

MY CAROL OF PRAISE

Dear God I sing this song to You today,
Because I want to Praise You for Your Son!
I know my words cannot begin to say
How much, Dear Lord, Your Grace on earth has done!

The guilt for sin I could not lose nor hide
You sent Your Son to pay the price for me!
Upon the cross in His own hands and side
He took my curse, my death, and set me free!

The Resurrected Christ in me now lives!
He heals my guilt and keeps me from despair.
His total Love and Strength, to me He gives
For me to reach the ones who need my care!

And yet, each day, I need your wisdom, Lord,
To know bow best to touch all those in need.
I constantly must feed upon Your Word
And let Your Holy Spirit take the lead.

My prayer is not to have -I pray to be
A person used of you, to do Your Will!
Through Christ, please let me help all persons see
That God is Love, and that He reigneth still!

And so, I come to You with Highest Praise,
Because You have transformed my life and heart.
My voice and hands to You, Dear Lord, I raise
With Joy and shout: *"My God, how Great Thou Art!"*

The Psalmist wrote: " ... Let everything that hath
breath praise the Lord. *Praise ye the Lord!*"
Psalm 150:6 from The King James Version of the Bible

MY SONNET OF GRATITUDE

Joe Wright Griggs

I'm amazed at seventy five
That at this age I'm still alive!
Not just alive, I now declare
I have a full growth head of hair.

While in my head, my brains still think -
(Most all my thoughts remain in sync) -
And not just brains (while moving south)
My own teeth are within my mouth.

All of my limbs still work just fine
(My joints help keep them all in line).
Even my toes and fingers, too
Obey me as they're meant to do.
So, Thanks to God Whose Grace keeps me
Both well and safe, and worry free!

King David proclaimed to the Nation of Israel on the day
that The Ark of The Covenant was installed in the tent that
David had prepared for it:

"Give Thanks unto the Lord, call upon His Name, make
known His Deeds among the people, Sing unto Him, sing
psalms unto Him, talk ye of His Wondrous Works. Glory ye in
His Holy Name! let the heart of them rejoice who seek the
Lord. Seek the Lord and His Strength, seek His Face
continually. Remember His Marvelous Works that He hath
done ..."

I Chronicles 16:8-12 from The King James Bible

MY WAY OR GOD'S WAY?

Joe Wright Griggs

"The World" has taught us it's theme song -
When Frankie sang, we hummed along -
The song states: *"I Did it My Way!"*
We question why that's not o. k.?

A different song - "Believers" sing ..
"Be Thou My Vision," to The King.
Thus each of us *must make a choice*
As to which song we will give voice!

"Your ways are not My Ways," states God -
(He speaks to creatures made of sod):
"Seek you the Lord ... while He is near"
(To eyes that see and ears that hear)!

"My way" will always lead to sin -
It is "The Fall" staged once again!
"God's Way" remains our only chance
It's on His Plan we take our stance!

For God so loved the world He sent
His Son to die. If we repent
And then, by faith, accept "His Way" -
Then yield - He'll be Support and Stay!

The great Prophet, Isaiah, wrote to the Jewish people:

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him
while He is near ... For My Thoughts are not your thoughts,
Neither are your ways My Ways, says The Lord. "
Isaiah 55:6-8 from The King James Bible

OLD TESTAMENT TYPES OF CHRIST

Joe Wright Griggs

Clear "Types" of Christ are recorded
In The Scriptures for all to see -
Those who study are rewarded
With a portrait of what He'll Be!

All Jews know of Noah's Great Ark-
(Salvation for all who'd Believe)!
Moses was called, when life was dark -
To lead from slav'ry all those who grieve!

Through Joseph salvation was brought
To starving ones within that land!
By Samson stories of strength are wrought
(As Israel took a mighty stand)!

But the most graphic "Type" of all -
Isaac was brought as sacrifice!
Abraham had obeyed God's Call-
(A ram became redemption's price)!

Oh foolish people, don't you see?
The Scriptures teem with stories bold -
If we're honest, we'll all agree
Only Christ Jesus will fit this mold!

The Writer of the Book of Hebrews reviews some of these "Types":
"By faith Noah ... Built an ark to the saving of his house by the which
he condemned the world " Hebrews 11:7 from The King James Bible

"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac ... his only
begotten son ... Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from
the dead ... " Hebrews 11:17-19 from The King James Bible

"By faith Moses ... Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches
than the treasures " Hebrews 11:26-29 from The King James Bible

ONLY ONE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Joe Wright Griggs

There's just One Stairway to Heaven -
It was fashioned and made by God:
Jesus was sacrifice for sin -
(For sin doomed creatures made of sod)!

Yet from earth's very beginning
Mankind has attempted to make
A way to climb, to reach, to wing,
To Heaven to claim his own stake!

Some descendants of Noah tried
To build a tower to the skies -
But God forced them "to step aside" -
Before their plan could finalize!

Undaunted man still tries to make -
(Yes, he's at it, even today) -
Self-salvation - his grave mistake -
His theme song: "I'll Do It My Way!"

(Humanism: makes man as "gods") -
(Religions: are all based on "works") -
The sham of all of these facades -
Man's fallen, sinful state still lurks!

God, The Father's Redemption Plan
Presents mankind The Only Way!
No other Hope for sin-cursed man -
Faced with Eternity to pay!

In Genesis, Moses wrote why the Tower was named Babel:
"... Because the Lord did confound the language of all the earth ..."

Genesis 11:9 from The King James Bible

Luke wrote concerning Peter's great defense before the Jewish leaders: "Neither is there Salvation in any other: *for there is none other Name... whereby we must be Saved!*" Acts 4:12 from The King James Bible

OUR GREATEST CHOICE

Joe Wright Griggs

With Afghanistan and Iraq
Our choice of war brought hope and pain.
If we could but turn back the clock
Would we go down that road again?

God gifted us with power to choose -
Each choice is consequential!
Right choices win, poor choices lose ...
Preplanning is most essential!-

Once we're committed to a Choice
We're forced to live with its effects!
Though eloquently we may voice
The whys we chose, *Results are text!*

There's One Great Choice we all must make-
It's our decision, clear and true:
*"Will we trust Christ, and for His Sake
Let His Spirit make us anew?"*

When we repent from all our sin
And make Jesus truly our Lord.
At that time we are "Born Again" -
This is according to God's Word!

*Only this choice has consequence
Affecting All Eternity!*
To choose God's Plan makes common sense -
It Guarantees God's Surety!

Moses' successor as leader, Joshua, proclaimed to the Nation of Israel:
" ... Choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods
your fathers served ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"
Joshua 24: 15 from The King James Bible

OUR LIFE IS A PULPIT

Joe Wright Griggs

Each Believer is a Pulpit -
We preach a sermon with our life!
"Integrity" or "Hypocrite" -
"Peace, Joy, Hope" or "Sin and Strife!"

Paul wrote that Faith, Hope, Love abide -
Believers are to model these!
Unfortunately some teach "Pride"
And others live a "Life of Sleaze."

We're each of us accountable
For how we live and what we say -
Through Christ we're saved from Satan's Fall-
Our old dead self is cast away!

As New Creation we must live -
(The world is watching what we do.)
To model Love - *we must forgive -*
Our testimony must ring True!

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church of Corinth:
"Now abides Faith, Hope and Love ... the greatest ... is Love!"
I Corinthians 13: 13 from The King James Bible

To the Scattered Believers in Rome, Paul wrote:
"I beseech you therefore, brothers ... that you present your
bodies a living sacrifice ... unto God. And be not conformed to
this world but be you transformed by the renewing of your
mind that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable,
and perfect, Will of God!" Romans 12: 1-2 from The K. J. B.

PATIENTLY WAITING

Joe Wright Griggs

God wants us patiently waiting ..
But we want predictable time.
Thus we are constantly dating
The day we think God's clock will chime.

Since Adam was first created
Right up to this present lifespan -
Mankind has rebelled and berated
The timing of God's Perfect Plan.

The Jews longed for The Christ's Advent -
(But they refused Him when He came.)
"How long, oh Lord?" was their lament -
(Rejecting Him was their great shame!)

But Christians, too, impatiently
Dare to date *His Coming Again*.
Despite warnings, we fail to see
Predating God's schedule is sin!

In God's Own Time, and for our best
His Promises will come to pass -
We are to wait, to trust, to rest -
And see His Word fulfilled at last!

The Apostle Paul wrote from Corinth to friends in Rome:
"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and
travaileth in pain together until now ... Even we ourselves groan
within ourselves, waiting for the adoption... For we are saved
by hope ... *But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with
patience wait for it.* " Romans 8:22-25, The King James Bible

THE POWER OF WORDS

Joe Wright Griggs

Like rifle shots which can defend -
Or can destroy both foe and friend -
The words we use can lead to grief -
Or else can bolster one's belief

Words are symbols we write or speak
To share ideas through which we seek
Communications with another
Be it friend, foe, sister, brother!

The meanings that, to us, are clear
May not be what the listeners hear -
*Each one brings meaning to each word
Based on past usage they have heard!*

Since experiences differ
Our words' meanings begin to blur-
It should be no mystery why
Communications go awry!

So good communications, then
Should be kept simple and begin
With clear, concise words that we know
Are understood, not just for show!

*We use our words to truly Bless -
(Never for trying to impress)!
A message can be only good
If by each one it's understood!*

THE PROPHETS TOLD HIS STORY

Joe Wright Griggs

And did the prophets not write down
The Blessed Christmas Story?
The virgin birth, the very town,
The names that show His Glory?

*You, Bethlehem, are not the least,
From you shall come a King! ¹*
There wise men journey from the East,
And there the angels sing.

*His name shall be Emmanuel!
This One of virgin birth. ²*
*For God Himself with men shall dwell
In Christ down here on earth.*

For those who in the darkness live
Have seen a Mighty Light! ³
*The Greatest Gift that God could give,
To put all death to flight!*

*A Star has come from Jacob's Seed,
From Israel, a Throne! ⁴*
*God's Living Word in speech and deed,
Through Christ, the Father's known!*

His name shall be called *Counselor;*
The Mighty God is He! ⁵
*The Prince of Peace, Who for us bore
Our guilt, and made us free!*

*And so, all prophecies are True
Which speak of Christ, the Lord!*
The Light which pierces night comes through
The reading of His Word!

¹ Mic. 5:2, ² [Isa. 7:14, ³ Isa. 9:2, ⁴ Num. 24:17, ⁵ Isa. 9:6