

# BE A PRISONER OF HOPE

Joe Wright Griggs

The Prophet Zechariah wrote  
An exhortation of great note  
To all the "Prisoners of Hope"  
Who had come home, and now must cope!

Like those Jews returned from exile -  
We are pris'ners awaiting trial!  
We can choose what imprisons us -  
Doubt, Fear, Self-hate - (don't make a muss)!

Let us not choose the negative -  
*But Hope for what God's Grace can give!*  
Let us do more than "just survive" -  
(Hopeless, downcast - barely alive.)

*Let us be Prisoners of Hope -  
Our Hope in God is without scope!  
No limitations do we fear -  
Our God is Great! He's always near!*

The Universe's Creator -  
Longs to Bless us and to restore -  
*But even God can't really cope  
With those whose lives aren't tuned to Hope!*

God spoke through the Prophet Zechariah to Jews  
returning from exile after 70 years as prisoners in Babylon:

"Turn you to the stronghold, you *prisoners of hope*: even  
today do I declare that I will render double unto you ..... "  
Zechariah 9: 12 from The King James Bible

# BEATTITUDES: ATTITUDES OF BEING

Joe Wright Griggs

Jesus taught His best known sermon  
On "Attitudes for God's Kingdom  
He lived them all, His Life made known  
How the Kingdom of God would come!

"Blessed are the poor in spirit "  
Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!"  
*The ones who offer to submit  
Their wills to God, freely given !*

"Blessed are they that (weep and) mourn -  
For they will be (most) comforted!"  
*All believers whom grief has torn  
Will experience joy instead.*

"Blessed are (the humble) the meek-  
For they shall inherit the earth!"  
*Christians who let their actions speak  
Through deeds, but not to prove "self worth!"*

"Blessed (those seekers) of righteousness -  
For they will (surely) be fulfilled!"  
*The ones willing to dispossess  
All carnal things, let God rebuild!*

"Blessed are (all) the merciful-  
For they will obtain (God's) mercy!"  
*Concern for others has more pull  
Then self desires, from which they're free!*

"Blessed are (all those) pure in heart -  
For (each one will truly) see God!"  
*No obstruction can pull apart  
True purity, though great the prod!*

"Blessed are (all) the Peacemakers-  
For they shall be called sons of God!"  
*Declaring war seldom deters -  
Negotiating beats the "rod!"*

Matthew 5:1-12 from The King James Bible

# BONDS OF LOVE

Joe Wright Griggs

*For God so loved the World, He gave  
His only Son to die.*

A world condemned, Christ came to save  
Lost sinners, you and I.

Oh yes, we've heard this gospel preached,  
We say that we believe.

Yet for a billion souls unreached  
Our cold hearts fail to grieve.

*'Twas Bonds of Love, not spikes that tied  
Our Savior to the cross.*

What if our love were likewise tried,  
Would love count life but dross?

Had I great eloquence of speech,  
All knowledge, faith, and hope,  
*Yet had not love*, I could not reach  
Lost souls that blindly grope.

Were all my earthly goods bestowed  
On those who have great need,  
*Yet if no tears of love o'erflowed*,  
It was an empty deed.

A life *not ruled by love* is fed  
On selfishness and sin.  
*But where love rules there self is dead  
And Christ has entered in.*

*"God, Love through us!"* let this our prayer  
For Christian service be.

*"Love that is patient, kind, and fair,  
Let Christ be seen in me!"*

Paul wrote I Corinthians 13, His great Love Chapter

# THE BOUNDS OF LIFE

Joe Wright Griggs

"The bounds" are needed in a game -  
Guidelines to help increase the fun.  
In life, this rule is just the same -  
*We must have "bounds" or freedom's done!*

God gave man "bounds" for our own good -  
We know them as the "Thou Shalt Nots!"  
We're "out of bounds" each time we would  
Break God's Commands and cause "sin blots!"

Moses came after a delay  
With the tablets God had engraved -  
To find the camp in disarray  
And their behavior as depraved!

Unless the "bounds" are made quite clear -  
With penalties for "out of bounds" -  
No game nor life can persevere -  
*Chaos and anarchy surrounds!*

*Thank God for His Great Commandments -*  
For those who truly obey them -  
For those who judge their true intents -  
For enforcers who don't condemn!

After breaking the two tablets, Moses returned to Mt. Sinai  
to meet with God and to receive an additional two tablets  
of The Law: "And The Lord passed by before him and proclaimed:  
'The Lord, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, forgiving  
iniquity ... and sin ... '" Exodus 34:6-7 from The King James Bible

# BY WHO'S AUTHORITY?

Joe Wright Griggs

A friend I know said: "Brother Joe  
I don't believe there is a hell.  
The pains of life with all its strife  
Will end all sorrow and travail!"

I said: "Dear Bro., I'd like to know  
The basis for this disbelief.  
For if I knew that this were true  
It'd ease my own concern and grief!"

Within his eyes I saw surprise -  
"I always think most logic'ly.  
I analyze and then surmise -  
*I am My Own Authority! "*

I shook my head and then I said:  
"The wisest man to ever live  
*Wrote that man's way leads to decay -  
Missing The Truth God longs to Give!"*

*A Holy Squad, Inspired by God -  
Penned HIS WORD, our AUTHORITY!  
We can't deny, nor should we try -  
That God's Way Is The Way To Be!*

King Solomon, endowed with God's Great Wisdom, wrote:

*"There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end  
thereof are the ways of Death!"*

Proverbs 14:12 from The King James Bible

# CHOOSE FAITH INSTEAD OF FEAR

Joe Wright Griggs

*We must discipline our thought life -  
Choose thoughts of faith rather than fear -  
For when our thoughts of fear are rife -  
Discouragement is all we hear.*

*God made the total universe -  
All things are under His Control!  
Christ's death removed the devil's curse-  
By faith in Him, we are made whole!*

*No matter what the circumstance -  
(No job, poor health, or come what may) -  
Yet limitless is God's Expanse -  
By faith we let Him have His Way!*

*Affirm: "I'm Blessed, I'm Prosperous" -  
Refuse all voices of defeat -  
For what "they say" is no excuse -  
In faith we can remain upbeat!*

*Fear looks much bigger than it is -  
Our faith in God will quench its sting -  
Our "test of faith" becomes God's Quiz -  
In great triumph to Him we sing!*

Jesus rebuked His disciples when they feared the tempest at sea:  
"And He said unto them, why are you fearful, oh you of little faith?  
Then he arose and rebuked the winds and the sea: and *there was great  
calm!*" Matthew 8:26 from The King James Bible

Having asked the question: "Who shall separate us from the Love of  
Christ? .. ... The Apostle Paul responded: "*No, in all these things we  
are more than conquerors through Him that loved us .....* "  
Romans 8:35-37 from The King James Bible

# CHRIST'S GREATEST SACRIFICE

Joe Wright Griggs

Not just the suff'ring on the cross,  
Nor just the torment and the loss  
Of lessons He could teach and live,  
Not just the *life blood* He would give.

Nor was it just the ridicule  
By *pious men* who called him "Fool,"  
Nor the denial by His *own*,  
Abandoned by those *He had known*.

Christ's *greatest sacrifice* by far,  
*Eclipsing Heaven's Brightest Star*:  
God's Only Son had come to earth  
*As human Babe, in Holy Birth!*

Was born within a makeshift crèche,  
*Exchanged His Deity for flesh,*  
*Had emptied from His Sovereignty*  
*All increments of Majesty!*

Was born in human form like ours  
With all the "sweets," and all the "sour:"  
*Fatigue and pain, and hunger, too,*  
*Was tempted just like me and you!*

Now stripped of power and wealth, He came,  
*To bring Salvation in His Name!*  
*Yes, God's Own Son in Love and Grace*  
*Was born into the human race!*

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christian Church at Philippi:  
*"Who being in the form of God... was made in the likeness of men...  
He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross..."*  
Philippians 2:6-8 from The King James Version of the Bible.

# COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE

Joe Wright Griggs

The writer of The Hebrews states:  
*We must come Boldly to God's Throne -*  
In Love and Mercy, God awaits -  
*Through answered Prayer, His Grace is known!*

*Our High Priest, Jesus, ever Lives*  
*To intercede for each and all -*  
He knows our needs, and He forgives.  
He died to save us from The Fall!

*Not timidly, but Boldly come -*  
*To God, in Jesus' Holy Name!*  
Expect great things - not just a crumb -  
For we have Providence to claim!

The Miracles in Jesus' time  
Are still occurring every day -  
*For Jesus is our Paradigm*  
*Of what will happen when we Pray!*

*To come Boldly, we must Believe -*  
*We Pray in great Anticipation!*  
Then when God's Answer we receive -  
We bow to Him in Adoration!

The Writer of the Book of Hebrews, exhorted all Believers:  
"We have not a High Priest which cannot be touched with the  
feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like we are,  
*yet without sin. Let us therefore Come Boldly unto the Throne of*  
*Grace .... "* Hebrews 4:15-16 from The King James Bible



# COME NEAR TO ME

Joe Wright Griggs

"Come near to me," Joseph had said -  
(All his brothers were filled with dread.)  
"You meant evil, but God meant it for good -  
My pain has brought our world's livelihood!"

"Come unto me," was Jesus' request-  
"All that labor and I'll give you rest!"  
Like Joseph, Jesus had been betrayed -  
(But neither of them was much dismayed)!

Joseph and Jesus, both had been sent  
Commissioned by God with His intent  
Of bringing Hope to all in need -  
(Both had to suffer to succeed)!

Joseph was an Old Testament man -  
A "type of Christ" - a near-perfect scan.  
Through God-given wisdom Joseph had saved  
His world by providing food that they craved!

Jesus, God's Son, was our sin Sacrifice-  
For all mankind's sin He had paid Full-Price!  
He died and then rose that all may receive  
Full Pardon for sin if they'll just Believe!

Both Joseph and Jesus had completed  
The God-given tasks that had been meted.  
Each begged all those listening "To come near"  
And partake God's Salvation without fear!

Joseph pleaded with his eleven brothers: "*Come near to me*, I pray  
you "                      Genesis 45:4 from The King James Bible

Jesus invited the multitudes: "*Come unto Me*, all you that labor and  
are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke ... and learn of  
me ... "                      Matthew 11:28-30 from The King James Bible

# CRUCIFY HIM!

Joe Wright Griggs

We know all priests are holy men-  
No one accuses them of sin!  
How dare that One who yonder sits:  
Says our priests are "hypocrites!"

He's called "Teacher" within His gang!  
(I've overheard His great harangue) -  
Says: "Love your enemies!" A joke?  
I was taught to "Give them a poke!"

I saw Him heal on the Sabbath -  
(He surely is a psychopath)!  
The Sabbath's holy, no work's done-  
(Only a madman defies God's Throne)!

At last "The Law" has caught Him good -  
They'll make Him pay - as pay He should!  
The Governor let's us decide -  
The verdict: "He must be crucified!"

The people had a choice to make:  
Barabbas: murderer and snake -  
Jesus: Eternal Son of God -  
"Crucify Him!" That was their nod!

*Today we also have to choose -  
Eternity is ours to lose -  
Barabbas is "The World's Allure!"  
Jesus will keep us Safe, Secure!*

At the Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples:  
"I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life;  
no man comes to The Father but by Me!"  
John 14:6 from The King James Bible