

DARE ONE?

Joe Weight Griggs

Dare one to hope for Heaven's Gate
Who dies with unforgiven sin?
Dare one delay until too late
For him or her to enter in?

How dare one *not accept God's Gift -
The Life Blood paid by His Own Son?*
Dare one presume that one can lift
His guilt, his sin by works he's done?

Dare one reject God's Costly Plan -
The Only Way he can be Saved?
Dare one assume that mortal man
Can earn his way, though he has slaved?

One dare not by one's works attempt
To gain self purification.
*It's by God's Grace we're made exempt-
By His Own Justification!*

Justification: Every person who by faith accepts Jesus as Savior and Lord is *declared righteous* - Justified: *"Just as if I'd never sinned"* by God who sees us through Jesus' Blood!

The Writer of the Book of Hebrews exhorts us:
"For if ... *every transgression* ... received a just recompense of reward; *How shall we escape if we neglect so great a Salvation ... ?*" Hebrews 2:2-3 from the King James Bible

DARE TO MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Joe Wright Griggs

If Jesus is your Lord: Shout it!
Let all you meet know about it!
Don't hunker down as if in shame-
(Don't bring disgrace on Jesus' Name)!

When hymns of Praise are sung: Chime in!
Can't sing a tune? That is no sin!
Your heart, your voice are singing Praise!
The Lord soaks up the Love you raise.

Your story is unique: Share it!
It tells all why you care about it!
Some hearers will want to learn more -
Your story is an open door!

Christ Commissioned each and all
Who are saved from the devil's "Fall!"
If our Love/Faith brings us Great Joys -
Let's Dare to make a Joyful Noise!

One of the great Praise Hymns by King David:
"Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord, all you lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His Presence
with singing. Know you that the Lord, He is God: It is
He that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are His
people, and the sheep of His Pasture. Enter His Gates
with Thanksgiving, and into His Courts with Praise "

Psalm 100:1-4 from The King James Bible

THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Joe Wright Griggs

'Twas the day after Christmas -
In a lot on our street -
The neighborhood children
Had arranged to meet!

From a chair on my lawn
I could both see and hear -
And noted that each child
Brought a gift he held dear!

"What did Santa bring you ?"
Was the most common call!
Each child showed for review -
His gift - seen by them all!

Some sports gear was the choice
Of all the teen-aged boys!
Older girls favored clothes -
Young children showed their toys!

Would Jesus be mentioned?
I listened - but in vain -
No - not one person there
Even uttered His Name!

God's Spirit was there, convicting me -
I now knew what my purpose to be -
Begin Bible study - invite them all -
"Lord save these children from 'The Fall!'"

DEVELOP A THRIVING MENTALITY

Joe Wright Griggs

Let's learn a mind-set of *thriving* -
Not focused on *just surviving* -
Where we can say: *I'm truly Blessed* -
And have no thought of feeling stressed!

Jesus had fed five thousand men
With five loaves and two fishes when
There was no food available –
What was left filled twelve baskets full!

If Jesus is our Paradigm -
And if we claim to follow Him -
How dare we aim - *to just get by* -
Our goals should reach stars in the sky!

*It's not how big or smart we are -
Nor who we are, or even where -
It's Who Christ is, Whom we adore -
If we have faith - our lives will soar!*

The Apostle John tells about Jesus feeding the 5,000:

" ... Therefore they gathered them ...
and filled twelve baskets with the
fragments of the five barley loaves ..."
[John 6:13 from The King James Bible]

On the last day of the Feast, Jesus cried to the multitudes:

"If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink ..."
John 7:37 from The King James Bible

EACH OF US HAS A MISSION

Joe Wright Griggs

Jesus ordered: "Stretch forth your hand!" -
To a man whose hand was withered.
Who then in faith took a strong stand -
And thus was healed by Jesus' Word!

Let's not live lives that wither, shrink -
We're under Christ's Great Commission!
*It's at God's Fount that we must drink -
Let's let Him direct our mission!*

*Our one great limitation is
A withered kind of bad mind-set:
"I'm much too old, I'm not a whiz,
I have no skill, I'm steeped in debt!"*

*Don't look to self, God is our Source -
Each of us has been anointed!
If we trust God, He'll chart our course -
In His Way as preappointed!*

All our human limitations
Are as nothing *-for by His Pow'r -
When we're weakest - He occasions
To make our lives most truly flow'r!*

Jesus healed a man with a withered hand on he Jewish Sabbath!
" Then He said to the man, Stretch forth your hand. And he stretched it forth, and it was restored whole, like as the other "
Matthew 12:13 from The King James Bible

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Philippi:
" I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me!"
Philippians 4: 13 from The King James Bible

EMBRACING CHANGE

Joe Wright Griggs

Only a few will welcome change -
Our lives are set, why rearrange?
*Yet many times we're in a rut-
To get us out "God's Door" may shut!*

This happened to the early church
As they were forced to leave their "perch!"
*Their flight to other lands has led
Unto the Gospel's worldwide spread!*

So let's embrace change as God's Best -
"As an eagle stirs up her nest!"
*Accept God knows what's best for us -
So don't face change with fear and fuss!*

We've lost our job, we're faced with lies,
We're forced to move, a loved one dies.
*Exigencies of life on earth -
They come at us right from our birth!*

If we Believe God wants our Best
We Praise Him for - not fight each test!
*Change is essential to all growth -
Let us embrace it - be not loath!*

Luke, the author of The Acts, tells how dispersion followed persecution:

"Therefore they that were scattered abroad (because of great
persecution) *went everywhere preaching The Word.*"

The Acts 8:4 from The King James Bible

Moses, the author of Deuteronomy, wrote about God's Leadership

"As an eagle stirs up her nest ... *So the Lord alone did lead him,*
(Jacob), and there was no strange god with him."

Deuteronomy 32: 11-12 from The King James Bible

ENLARGE OUR CIRCLE OF LOVE

Joe Wright Griggs

We have a few to whom we're True -
For whom we pray most everyday -
With whom we care enough to share.
Let us through Hope, enlarge our scope!

*We chance to meet on every street
A stranger there who needs our care.*
Do we show Love like God above
Or pass them by - not heed their cry?

In a snowstorm (though we are warm) -
Some sleep on grates, sheltered in crates.
Newspapers are their reservoir -
(Their only heat against the sleet)!

A dumpster there provides their fare.
This food they take - no choice to make.
And some find there, something to wear
To keep them warm against the storm.

*If we indeed start paying heed
Our Vision grows - including those
Beyond "our three." God's Family
Gives us new heart to do our **part!***

Jesus taught His Disciples on the Mount of Olives:
" Inasmuch you have done it unto one of the least of
these my brethren, *you have done it unto Me.* "
Matthew 25:40 from The King James Bible

ETERNITY

Jor Wright Griggs

Where will we spend our forever?
Each one of us is forced to choose.
It's a choice of now or never -
Eternal Life is ours to lose!

Christ died in order to atone
For mankind's sins, both great and small-
God placed our guilt on Him alone -
What we deserved - He paid for all!

Jesus stated: "I Am The Way!"
This should have ended all debate.
For our good works cannot repay -
Only through faith can we relate!

Jesus Himself will be our Judge -
His Law will be God's Holy Word.
Only one plea He'll not begrudge-
"Jesus, by faith I made You Lord!"

"Jesus taught in the synagogue of Capernaum:
"Verily, Verily I say unto you, he that believeth on me
hath Everlasting Life I am the Living Bread which
came down from heaven: if any man eat of the Bread he
shall live forever: and the Bread that I will give is my
flesh, which I will give for the Life of the World

Whosoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, hath
Eternal Life " John 6:47-54 ... The King James Bible

EXPECTING GOD'S FAVOR

Joe Wright Griggs

As Believers, do we Expect
That God will really answer Prayer?
Or when we pray do we neglect
To offer Praise for all His Care?

We're candidates for God's Favor -
As we Expect, we will Receive!
Our Trust in Him must not waver -
(We don't just passively believe)!

Some are "victims" all of their life
They whine and cry: "Life's just not fair" -
And, sure enough, they have much strife -
And are convinced "God does not care!"

David's Expectations were met-
He was Favored for all to see.
Wrote of his "Expectant Mind-Set" -
"Surely Goodness ... will follow me ... !"

In his most beloved Psalm, David the shepherd wrote:
*"Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life ... "* Psalm 23:6 from The King James Bible

Another illustration - The healing of the lame man:
"(The lame man) gave heed unto them (Peter and
John) *expecting to receive something ...* Then Peter said,
Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I
thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and
walk ... and he leaping up stood ... *Leaping and
Praising God!"* Acts 3:2-8 from The King James Bible

EYES THAT SEE: EARS THAT HEAR

Joe Wright Griggs

A theme the Word of God has stressed
Is His concern for the oppressed.
He tried to make it very clear
To "Eyes that See" and "Ears that Hear!"

When eyes *are sensitized*, they see
Those victimized by tyranny!
And ears *attuned* will hear the cries
Of those in pain, whom most despise!

To see and hear is not enough -
To Act requires a love that's tough.
Oppressive systems must be changed
Their superstructures rearranged!

Yet, selfish persons always try
To read the Bible and apply
Their own interpretations, freed
From guilt, for lives controlled by greed.

The Lord said: "When you clothe and feed
Those who are least *you meet my need!*
But when you fail to hear and see
And do not act, *you reject me!*"

For Jesus suffers everywhere -
He's in all pain and all despair:
The homeless person on a grate,
Each starving child, victims of hate!

So each of us must make a choice
In use of Eyes, Ears, Heart, and Voice:
Will we touch Jesus in His pain -
Or crucify Him, once again?

Jesus instructed His Disciples "Inasmuch as you have done it
unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me!"
Matthew 25:40 from The King James Bible