

Heart and Home Harmony

Aiming for hearts, homes, and lives in harmony with:
God and His Church, and the rest of His creation through the Holy Spirit.

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Beautiful Snow



In the early part of the American war one dark Saturday morning in the dead of winter there died at the Commercial Hospital, Cincinnati, a young woman, over whose head only twenty and two summers passed. She had once been possessed of an enviable beauty; had been as she herself said, “flattered and sought for the charms of her face,” but alas! upon her fair brow had long been written that pitiable word — unfortunate!

Once the pride of respectable parentage, her first wrong step was the small beginning of the “same old story over again,” which has been the life history of thousands. Highly educated and accomplished in manner, she might have shone in the best society. But the evil hour that proved her ruin was but the door from childhood; and having spent a young life in disgrace and shame, the poor friendless one died the melancholy death of a broken hearted outcast.

Among her personal effects was found, in manuscript, the “Beautiful Snow,” which was immediately carried to Enos B. Reed, a gentleman of culture and literary tastes, who was at that time editor of the National Union. In the columns of that paper, on the morning following the girl’s death, the poem appeared for the first time. When the paper that contained the poem came out on Sunday morning, the body of the victim had not yet received burial. The attention of Thomas Buchanan Read, one of the first American poets, was soon directed to the newly published lines, who was so taken with their stirring pathos, that he immediately followed the corpse to its final resting place.

Such are the plain facts concerning her whose “Beautiful Snow” will be long regarded as one of the brightest gems in American literature.

(Continued on next page)



*Oh, the snow, the beautiful snow,
 Filling the sky and earth below,
 Over the housetops, over the street,
 Over the heads of people you meet;
 Dancing—Flirting—Skimming along
 Beautiful snow! It can do no wrong;
 Flying to kiss a fair lady's cheek,
 Clinging to lips in frolicsome freak;
 Beautiful snow from Heaven above,
 Pure as an angel, gentle as love!*



*Oh! the snow, the beautiful snow,
 How the flakes gather and laugh as they go
 Whirling about in maddening fun;
 Chasing—Laughing—Hurrying by,
 It lights on the face and sparkles the eye;
 And the dogs with a bark and a bound
 Snap at the crystals as they eddy around;
 The town is alive, and its heart is aglow,
 To welcome the coming of beautiful snow!
 How wild the crowd goes swaying along,
 Hailing each other with humor and song.*



*How the gay sleighs like meteors flash by,
 Bright for a moment, then lost to the eye;
 Ringing—Swinging—Dashing they go,
 Over the crest of the beautiful snow;
 Snow so pure when it falls from the sky,
 As to make one regret to see it lie*



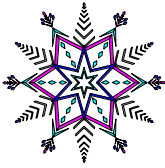
*To be trampled and tracked by thousands of feet
 Till it blends with the filth in the horrible street.*



*Once I was pure as the snow, but I fell,
 Fell like the snow flakes from heaven to Hell;
 Fell to be trampled as filth in the street,
 Fell to be scoffed, to be spit on and beat;
 Pleading—Cursing—Dreading to die,
 Selling my soul to whoever would buy;
 Dealing in shame for a morsel of bread,
 Hating the living and fearing the dead,
 Merciful God! have I fallen so low!
 And yet I was once like the beautiful snow.*



Once I was fair as the beautiful snow,



*With an eye like a crystal, a heart like its glow;
Once I was loved for my innocent grace—
Flattered and sought for the charms of my face!
Fathers—Mothers—Sisters all,
God and myself I have lost by my fall;
The veriest wretch that goes shivering by,
Will make a wide sweep lest I wander too nigh,
For all that is on or above me I know,
There is nothing so pure as the beautiful snow.*



*How strange it should be that this beautiful snow
Should fall on a sinner with nowhere to go!
How strange it should be
When the night comes again
If the snow and the ice struck my desperate brain!
Fainting—Freezing—Dying alone,
Too wicked for prayer, too weak for a moan
To be heard in the streets of the crazy town,
Gone mad in the joy of snow coming down;
To be and to die in my terrible woe,
With a bed and a shroud of the beautiful snow.*



*Helpless and foul as the trampled snow,
Sinner, despair not! Christ stoopeth low
To rescue the soul that is lost in sin,
And raise it to life and enjoyment again.
Groaning—Bleeding—Dying for thee,
The crucified hung on the cursed tree!
His accents of mercy fall soft on thine ear,
“Is there mercy for me?
Will He heed my weak prayer?
Oh God! In the stream that for sinners did flow
Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.”*



Heart and Home Harmony

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Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18

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 ☩

Forgiveness

By Luke Martin

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. Romans 5:18.

By the which will we are sanctified through the suffering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10 :10 .

God through the sacrifice of his Son Jesus, has forgiven the sins of everyone. This forgiveness cannot and doesn't set everyone or anyone free from the sentence of death incurred by their sinning, unless that person accepts the free gift of forgiveness by faith.

The only way that a person will be able to accept the pardon extended to him, is if he first of all acknowledges that he has committed the sin.

Even to acknowledge that he had done wrong is not enough to escape from the consequences of his

sin. He needs to realize that there is damage. It is at that point that he will begin to realize his desperate condition. Then he may be able to accept the ransom that God has provided. So if you confess your sins, repent of them, and believe on Jesus our Redeemer, you will be saved from your sins.

The above principle is also true in our relationship with other people. For a relationship that is marred by an offence or sin, both the offender and the offended must do their part to be restored. The offender must realize that he is an offender, and be sorry for his offence, and should he be forgiven, be accepting and thankful that he is forgiven. The offended must, out of the goodness of his heart, forgive.

Thanks be to God, that Jesus appeared in the end of the age, (that is the Old Covenant world) to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, so that we could be free and free indeed. ✧

His Best

*God has His best things for the few
Who dare to stand the test,
God has His second choice for those
Who will not take His best.
And others make the highest choice,
But when by trials pressed,
They shrink, they yield, they shun the
Cross,
And so they lose His best.*

*"I want in this short life of mine
As much as can be pressed
Of service true for God and man—
Help me to be Thy best.
I want among the victor-throng
To have my name confessed,
And hear the Master say at last—
'Well done! You did your best.'*

Submitted by Margaret Gabor, Bright, ON

Educating Children

By Luke Martin

Children are a gift from God and the responsibility to teach them is given to the parents, who are to be an example of Christ and the church.

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man so are children of the youth.” (Psalm 127:3-4)

The responsibility of parents—especially fathers—to teach and train their children is clearly stated in the Scriptures. **“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sitteth in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up”** (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

“Train up a child in the way he should go...” (Proverbs 22:6).

“And ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4).

“But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel” (I Timothy 5:8).

The teacher’s attitudes, conduct, and character gradually mold those of the student; therefore, we parents need to seriously consider what we are doing for our children and who we allow to teach them. This includes not only the spiritual areas of our children’s teaching, but also the academic and practical skills.

As parents, we have no right to give up and say we are not able. Rather we must learn to work with the talents the Lord has given us and not bury our talent by failing to share what we know with our children. (cf. Matthew 25:14-30).

The general population in this country might have a difficult time fulfilling the God-given responsibility to teach their children because of the disintegration of the family. Such dividing of the family is a trick of the devil. We must remember not to let the cares of this life choke out God’s Word. Christians do not need to follow the trends of society around us. An awareness of what our needs and wants are will help us to escape the bondage experienced by many parents who work away from home and children who go away from home to be taught. We need to evaluate our situation and get our priorities right — putting first things first.

In this country, we see third and fourth generations of people on welfare. These people do not know how to provide for themselves and their children because the generation before them did not assume the responsibility of teaching their children or set a good example for them. Let us beware lest our children are handicapped because we neglect our responsibility of teaching them when we sit in our house, walk by the way, and when we lie down or rise up. ☩

If anyone is looking for Christian fellowship or Bible study, please contact Luke at (315)-265-0026 or write to 156 Newton Rd. Potsdam, NY 13676

Dear Readers,

Winter is here. With it came some snow and ice storms, making for some dazzling scenery around the woods and countryside. I could try to describe it to you, but even if I wrote a book to give you the pictures in words, it would not come close to seeing it yourself.

Job was an upright man. After going through extreme suffering and criticism, God spoke to him. In his reply Job said, **I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. Job 42:5-6**

Many people, like Job, have heard of God. Many go to church every week to hear more. Many have heard God speak to them. How many have **seen** God?

God is more beautiful than the most beautiful scenery that you have ever seen. He has given us a whole Book that describes Him. Man has written countless books and preached countless sermons about Him. But you must **see** Him to truly know what He is like.

In His book God tells us that we should fear Him and believe and repent. He commands us to love, trust, and obey Him. He commands us to seek pleasure and honor from Him, to delight in Him and rejoice. Likely you have heard this. Do you find it hard to do all this?

If you would **see** God, you too would repent. You would have no doubt about His justice and might and you would tremble at His word. You would love Him with your whole

heart, mind, soul, and strength. You would be so pleased and delighted that you would feel like shouting for joy!

It does not take physical eyes to see God. It takes faith and desire. He has given a measure of faith to each of us and we all have desires. Take that and **look** toward God. Seek and ask. You will not be disappointed in Him. Regardless of how much suffering you may have to endure, it is worth it if it helps you to see God.

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. Psalms 119:18

Jesus said, **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, Luke 4:18**

And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth. John 9:39-41

I hope you are not one of those who thinks that he sees, one who Jesus must blind because of hypocrisy.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have

need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with

him, and he with me. 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. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. Revelation 3:16-22

If we have our ears and our eyes open, we can spend the rest of our lives exploring **the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!** Romans 11:33

Warm wishes,

Is your church your idol?

By Luke and Rachel Martin

An idol, we know, is anything we hold above or equal to God. There are many different things that become idols to people. One idol that is seldom preached against is “the church.”

How can we tell if our church is an idol to us? It is if:

- * We compromise with truth so we can belong to a “church.”
- * We claim that Matthew 18:18 gives the church the right to make her own rules, for then we have put the church above Christ. (In our grammar we think of “shall be bound” as a future tense. I think it is meant in a past tense. Anyway in verse 20 the words “in my name” indicate the church must be subject to Christ.)
- * We knowingly allow a sin unto death or unregenerate people in “our church.”
- * We refuse as members in “our church” those whom we know Christ has received. (It were better that a millstone were hanged about our neck and we were drowned in the depths of the sea.)
- * The requirements for membership in “our church” are different than the requirements Christ has for membership in his church.
- * The fellowship of “our church” is more important to us than standing for truth.
- * We neglect our responsibility to others because the people in our fellowship are more important.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me!

Make better bread with

Diastatic Malt

Dawn was looking through some old books and magazines that someone had thrown out. In the September 1975 issue of Organic Gardening magazine she found an article about diastatic malt, and how to make your own and use it in making bread. She decided to try it. It made wonderful bread, so now we use diastatic malt in place of other sweetener in all our bread.

Besides making better bread, diastatic malt makes bread more nutritious and saves money. It is full of enzymes and vitamins. The catalytic action of these enzymes on the yeast and flour improves flavor and appearance and the protein content of the loaf, fosters a finer texture, and helps the bread stay fresh.

The action of diastatic malt is so powerful that only one teaspoon is enough to feed the yeast in a batch of dough yielding three or four loaves. Too much will overwhelm the yeast and produce a sweet, sticky bread.

How to make your own diastatic malt.

Place one cup of whole barley or wheat berries in a wide mouth quart jar and cover with a net or cheesecloth secured with a rubber band. Fill with four cups tepid water and soak for about 12 hours or overnight. Drain off the water and cover with more tepid water, shake gently, and drain. Repeat, rinsing three times a day for two days or until the little shoots are about as long as the grains. Arrange thinly on two large baking sheets. So as not to destroy the enzymes, dry in a warm place, such as an oven or the sun, at a temperature no higher than 150 de-

grees until thoroughly dry. Grind them in a grinder or blender. Store in a tightly closed glass jar in the refrigerator or freezer.

Whole Wheat Bread

- 4 ½ cups of warm water (potato or pasta cooking water is good)
- 1 tablespoon yeast
- 1 teaspoon diastatic malt
- 2 tablespoons butter or other fat (optional)
- 4 teaspoons salt
- ¼ cup vinegar
- ¼ cup gluten (optional)
- 10 cups whole wheat bread flour, approximately

Combine first 3 ingredients and 5 cups flour. Let set a few minutes until bubbly. Add other ingredients, using enough flour to make a soft dough. Knead until smooth and elastic. Let rise, punch down, twice. Shape into loaves and bake at about 325-350 for about 45 min.-1 hour.

You can use more yeast for faster rising; however, the longer rising makes whole grains more digestible and nutritious. It is said that if whole grains soak in slightly acid liquid at warm or room temperature for 7 to 24 hours, the phytic acid and hard to digest sugars and proteins are broken down. Phytic acid prevents the absorption of some minerals, especially in some individuals. Sprouting and fermenting grains, as in sourdough, also have the same nourishing effect. ☘

More information on healthful and traditional ways of preparing food is available in the cookbook "Nourishing Traditions" by Sally Fallon and the Weston A. Price Foundation, PMB #106-380 4200 Wisconsin Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20016