

# READY FOR THE RAPTURE

Joe Wright Griggs

As we age we become aware -  
We can't just jump up from our chair -  
Our backs and knees begin to ache -  
There are adjustments we must make!

Besides the pain, sorrows increase -  
Our old friends die - most pleasures cease!  
There's increased loneliness to bear -  
Our faces change, we lose our hair!

There comes a time, when we admit -  
A drastic change would benefit!  
Believers' lives stay true and steady  
For The Rapture, we are ready!

God's Trumpet sounds - we celebrate!  
As Christ's True Church - we'll not be late -  
Our lamp is trimmed - we're clad in white -  
For we're prepared to wed tonight!

The Groom's arrived - He's God's Own Son!  
All guests arise to cheer Him on -  
Angelic choirs sing hymns of Love -  
The Church now weds God's Heav'nly Dove!

The apostle John wrote "Let us be glad and rejoice,  
and give honor to Him for the marriage of The Lamb is  
come, and His wife (bride is ready)!" Rev. 19:7 - KJB

# RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

Joe W. Griggs

It does no good for us to Pray  
"Father forgive me," every day -  
*Then cling to guilt and show no trace  
That we're receptive to His Grace!*

*For God's Mercy is not imposed  
On persons who are not disposed  
To be receivers of His Love.  
Words/Deeds must mesh like "hand-in-glove!"*

A dour-faced Christian bowed in guilt  
Is like a stream that's clogged with silt.  
*For in our failure to receive  
We could be asked: "Do you Believe?"*

Our Christian witness is not true  
If we are always sad and blue.  
*When His Forgiveness we receive  
God grants "Full Pardon"- (not reprieve)!*

*Now Justified - declared sin free -  
Our lives should shine for all to see!  
With smiles of Joy we meet each gaze -  
Our very lives should sing His Praise!*

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Ephesus: .. *Praise to the Glory of His (God's) Grace. Wherein He hath made us acceptable to the Beloved (Jesus). To Whom we have redemption through His Blood, the Forgiveness of Sins, according to the Riches of His Grace .....* "  
[Ephesians 1:6-7 from The King James Bible]

# RELIGIONS

Joe Wright Griggs

Some think religions are the same  
(All lead to God whate'er their name.)

*The error of this misbelief -  
Will doom them to eternal grief!*

Most religions are made by man  
Shaping *logic* as best they can-  
Defining *good* in human terms  
*Spreading false doctrine just like germs!*

These false beliefs have common goals -  
To bring converts within their folds!  
Each system has defined *Good Works* -  
*Earning God's Love among their perqs!*

*True Religion was made by God -  
It's outlined in His Holy Word!*  
It's basic theme: *All creatures sin -  
Atonement must be offered men!*

*The New Bible details God's Plan -  
To offer grace to sin-cursed man!*  
*The Old Bible tells of the Jews-  
When offered grace, most still refuse!*

*All religions are not the same  
Only God's Way - He'll not defame!*  
Men are confused, misled, deceived -  
God, The Father, is truly grieved!

Before He died as Sacrifice -  
Jesus Commissioned this Advice:  
*"Those I have saved must go and tell -  
Help save 'the lost' from eternal Hell!"*

# RELINQUISHMENT

Joe Wright Griggs

Naaman was a man of valor -  
But he suffered as a leper.  
His King sent him to Israel -  
"Ask the Prophet to make you well!"

A servant gave Naaman God's Plan:  
"Go bathe in the Jordan, my man -  
Just dip seven times - you'll be healed!"  
(God's cure for Naaman was revealed.)

But Naaman 's concepts were not met -  
Right away he started to fret:  
"Elisha, himself, should have come -  
There are cleaner rivers back home!"

In a rage he planned to depart -  
But before he ever could start -  
*His staff succeeded to compel*  
*For him to try - God made him Well!*

The Moral is For Us to Know:  
God Longs to Heal and Help Us Grow.  
*We Must Relinquish: "I'm Right - I'm Free"*  
*To God's "Great Sovereign Authority !"*

"Then (Naaman) dipped himself seven times in (the) Jordan  
..... And his flesh came again like the flesh of a little child, and  
he was clean!" II Kings 5:14 from The King James Bible  
The Prophet Isaiah quoted God: "For my thoughts are not  
your thoughts, *neither are your ways My Ways, saith The Lord!*"  
Isaiah 55:8 from The King James Bible

# REPROGRAM YOUR MINDSET

Joe Wright Griggs

Our P. C.'s were programmed with care -  
They were installed with good software!  
But a virus was introduced  
And malfunctions were then unloosed!

Our mindsets were programmed by God -  
Perfectly made without facade!  
But negative thoughts have crept in -  
(Makes us wish we could start again)!

The "evil one" keeps us upset  
Plays "put-down tapes" from those we've met!  
Thus we question our own self-worth -  
"What is our purpose here on earth?"

We're Children of God, Jesus taught -  
Glorify Him in Word and Thought!  
Avoid negativisms from man  
Which says "You can't!" - God says "You Can!"

Lift up your voice: "Praise to the Lord!"  
As His child now, obey His Word!  
Expect each day you'll have success -  
Respond to Him - He longs to Bless!

As we program this new "Mindset" -  
The world's "virus" will pose no threat -  
There's no more "bad" that man can do -  
Jesus "Paid All" to see us through!

Jesus told the multitudes in His Sermon on the Mount: "You shall be  
the children of the Highest" [Luke 6:35 from The King James Bible]  
John, the Beloved Apostle, wrote: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God..... "  
[I John 3:2 from The King James Bible]

# SANCTIFIED

Joe Wright Griggs

Following Justification  
(Where Jesus is made truly Lord) -  
*Then comes Sanctification*  
(By God's Great Truth found in His Word)!

Sanctified means true Holiness -  
(We are declared clean, free from sin).  
Uplifted from our lowliness  
(By Jesus' Blood, made pure within)!

Now purged, our bodies are temples  
*Wherein God's Holy Spirit lives!*  
By His Power He now expels  
Our old dead self - *New Life He Gives!*

What did we do to earn this shift?  
(There was no goodness we could bring).  
*By Grace alone we have this Gift -*  
*Trusting Jesus as Lord and King!*

Jesus prayed to The Father on behalf of All Believers:

"I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world even as I am not of the world. *Sanctify them through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth.* As Thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. *And for their sakes I Sanctify Myself, that they also might be Sanctified through Thy Truth!*"

John 17:15-19 from The King James Bible

# SHAKE OFF THE DUST

Joe Wright Griggs

If we do something which we prize -  
Someone is apt to criticize.  
Maybe they're jealous, insecure -  
*But they can make us feel unsure!*

The poisons that these critics spread  
Will often cause both guilt and dread.  
*We don't retaliate or grieve -  
We shake dust from our feet, and leave!*

This formula The Lord had taught  
To His Disciples when they sought  
To minister, and met rebuff -  
*Let God repay - it'll be enough!*

Thus Jesus taught us to: *Not dwell  
On hurtful words we can't dispel-  
I'll handle it - your only show  
Is: Shake it off and let it go!*

When criticized for doing good -  
Let us behave as Jesus would :  
*Did not answer His accusers -  
Yet He prayed for His abusers!*

Then He (Jesus) called His twelve disciples and sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. And He said to them, Take nothing for the journey ..... Whatever house you enter stay there ..... And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, *shake off the very dust of your feet as a testimony against them.* "

Luke 9: 1-5 from The New King James Bible

# SPIRITUAL REBIRTH

Joe W. Griggs

*As we view it, a "godly man"  
Visited with Jesus one night -  
If works could save, he fit "The Plan"  
But Christ set this false notion right!*

*"You must be Born Again!" He said  
To Nicodemus, a "good man."  
You live, but your spirit is dead -  
Rebirth is by the Father's Plan!*

*Just as Moses set a brass snake  
High in the camp of Israel -  
By God's Kind Grace and for our sake  
Christ died far us in great travail!*

*All Who gazed at the snake were healed -  
(Acting in faith had set them free.)  
Rebirth through Christ is here revealed -  
(Our Act of Faith can make it Be!)*

*For each of us is born in sin  
The consequence of Adam's Fall.  
We're dead! We must be Born Again  
Through Jesus' Blood, Who died for All!*

*Jesus told Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, a visitor to Jesus: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up ..... For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life!"*

[John 3:14-16 from The King James Bible]

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# THE STING OF DEATH

Joe Wright Griggs

Jesus died on a Roman cross-  
Yet He was Perfect - free from sin!  
When "Good Men" die - some blame their loss  
On God! "Don't let it occur again!"

Death happens to both "Good" and "Bad."  
They thus begin Eternity!  
In grief we weep and feel quite sad -  
("True Believers" need no pity)!

For they are safe with Father God -  
For them no more pain and sorrow!  
We here on earth feel Satan's prod -  
(And pray a brighter tomorrow)!

*So when we grieve - it's for ourselves -  
(For Jesus' Own have been reborn)!*  
Each life has been placed on God's Shelves-  
Our words and deeds these Shelves adorn!

*Our whole life here is just a womb -  
To incubate our faith and growth!  
In God's Time we're placed in a tomb-  
We pledge to Him our Love and Troth!*

The Apostle Paul put the topic of death for the believer into perspective when he wrote to the Church of Corinth as follows: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin ..... But Thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

I Corinthians 15 :55-57 from The King James Bible

# STIR UP THE GIFT

Joe Wright Griggs

God's Holy Spirit has bestowed  
At least one Kingdom Gift  
On each Believer, His pow'r flowed  
For spiritual uplift!

*All Gifts must complement the whole  
Or a great void exists.*  
Each Gift in service, is God's Goal!  
(The "natural man" resists.)

While Gifts must be identified  
And by The Church, affirmed;  
Some have God's Spirit, vilified,  
His Holy Gifts, they've spurned!

As bodies have to compensate  
For any missing part,  
*God's Body, too, must seek to mate  
The feet, the hands, the heart.*

God's Gifts are not an option, then,  
For us to pick and choose.  
*His Spirit teaches which, and when,  
And where for God to use!*

God holds each one accountable  
For how we play our role.  
*Our Gifts help make the Body full -  
Or else, we leave a hole!*

The Apostle Paul exhorted young Timothy, and through him all  
Christian Believers to:

" ... *Stir up the Gift of God, which is in thee* by the putting on of  
my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power,  
and of love, and of a sound mind."

II Timothy 1:6-7 from The King James Bible