



An undenominational publication
devoted to the teachings of Jesus and His
apostles and dedicated to those who seek
the truth.

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"I WOULD LOVE TO TELL YOU WHAT I THINK OF JESUS"

I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus,
Since I found in Him a Friend so strong and true.
I would tell you how He changed my life completely,
He did something that no other friend could do.

All my life was full of sin when Jesus found me;
All my heart was full of misery and woe.
Jesus placed His strong and loving arms about me,
And He led me in the way I ought to go.

Every day He comes to me with new assurance;
More and more I understand His words of love.
But I'll never know just why He came to save me
Till some day I see His blessed face above.

CHORUS

No one ever cared for me like Jesus;
There's no other friend as kind as He.
No one else could take the sin and darkness from me,
O how much He cared for me!

CHARLES FREDERICK WEIGLE (1871-1966) attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music in Ohio, then became a preacher and songwriter. His most famous hymn was **"I Would Love To Tell You What I Think of Jesus."** A biographer wrote: "This song

arose from deep travail in his life and a broken heart. His wife, whom he dearly loved, left him because she did not want to be a minister's wife any longer. One lonely night he wrote this hymn. It speaks of Jesus and the companionship He longs to bring into your life."

"A FRIEND SO STRONG AND TRUE"

I've been blessed in my life that both sets of my grandparents were married over sixty years. My wife and I will soon celebrate twenty-two years, and both sets of parents are enjoying forty-five and still going strong. I have a wonderful brother that I'm close to as well. All of them have been a tremendous example and source of comfort and strength to me ... especially through hard times. But, none of those relationships can compare to the friendship I have in Jesus.

In 2012, I was a caregiver for my wife and son, who both fought, and survived, cancer. Our families and friends from all over the country, were there for us in a physical, emotional, and sometimes spiritual way and took the edge off our needs and brought us comfort. They loved us and would have done anything for us.

However, there were deeper needs and hurts that cards, meals, or extra cash couldn't meet. My faith in God grew as my trust and talks with Jesus deepened. I found that He knew me better than I knew myself, and His Spirit searched my heart and communicated to the Father my groans (Romans 8). When I felt overwhelmed in running the household, my ministry, the other teens back and forth to sports practices ... or fulfilling my vow to love my wife in sickness (as well as in health), Jesus was a constant companion.

As the hymn says, "I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus, Since I found in Him a friend so strong and true." Proverbs 18:24 reads: "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." That friend is Jesus.

There are many I meet who do not have the support network here on earth like I have had. Perhaps relatives live far away and are involved in their own busy lives. Perhaps parents are deceased or were not the parents they should have been. Perhaps a marriage has broken-up or kids have gone their own ways. That is discouraging, yes, but my advice to them has always been to involve themselves in the spiritual family that God has set them in, of which He is the Father, and seek out His Son, who is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Jesus is the greatest friend, strong and true, you'll ever have ... or need.



"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." That friend is Jesus.

— Douglas Kashorek, minister
Church of Christ, Plattsburgh, NY

“HE CHANGED MY LIFE COMPLETELY”

In the early nineties I did not believe in God. I was an atheist or, in the least, an agnostic. My life revolved around self. Most people would have described me as selfish, arrogant and a hard man. It is troubling to think about how insensitive I was. I felt an emptiness that could not be described. How empty is the world of disconnected anarchy!

I looked into all of the world’s religions — the New Age movement, earth worship concepts, and so forth. I realized that they all were based on the empty ideas invented by men and women with no factual, historical or intellectual basis.

In 1993, I was sitting at a new age meeting where a well know spiritual leader was leading a meditation. At the end of the meditation this leader asked us all to pray. The prayer was directed in the name of Jesus Christ. I said to my wife, “Why are we here, if these enlightened people are praying to Jesus? I have to find out who this Jesus is!” She bought me a Bible. My life began to be transformed through the words in the Bible.

I came to realize that the Bible is a book of history; that most of it could be validated through archaeology and historical writings; that it is the Word of God that connects it all to-

gether. I came to understand Jesus is the Son of God a real person of history. He transformed my sinful life. He changed my life completely. He did something that no other friend could do.

Today I am preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ which I once rejected. I was a lost sinner but Jesus took the sin and darkness

from me. My transformation came by being open to hearing the Word of God. I am encouraging everyone to no longer live in emptiness. Get a free Bible and read it for yourself by contacting “*Christ for Today*” at the address on the back page.

“I have to find out who this Jesus is!”

— Kirk Israel, minister
Church of Christ, Castleton, Vermont



“HE LED ME IN THE WAY I OUGHT TO GO”



I was six years old when my parents became New Testament Christians, being immersed in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, one gray late October day. I saw the preacher plunge (immerse) them under the waves.

My parents had always been God-fearing people. They instilled within me a love for Jesus and His creation. From them I learned the importance of having a good reputation and the value of doing things right. Becoming Christians fortified and enhanced my parents' desire to instill in me Bible truths and teachings. They encouraged me to develop my own faith and love for Jesus.

Here are some verses of the Bible they taught me: “Lead me in Your truth and teach me for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day” (Psalm 25:5). “Oh send out Your light and Your truth to guide me” (Psalm 43:3). When God sent Jesus into my life, He sent His Light and His Truth.

On my twelfth birthday my love for Jesus caused me to become a New Testament Christian by being baptized for forgiveness of my sins. Jesus said: “... he who loves Me will be

loved of My Father, and I will love him ...” (John 14:21). And again, “Christ has loved us, and given Himself for us” (Ephesians 5:1-2).

My love for Jesus, His church and the Bible has provided me with a life that has allowed Jesus to “lead me in the way I ought to go.”

“They encouraged me to develop my own faith and love for Jesus.”

Yes, there have been heartaches, losses and frailties to overcome; but life has been good because of what Jesus means to me. I intend to remain faithful to Him, the lover of my soul, and to “lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (1 Timothy 2:2). This is God’s assurance: “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those that love Him” (James 1:12).

— Gary Babcock, Minister
Church of Christ Coventry, Rhode Island

“EVERY DAY HE COMES TO ME WITH NEW ASSURANCE”

This morning I began the day by reading from the book of *Revelation*, the last book in the Bible. I read about God’s ultimate victory over the wicked city, the beast, the false prophet and Satan himself — “the dragon, the serpent of old, the Devil.” I read that loud voices in heaven shouted: “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ!” (Revelation 11:15). The Lord knew I needed to hear it again: bad people will not succeed forever, the good will overcome, evil will be destroyed and God’s family will win in the end.

We all need encouraging words. Life is filled with disappointments, financial set-backs, physical sicknesses, broken relationships and shattered dreams. Each day has its challenges. No one is exempt. Is there no comfort in the midst of troubles? Believers are given strength to face what each day brings. “The Lord’s compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness!” (Lamentations 3:23).

The prophet Isaiah experienced rejection and criticism, but he stated: “those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31). These are promises of a good God for those who love and obey Him. God provides power to live in joy and peace no matter what the trials and tests of each day.

When one is baptized into Jesus he begins a new life (Romans 6:3-4). Struggles do not disappear, but through His word God comes with new assurance every day. One can confidently affirm: I am “hard-pressed on every side, *yet not crushed*; perplexed but *not in despair*; persecuted but *not forsaken*; struck down, *but not destroyed*” (2 Corinthians 4:7). God is willing to renew your life. Need help? Contact us.



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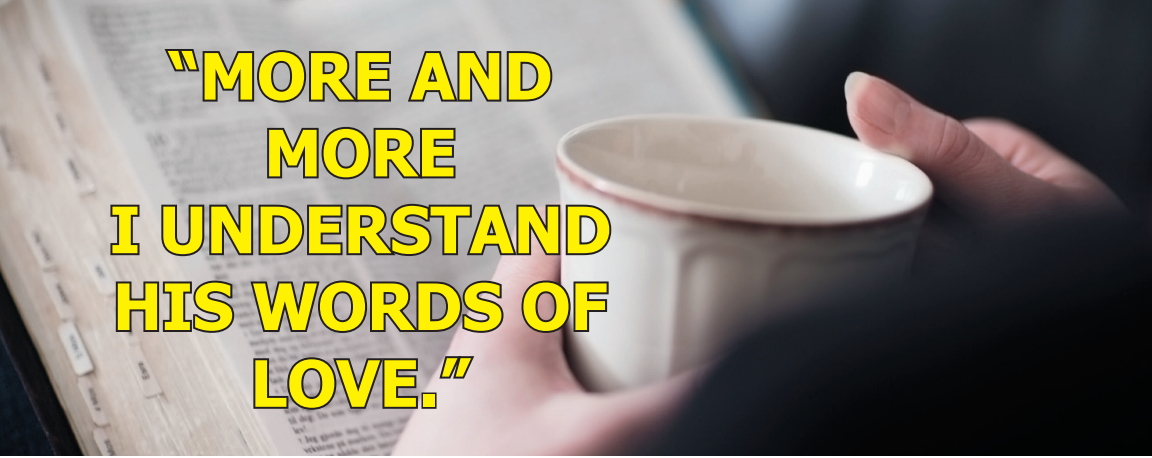
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"MORE AND MORE I UNDERSTAND HIS WORDS OF LOVE."

As a student of the Bible I have learned I will never grasp all the richness of God's word in a lifetime of reading. But can we actually have assurance that we understand the Bible? Although some passages are harder to understand than others, the vast portion of God's Word is easily understood. Someone said, "It is not the part of the Bible I *do not* understand that bothers me, but the part that is so plain I *cannot misunderstand!*"

In Acts chapter 8 we read about a man who was reading the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. He did not understand the words he was reading. Philip, the evangelist, explained to him that this prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Did you know the New Testament is a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy? It is very important that we understand that the Old Testament was a true record of God's dealing with His people, but its laws were canceled when Jesus died on the cross (Colossians 2:14). We have been given the "perfect law of liberty" — the New Testament (James 1:25). If we read

our Bibles without realizing this, it could be confusing.

The Lord's word has gone out "into all the world" (Psalm 19:3-4). Jesus said all who read should "understand" (Matthew 24:15). Jesus said His words are "Spirit and Life" (John 6:63); His words are "truth" by which we shall be judged (John 12:48). We are to "be diligent" to "rightly divide" the Scriptures so we will be approved by God (2 Tim 2:15).

"Plunge the depths of spiritual living. There is so much more to learn!"

Keep reading your Bible, it will be a constant source of encouragement to you, and you will be continuously challenged to plunge the depths of spiritual living. There is so much more to learn!

— Alvin Jennings, former minister of the Church of Christ, South Barre, Vermont



“O HOW MUCH HE CARED FOR ME!”

What would make the God of heaven send His one and only Son to a world of sin and sorrow? What would make God allow His son to die the most agonizing death known to man? What would motivate God to send Christ into a world filled with hatred, strife, wars, child abuse, drug abuse, hypocrisy, lying, and thievery?

There are problems with marriages, raising children, financial difficulties, emotional problems, stress, worries about terrorism, and threats of radical religionists. When one considers the problems of sin and the questions perplexing mankind, one is tempted to ask: “Why would God love mankind?” Some people may have such a negative self-image that they ask: “Why would God love me? I am not worthy of love.”

“There’s no other friend as kind as He”

God loves every person in the world because the very nature of God is love. The apostle John stated, “God is love”

(I John 4:8). While it is true that God has many other characteristics the one which relates most to mankind is

God’s love. It seems remarkable that a being who is completely pure and infinitely just could love a world of people who lie, hate, cheat, and steal. Yet, the Bible declares that “God demonstrates his own love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

The most stabilizing force in any person’s life is knowing the love that God and Christ have for us. When questions perplex us, Christ’s love is a rock to stand upon. When death comes to our homes, we take comfort from knowing that Christ loves us. If our family must face a horrible disease, Christ’s love is there to sustain us. Remember Calvary. No one ever suffered like our Savior. Christ was totally innocent; He did no wrong, but still suffered the shame of a criminal’s death. Oh how much He cared for me!

God’s love is not just an answer to a philosophical question. It is the very nature of our heavenly Father and the answer to every spiritual need in our lives. No man-made religion has ever taught anything comparable to Christ’s death on Calvary.

— David O’Connell, former minister Church of Christ, Concord, NH and Farmington, CT

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