation 3:21

Those who have faith in God still have battles to be won, but not with carnal weapons. Their victories,

DECEMBER 24

DAILY MANNA

Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matthew 1:21

The noting of those little incidentals by which divine providence prepared for our Savior's birth and for the sending forth of the gospel message, are strengthening to the faith of the Lord's people. Realizing God's care in the past over even the little things, gives a foundation for confidence in his wisdom and future—the fulfillment of all the exceeding great and precious promises which centered in him who was born in Bethlehem. And so also a realization of the divine providence in the larger affairs of the divine plan stimulates faith also in the Lord's providences as respects the personal and more private affairs of his people.—R2556:2

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.—Luke 2:10

Wherever the story of God's redeeming love has gone, even though confused by various falsities, it has carried more or less of blessing with it—even to neglectful hearers and not doers of the word, it has brought blessing; and still more blessing to others who hear partly and obey partly. But its greatest blessing has been to the little flock, the royal priesthood who,

entering into the spirit of the divine arrangement, have realized themselves justified through faith in the precious blood, and in harmony with the invitation of the Lord have gone forward presenting themselves living sacrifices that they might have fellowship with Christ in the sufferings of this present time, and also, by and by in the kingdom glories that shall follow. It is this class chiefly that is now rejoicing in a still fuller opening up of the divine word so long beclouded by the falsities coming down from the Dark Ages; it is this class that is chiefly now rejoicing in the discernment of the lengths and breadths and heights and depths of the divine love and of the divine plan which has purchased the whole world and will eventually recover from present degradation all who under the favorable conditions of the Millennial Kingdom will develop the character which God demands of all who shall have eternal life—a love of righteousness and hatred of iniquity.—*R3115:6* (Hymn 345)

DECEMBER 25

DAILY MANNA

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:10,11

Although we cannot agree that this is the proper day for celebrating the birth of our dear Redeemer, but must insist that it was about October first (Volume 2, p. 54), nevertheless, since he did not intimate his desire that we should celebrate his birthday, it is quite immaterial upon what day that event, of so great importance to all, is celebrated. Upon this day, so generally celebrated, we may properly enough join with all whose hearts are in the attitude of love and appreciation toward God and toward the Savior. The habit of giving little remembrances one to another at this time of year seems to us specially appropriate. God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. He is continually giving and we are continually receiving from him; but amongst all his gifts the one of greatest importance to us is the gift of his Son to be our Redeemer.—R3290:4

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:11

Let us rejoice at this joyful season of the year and have our hearts filled with appreciation of the divine love and generosity, which gave us the great gift of Messiah, and thus indirectly a knowledge of the kingdom yet to come and of our share in that kingdom, which shall bless the world. As we have freely received, let

us freely give, and thus copy our Lord and the heavenly Father. Some may have the opportunity of giving many gifts of many kinds. All will have the privilege of offering to their fellows, directly or indirectly, gifts of God's love, by making known to them the riches of his grace, as presented in the "Divine Plan of the Ages." The message of God's love is the most precious thing we have ever received, and let us have this in mind when offering gifts to others that, whatever else we may or may not be able to give our dear friends and neighbors and loved ones, we may offer them this; and our manner and general deportment should show how we value it above rubies, and thus we may best commend the gift of God to others and help them to appreciate it. In such presentations kind words, kind looks, will proceed from the loving heart, which has itself been saved by the power of the truth from the domination of the adversary and sin and selfishness. Let us learn to scatter these gifts of grace and truth and happifying influences to all about us, not merely once a year, but every day and every hour, and not merely upon our friends, but, godlike, upon our enemies also, for "He is kind to the unthankful, and causes his sun to shine upon the evil and upon the good."—*R4298:6* (Hymn 356)

DECEMBER 26

DAILY MANNA

Be thou strong and very courageous.—Joshua 1:7

“Be strong and of a good courage.” There are different kinds of courage; one sort is begotten of egotism and self-reliance; another kind is begotten of a recklessness which fails to take into account the difficulties of the situation; but the courage which the Lord inculcates, and which all the spiritual Israelites are to seek to possess, is the one which, while coolly and calmly discerning the trials and difficulties of the way and while humbly realizing its insufficiency for the occasion, is supported by a faith in the Lord—a trust in the divine promises which enables them to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.—*R3079:6*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head.—Psalm 141:5

In this use of the word righteous, the text seems to imply that all who are the Lord's people should be able to give reproof and correction in righteousness in a manner that would be helpful to those corrected, and for their good; in a way that would bring a measure of comfort and blessing and refreshment; in a manner that would be like excellent or fragrant oil, whose perfume would linger for hours. With this thought before

DECEMBER 27

DAILY MANNA

Little children, keep yourselves from idols.—1 John 5:21

We are not to put our trust in leaders, but in the Lord. This does not signify that we are not to trust leaders, and not to acknowledge leaders, for all the history of the Lord's dealings with his people, the typical as well as the antitypical, shows us that he is pleased to use human agencies as his representatives in the teaching and leading of his people from grace to grace, from knowledge to knowledge. The lesson to be learned is that the Lord is thoroughly competent to manage his own work, and that while we may look for his leading through human agencies our trust is not in them, their wisdom, their strength, but in the Lord's wisdom and strength, guiding them and us through them.—*R3078:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Let all your deeds be done in love.—1 Corinthians 16:14 (Diaglott)

God is the very personification of sympathy and love. As the Scriptures declare, "God is love." And all who will be God's children, developed in his likeness, will be loving children. As John says, "He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." In proportion as we develop strength of character as new creatures,

DECEMBER 28

DAILY MANNA

He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.—Psalm 110:7

We want to ask the Lord, our Master and Head, that he will bless us more and more, as with fresh zeal we shall endeavor faithfully and rejoicingly to drink of the brook of life's experiences, and gain wisdom therefrom that will fit and prepare us for his service by and by; and which will the better fit and prepare us for his service also in the present time, and enable us by his grace to show forth his praises in all the trying circumstances and vicissitudes of life so as to glorify him in our bodies and spirits which are his. Let us, as we drink of the brook, take a lesson from the little birds, which, when drinking, repeatedly lift the head as though giving thanks to God. Let us continually give thanks to our Lord for every taste of life's experience, for every lesson, for every trial—appropriating them all to our spiritual development.—R2936:5

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—1 John 1:9

It was evidently because the Lord foresaw that his people might become so abashed by their repeated failures through inherited weaknesses of their flesh

DECEMBER 29

DAILY MANNA

In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.—Eccl. 11:6

All of the Lord's people, in proportion as they desire to be the servants of the truth, should be continually on the alert to note opportunities for service, and should expect to be guided and used of the Lord. Wherever we see evidences of devotion to the Lord and his word, we should be on the alert to extend a helping hand. ... We are to be on the alert to pass along the blessing which we have received, and to esteem that this is the chief business of life with those who have consecrated themselves to the service of the King of kings.—R2965:3

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love.—Hosea 11:4

Love is the keynote of the Bible, notwithstanding the fact that it contains threatenings as well as promises, and declarations and manifestations of justice as well as of mercy. If God's character were devoid of justice—if his love should override his justice—it would be a terrible calamity for all those dependent upon him. It would testify weakness of character

DECEMBER 30

DAILY MANNA

Thou crownest the year with thy goodness.—Psalm 65:11

As we review the leadings of divine providence during the year that is past, let God's goodness and mercy stimulate our faith and confidence in him as respects the new incoming year. A proper retrospect on the part of a proper child of God will enable him not only to render thanks for the past, but to look up and lift up his head, realizing that our deliverance is nearer than when we first believed; and that he that began a good work in us is both able and willing to complete it, if we will but continue to submit our wills, our lives, our all, to his wisdom and loving care.—R2738:1

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.—Psalm 116:17

Spiritually, we have feasted on the bounties of divine favor; while in things temporal, under whatsoever circumstances we have been placed, having the assurance that all things work together for good to them that love God, we have realized that godliness with contentment is great gain, having promise of the life that now is (so long as God wills to have us remain here), and also of that which is to come. Wherefore, we can and do most heartily "offer unto God

DECEMBER 31

DAILY MANNA

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people.—Psalm 116:12-14

The close of the year is an excellent time for the making of new resolutions for the year to come. Let us, beloved brethren, make plenty of good resolves respecting what we shall be willing to be, to do, to suffer, in fellowship with our Lord; that we may by his grace make of it the best year thus far of our lives—the year of largest hopes, of largest endeavors, and by the Lord's grace of largest successes in self-sacrifice, in overcoming the world and its spirit, in vanquishing self and the desires of the flesh, in resisting the adversary, and in glorifying our Lord and blessing his people.—*R2551:5*

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.—John 14:23

Have you heard the cry, the knock, announcing our Bridegroom's presence? Are you awake? Are you seeing to it that you are clothed with the righteousness of Christ as with a garment? See that, under his direc-

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4:8	July 10
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17:15	Mar. 18, June 13
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23:4	Sept. 21
23:5	May 10
23:6	Sept. 22
24:3,4	Sept. 17
25:9	Jan. 31
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25:14	Apr. 1
27:14	Jan. 4, Nov. 20
29:11	Sept. 16
30:5	Aug. 24
31:1	June 5
31:3	Feb. 21
31:15	Oct. 27
31:24	Jan. 22

32:8	Feb. 23
32:11	Feb. 8
34:7	Nov. 18
34:13	Feb. 21
34:18,19	July 22
37:3	Aug. 30
37:7	Jan. 17
37:23,24	May 24
39:1	Oct. 1
40:4	May 28
40:10	Jan. 12
42:8	Apr. 5
42:11	Aug. 2
44:22	May 11
45:13	Sept. 28
46:10	Aug. 21
48:14	May 4
50:16,17	Oct. 11
51:15	Dec. 22
55:17	Nov. 3
55:22	June 1
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60:4	July 4
61:4,3,5	Oct. 17
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63:5,6	Apr. 5, Sept. 24
65:11	Dec. 30
66:8,9	Jan. 1
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89:15 Aug. 11
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91:9,10 Oct. 11
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91:11 Nov. 17
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5:11,12.....	Feb. 11
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20:27.....	Oct. 23
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6:12.....Jan. 15
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11:2.....Oct. 21
11:13.....Dec. 4
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16:10.....Apr. 20
17:5.....Aug. 13
17:32.....Aug. 9
18:1.....Jan. 30
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21:19.....Sept. 12
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1:36.....July 7
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4:24.....Oct. 18
5:36.....Dec. 11
5:39.....Oct. 17
6:33.....Sept. 20
6:35.....Mar. 2
6:37.....May 2
6:51.....Feb. 7
6:53.....Apr. 13
6:63.....July 28
7:16.....May 3
7:17.....June 10
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20:19.....	Sept. 18
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8:4.....	July 26, Oct. 30
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9:16.....	Nov. 26
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17:23.....	Aug. 20
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20:28-30.....	Nov. 14
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5:5.....	Mar. 9
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10:10.....	Nov. 5	9:16.....	May 7
12:1.....	Nov. 6	9:24.....	Apr. 9
12:9.....	Mar. 17	9:26.....	Jan. 14
12:10.....	Oct. 6	9:27.....	Sept. 24, Oct. 14
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12:12.....	July 29	11:31,32.....	Mar. 22
12:21.....	May 25	12:18.....	Mar. 8
13:10.....	Feb. 7	13:3.....	July 15
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13:13.....	Apr. 4, 11	13:4,5.....	May 24
13:14.....	Oct. 16	13:4,6.....	Nov. 10
14:21.....	May 31	13:5.....	Feb. 13
15:1.....	May 19	13:5.....	Sept. 5,6,7,8
15:2.....	Apr. 24	13:6.....	Sept. 9
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1:30.....	Sept. 25
2:2.....	May 1, June 2
3:9.....	Feb. 12
3:13.....	July 31
3:16.....	May 10
3:17.....	Dec. 4

13:13.....	Aug. 23, Sept. 1
15:20.....	Apr. 15
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1:21,22.....	June 27
2:11.....	Mar. 13
3:5,6.....	July 19
4:8-10.....	Oct. 29

4:10.....Dec. 15
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 5:20.....Aug. 13
 6:3,6.....June 16
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 6:17.....Sept. 15
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 7:1.....May 12
 10:4,5.....July 5
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 4:28.....Mar. 11
 5:13.....Jan. 22
 5:17.....Nov. 9
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 6:1.....Jan. 12
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1:11.....June 26
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1:22.....Aug. 4
 2:4,5.....Oct. 22
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 6:10.....May 25
 6:11.....Sept. 21
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2:15,16.....	Sept. 9
3:2,3.....	Dec. 20
3:13.....	June 11, 12
3:13.....	Oct. 2
3:14.....	Oct. 10
3:15,16.....	Mar. 13
4:4.....	Feb. 26
4:5.....	Feb. 27
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4:11,12.....	Mar. 6
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3:2.....	Feb. 6
3:3.....	Mar. 16
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4:3.....	Feb. 5
5:4.....	Aug. 10

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5:6.....	Nov. 19
5:14.....	Aug. 15
5:15.....	Jan. 8
5:17.....	Jan. 3
5:18.....	Aug. 16
5:19.....	Aug. 17
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5:22.....	Aug. 19
5:23.....	June 30
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1:12.....	Aug. 5
3:15.....	July 8
4:12.....	Feb. 10
5:8.....	July 23
6:12.....	Mar. 31

2 Timothy

1:3.....	Apr. 25
1:7.....	May 22
2:3.....	Mar. 28
2:5.....	Aug. 7
2:15.....	Apr. 30, Dec. 20
2:21.....	Dec. 22
2:24,25.....	Aug. 4
3:4.....	July 18
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3:13 Mar. 10

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4:3 May 18

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4:12 Mar. 31

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6:4-6 Sept. 17

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7:25 May 18

10:21,22 Nov. 5, 30

10:23 Nov. 29

10:25 Nov. 9

10:30 July 3

10:32,33 Mar. 23

10:36 Nov. 23

10:38 Mar. 15, Apr. 8

10:39 May 31

11:6 Apr. 25

11:30 Mar. 7

12:1 Mar. 11, May 22

12:3 Apr. 17, Oct. 5

12:7 Jan. 20

12:11 June 16

12:13 Nov. 15

12:14 Apr. 29, June 3

12:23 July 8

13:5 Feb. 22, Mar. 24

13:6 Dec. 10, 18

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1:4 Feb. 12

1:12 Dec. 9

1:13 Nov. 25

1:19 Jan. 14

1:26 Feb. 20

2:18 Oct. 13

2:20 July 22

3:2 Nov. 1

4:3 Aug. 29

4:4 Sept. 8

4:6,7 June 20

4:7 Aug. 6

4:8 June 18

4:12 July 25

5:7,8 Mar. 10

5:10 Jan. 10

5:16 July 24

5:20 June 8

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1:5 Nov. 6

1:7 June 4

1:8 June 4

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1:14,15	Mar. 19	2:25	May 8
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2:9	Apr. 30	3:2	Aug. 25
2:12,19	Sept. 14	3:14,16	Mar. 16
2:21	July 25	3:18	Aug. 17
2:23	Dec. 7	4:12	Mar. 7
3:8	June 9	4:16	Feb. 29
3:12	Jan. 21	4:18	Sept. 4, Dec. 14
3:14	July 28	4:21	June 22
3:15	Oct. 15	5:1	Aug. 8
4:12,13	Apr. 18	5:3	Apr. 27
4:16	Jan. 20, Apr. 6	5:18	July 11
5:5	June 14	5:21	Sept. 16, Dec. 27
5:6	Apr. 10		
5:7	Oct. 26		
5:8,9	Sept. 28		
5:10	June 7		

2 Peter

1:5	Nov. 11
1:8,11	Sept. 13
1:10	Nov. 20, Dec. 5
1:12	Mar. 23
1:16,18	May 7
3:11	Mar. 30
3:17	Aug. 18
3:17,18	Mar. 25

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1:5	Nov. 28
1:9	Dec. 28
2:1	Jan. 13, Mar. 6
2:5	Feb. 15
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20	Oct. 23
21	Jan. 17, Apr. 9
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2:10	Aug. 11
2:17	July 26
3:5	Jan. 28
3:10	Dec. 3
3:18	June 28
3:21	Dec. 23
5:2	Dec. 21
15:3	Mar. 30, Nov. 16
18:4	Feb. 4
20:4	Nov. 7
21:7	Nov. 19

A Vow Unto The Lord

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. May thy rule come into my heart more and more, and thy will be done in my mortal body. Relying on the assistance of thy promised grace to help in every time of need, through Jesus Christ our Lord, I register this vow.

Daily will I remember at the throne of heavenly grace the general interests of the harvest work, and particularly the share which I myself am privileged to enjoy in that work, and the dear co-laborers everywhere.

I vow to still more carefully, if possible, scrutinize my thoughts and words and doings, to the intent that I may be the better enabled to serve thee and thy dear flock.

I vow to thee that I will be on the alert to resist everything akin to spiritism and occultism, and that remembering that there are but the two masters, I shall resist these snares in all reasonable ways as being of the adversary.

I further vow that with the exceptions below, I will at all times, and in all places, conduct myself toward those of the opposite sex in private exactly as I would do with them in public—in the presence of a congregation of the Lord's people.

And, so far as reasonably possible, I will avoid being in the same room with any of the opposite sex alone, unless the door to the room stand wide open.

Exceptions in the case of Brethren: wife, children, mother, and natural sisters. In the case of Sisters: husband, children, father, and natural brothers.—*R. 4191:5,6; 4263-6; 4382:3; 4383:1*

My Morning Resolve

My Earliest Thought I Desire Shall Be: “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord [for grace to help]. I will pay my vows unto the Most High.”—Psalm 116:12-14

Remembering the divine call, “Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice” (Psa. 50:5), I resolve that by the Lord’s assisting grace I will today, as a saint of God, fulfill my vows, continuing the work of sacrificing the flesh and its interests, that I may attain unto the heavenly inheritance in joint-heirship with my Redeemer.

I will strive to be simple and sincere toward all.

I will seek not to please and honor self, but the Lord.

I will be careful to honor the Lord with my lips, that my words may be unctuous and blessed to all.

I will seek to be faithful to the Lord, the truth, the brethren and all with whom I have to do, not only in great matters, but also in the little things of life.

Trusting myself to divine care and the providential overruling of all my interests for my highest welfare, I will seek not only to be pure in heart, but to repel all anxiety, all discontent, all discouragement.

I will neither murmur nor repine at what the Lord’s providence may permit, because, “Faith can firmly trust him, come what may.”—*R. 5165:3,6; 5727:6*

God's Purpose In Christianity

Christians are in training for a glorious future work of bestowing blessings upon the whole world of mankind. It is this blessed, scriptural fact that gives point to the Christian life. The trials of faith, the discipline, and the hours of patient toil in the Master's service, would lose much of their meaning if when the end of the narrow way of sacrifice is reached there is to be nothing to do—nothing but an eternity of idleness.

The Scriptures admonish us to put down self and selfishness in order that our hearts and minds may be filled and controlled by love. We are to love God and each other as he loves us. God manifested his love by the gift of his Son to be our Redeemer and the Redeemer of the whole world. Jesus demonstrated his love by the willing sacrifice of his earthly life as a ransom for Adam and his race condemned to death because of sin. It is clear that if we are moved by such love we too will delight in the privilege of serving others.

Unquestionably, one of the sweetest joys of the Christian is experienced in self-sacrificing efforts to help others, but the present life is short. Human frailties are a handicap which limits our feeble service. Almost before we realize it the eventide of life begins to spread its darkening shadows around us. If the spirit of God and of Christ fills our hearts we will feel that our service has been all too meager, that if it were

possible we would like to continue that service and increase it to the glory of God.

It is the possibility of doing just this that the Scriptures hold out to us as the great objective of the Christian life. The Christian church, made up of all the true followers of the Master, is identified by the Apostle Paul to be the divinely provided channel of blessing for all mankind. God promised Abraham that his seed would bless all the families of the earth. The apostle reveals that Christ and his church constitute that promised seed. (Galatians 3:16,27-29) This great work of blessing is still future. It is the work of the thousand-year age when Christ and his church will reign as the spiritual rulers of the earth. The church participates in the "first resurrection" that she may live and reign with Christ.—Revelation 20:4,5

The book, *The Divine Plan of the Ages*, says of the world's desire for blessing: "As though by instinct, the whole creation, while it groans and travails in pain, waits for, longs for and hopes for the day, calling it the Golden Age; yet men grope blindly, because not aware of the great Jehovah's gracious purposes." What a privilege it will be in that new age now near to share with Christ in the great work of enlightening the world concerning God's loving plan and giving the people an opportunity to enter into the blessings of life and happiness which he has provided through the redemptive work of Christ!

The Divine Plan of the Ages contains hope-inspiring facts concerning God's loving designs toward his human creatures as outlined in the Scriptures. Hard-cover, cloth-bound, 512-page library edition, \$6.00; Soft vinyl cover, 368-page edition, \$3.00. Both prices include shipping within the U.S. The hard-cover library edition also includes *Tabernacle Shadows of the Better Sacrifices*.

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