

# A SONNET ON ETERNITY

Joe Wright Griggs

*All of mankind must come to see  
That death begins eternity!  
This life's a womb to incubate  
Our growth until that *fateful date**

*When all that counts that we're inscribed  
In Heaven's Roll as Jesus' Bride!  
To Nicodemus He made plain:  
"To Live you must be born again!"*

*It's by God's Grace, not works we do,  
By Jesus' Blood we're born anew!  
His Resurrection Power gave  
Defeat for sin, death, and the gravel  
Thus since our death is really Birth,  
In Peace through Him we leave this earth!*

**The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christian's in Corinth: "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 to us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"**

**I Corinthians 15:55-57 from The King James Version of the Bible**

# **A SONNET ON SORROW AND SOLACE**

Joe Wright Griggs

**When we have lost our health, our job, a friend,  
Or worse, a much beloved person dies;**

**When pain and sorrow seem to have no end,  
And even God seems deafened to our cries;**

**In our despair we crave supportive love  
From a community of those who truly care -  
Where we're enfolded like a hand in glove**

**By those we trust enough to really share!**

**Yet though God's Spirit works through human touch,  
It's His Empathic Love which we can feel,**

**For when our pain and sorrow seem too much,  
God channels Love through persons who can heal!**

**Now whole again, His Praises we will Sing,**

**Our Joy renewed through Thee, Our God and King!**

**Two Biblical Examples of Nurturing Love:**

**When Jesus came to Bethany on the death of Lazarus, He was met by Lazarus' sister, Martha. Jesus said to Martha these words of Comfort and Solace: " .... I am the Resurrection and the Life: he that Believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, And whosoever Believeth in Me shall never die. Believeth thou this? She said unto Him: 'Yea, Lord: I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. '"**

**John 11 :25-27 from The King James Bible**

**A few days before His Crucifixion, Mary, Martha and Lazarus' sister, ministered to Jesus' Pain and Suffering as follows: "Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment ... Then said Jesus, 'Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. '" John 12:3-7 ... The King James Bible**

# AN ANATOMY OF PRAYER

Joe Wright Griggs

Here's an anatomy of Prayer -  
Just as we viewed it standing there -  
From top to bottom, as we saw -  
*(Or Head to Foot, by Nature's Law)!*

*True Repentance - this is the Head -*  
We rued the hurtful words we'd said.  
We rued all chances we had missed -  
*(Our wasted Thoughts had topped The List)!*

*Praise, Thanksgiving - this is the Heart -*  
So many Blessings! Where to start?  
We name a few - trust God to know -  
*(That Grateful Hearts just overflow)!*

*God's Instruments - our Hands and Feet*  
Yielded to Him - Pray'rs now complete!  
*Repentance, Praise, and Yielding, too -*  
*(Thus should we Pray our whole lives through)!*

Early in His ministry, Jesus warned the multitudes:  
" ... Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish ..."  
Luke 13:5 from The King James Bible

King David wrote an exclamation of Praise to God:  
"I will Praise the Lord according to His Righteousness ....."  
Psalm 7:17 from The King James Bible

The Apostle Paul exhorted all Believers:  
" ... Yield your members as instruments ... unto God ...."  
Romans 6: 13 from The King James Bible

# ACCEPT GOD'S WAY

Joe Wright Griggs

By our logic there is a way  
Which mankind sees as being “right”-  
*It's by our works, that's how we pay -*  
Or else we face eternal night!

For some *karma guides how we live -*  
Some ask *have we obeyed God's Law?*  
Some weigh *how much money to give.*  
Some think *have we confessed each flaw?*

*None of these works atones for sin -*  
(And we sin nearly every day) -  
*It's by God's Way that we get In -*  
(Not by bowing five times to pray!)

God sent His Son as Sacrifice -  
(For the wages of sin is death!)  
*Jesus alone paid the whole price -*  
(To satisfy God's Holy Wrath!)

We want to know *what part we play*  
In gaining our own salvation.  
*We come by Faith – for it's God Way*  
*To gain His Justification!*

King Solomon wrote: “There is a way which seems right to a man, *but the end thereof are the ways of death.*” Proverbs 14:12 from The King James Bible.

# A THEORY ON OUR HEAVENLY BODIES

Joe Wright Griggs

God's Creation is never through -  
*In Heaven He'll make us anew-*  
*But I can only fantasize*  
*Our heavenly body's new guise!*

My guess - our new-made bodies will  
Be much alike - and thus fulfill-  
Paul's teachings that "*In Christ we're one*  
*Not male nor female*" - when God's done!

There'll be no need for clothes up there -  
If common bodies we all share -  
No problems there with modesty-  
From all embarrassments we're free!

*This is all pure speculation -*  
*There are no texts on how it's done!*  
But from Scriptures that I have read -  
This theory had a common thread!

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church of Galatia:  
"... There is neither male nor female, for you are all  
one ... " Galatians 3:28 from The King James Bible

Jesus responded to those who were testing Him:  
" ... They neither marry nor are given in marriage;  
but are as the angels which are in heaven!"  
Mark 12:25 from The King James Bible

# ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER BOOK

Joe Wright Griggs

The year: Two Thousand and Seven -  
We're a closer step to Heaven!  
It's time to print my fourth po'm book-  
Give friends and fam'ly one more look!

I listed titles by the score -  
But dear wife Ruth, said: "Please, no more -  
ARE YOU READY? is short and sweet -  
All your goals it will surely meet!"

So here it is, now you decide -  
*Are you ready to be Christ's Bride?*  
We often pray: "Thy Kingdom come!"  
*Are you ready to meet God's Son?*

I hope these words will help us see  
*Readiness as Great Urgency!*  
For soon God's timing will expire-  
*God's Judgment then will Burn like Fire!*

All who are ready will go up -  
Will drink God's Bliss from God's Own Cup!  
*Readiness as Truth from God's Word:*  
*"Have you made Jesus Savior/Lord?"*

Jesus told Nicodemus, (by our standards a truly "good man:")  
*"Except a man be Born Again, he cannot see the Kingdom of  
God... For God so Loved the world, that He gave His Only  
Begotten Son, That Whosoever Believeth in Him should not  
perish, but have Everlasting Life. "*

John 3:3-16 from The King James Bible

# ARE WE A BLESSING OR A CURSING?

Joe Wright Griggs

In each contact with a Creature -  
(A human, animal or plant) -  
On our leaving we can be sure -  
Their state is worse or a betterment!

We're a Blessing or a Cursing -  
(Never neutral in our approach)!  
Do we bring Joy, a song to sing -  
Or leave them feeling our reproach?

With a friendly word of kindness -  
A smile, a touch, a helping hand -  
By human acts we, too, can Bless-  
Help a fellow creature to stand!

But when we're cold and uncaring -  
And insensitive to their plight -  
Then the message we are sharing  
Is: "We consider you a blight!"

"What you do to one of the least  
Of my brothers - you've done to Me!"  
Thus our Blessings will rise like yeast -  
While Curses drop in the deepest sea!

Jesus instructed His Disciples on the Mount of Olives:  
Many shall ask: "When saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and  
came unto Thee?" And the King (Jesus) shall answer and  
say unto them: "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of  
the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto Me!"

Matthew 25:40 from The King James Bible

# THE ARK OF SALVATION

Joe Wright Griggs

God told Noah to build a boat-  
It'd be the biggest one afloat.  
"Why build a boat here in this plain?  
My friends will think that I'm insane!"

Carefully God then made His case -  
That He would flood the human race.  
"I've never seen a boat that size -  
When the flood comes it'll just capsize!"

At that The Lord detailed His Plan -  
He'd start anew with beasts and man!  
"How can I build? I don't know how-  
I'm a man who can barely plow!"

Then patiently, The Lord explained  
How to build and what it contained!  
"I understand now," Noah said -  
He told his sons: "Full speed ahead!"

As they toiled on, the scoffers came -  
(Scorning Noah was *the* "in game")!  
Noah warned of the coming doom -  
They failed to heed, thus wept in gloom!

*God's Second Ark is His Own Son  
Who died and rose and when He'd done -  
Gives Safety to all who'll Believe -  
(But scoffers, "left behind," will grieve)!*

God told Noah to: "Make thee an ark of gopher wood .....

Genesis 6:14 from The King James Bible

Jesus told Nicodemus: "*For God so loved the world that He sent His  
Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but  
have everlasting life ..... That the world through Him might be saved!*"

John 3:16-17 from The King James Bible



# BE A PEOPLE BUILDER

Joe Wright Griggs

All persons need to feel valued  
-Have their uniqueness affirmed -  
*We all differ in aptitude*  
-*Our special gifts should not be spurned!*

*Every successful person had  
someone who believed in them!*  
And after all is said and done  
-*It's best to Build - not to condemn!*

Within our Garden of Eden  
Are those who need our love and care.  
*Our task: Build them up once again -  
It's why The Father put them there!*

So let's pour out affirmations  
On all within our realm and sphere!  
*For them, we are the special ones -  
Who help confirm why they are here!*

In the Book of Genesis, Moses wrote of Adam's primary task in the Garden of Eden: "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it....."  
Genesis 2:15 from The King James Bible

The Apostle Paul poured his affirmations on his young disciple: "To Timothy, my dearly beloved son ... Without ceasing I remember you in my prayers, night and day ... I call to remembrance the great faith that is in you ... Wherefore, I ask you to remember to stir up The Gift of God which is in you by the putting on of my hands!" II Timothy 1:2-6 from The King James Bible

Jesus admonished His disciples: "Allow little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is The Kingdom of God!"  
Luke 18:16 from The King James Bible