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Holiness Writers

MEDITATIONS FROM THE WORD

By

Walter Bryant

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without
which no man shall see the Lord” Heb 12:14*

Spreading Scriptural Holiness to the World

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MEDITATIONS FROM THE WORD

A Devotional

By

Walter Bryant

[This book was written by my "Uncle Bud" as he was affectionately called by all the members of our family. He was my mother's brother. Uncle Bud had been a mail carrier on the trains between several towns in Minnesota for years as well as a preacher of the Gospel. His first love was the Lord and the preaching of His Gospel. He died several years ago but his memory lives on. This devotional that he composed gives an insight into his love for His God. May it be a blessing to each one who reads. Dorothea Maxey]

Walter Bryant
523 Seventh Avenue N.E.
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401
Phone 218-829-8432
New Everlasting Address
Heaven

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"Consider Him"

Hebrews 12:3

Consider His person, His record, His history, His works, His mission, His claims, His spirit, His authority, His sacrifice, His words. Examine them all; hear His appeal to me. It rings a bell in my heart. He is the Son of God. He came for me. He made Himself poor by His condescension for my good alone. I fail to detect there is a selfish thought in His mind, a selfish pore in His body, a selfish drop of blood in His veins, or selfish spirit in His heart. I am impressed. Why? His every expression of love to me makes me ashamed not to appreciate what He has done for me. Here is a REAL man, head, and shoulders above His fellows. I want to be like Him; lead me to Him.

"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

The peace that Jesus gives and leaves with us is so different from what the world thinks about. "Heart peace" and assurance for now and tomorrow is a security against panic and fear. It is like wealth laid up for "rainy" days. "Jesus took my burden, and left me with a song", seems like true deliverance from a troubled and fearful heart. The author of the song must have had such an experience, no doubt we may have had too, so we also sing it with real heart and feeling. It is so close to our own relief and peace that He has given to us. We can trust the one who died for us. We can bank our life on this word and promises. Are you troubled or afraid? He has promised to be with His children always. That's good enough for me.

"Her children arise up and call her blessed;"

Proverbs 31:27, 28

They did when she lived and they do, now that she has gone on to Heaven. None of us kids that I ever knew or ever said that mother was wrong or that she did wrong. She was distinctly impartial. We were all one to mother; sorrows were the sins of her children. One of the griefs I remember when I told her I had been to a show. Mother bore many and most of her griefs alone. One that she never outlived was the death of my oldest brother who died of the flu at eighteen. She dedicated every one of us to the Lord before we were born. She said her prayer for me was never answered until I was ordained in the ministry. Mother considered herself a failure. We were all received in the Methodist Church, went to the church every Sunday, eight children. We all took catechism and were baptized in the Methodist Church except two. However, most of us were not born again at that time.

THE MEASURE OF A LIFE

Today is the funeral of a beloved friend and brother in Christ. No doubt the officiating minister will be given an obituary to be read. Though not a member of the family, I believe I could write a fairly accurate obituary of this man. But it wouldn't do him justice. Even a detailed history of his life by you who lived close to him, and know him best, would only be a partial picture, for who can measure a life? Only one who can measure hearts and minds that have been touched through His influence and ministry can give us the history that will continue till time shall be no more. Even generations he never knew or met, will in some way continue to write his history. Nobody can ever measure how much good one man can do or has done, who has been dedicated and consecrated to God, and so his history goes on, his influence is felt from the past, in the present, and into the future, in untold lives of people who have felt and been moved by his example and influence and ministry.

I'm sure there have been mistakes and even blunders. His aspirations and purpose haven't always been realized, and no doubt there were bitter disappointments and grief. No doubt even now, in the presence of God, we might fancy him saying, "Dear God, take up the broken strands, where I have wrought in vain."

Yes, today, I'm written also in the history of his life, for the influence of his life has touched me and left its mark. I'm sure it still will, for that influence was from a heart that loved God and men. His going from us only strengthen the ties that binds us closer "over there."

**"To an inheritance incorruptable and undefiled,
and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you."**

For me? Yes for me. What kind of inheritance did you say? How much? Maybe someone else will claim it. It can't be for me. But it says, "reserved in Heaven for you." That means I've got to get there to have it. Well, by the grace of God, I will. His Spirit bears witness with my spirit that I am a child of God. And if a child, an heir, heir of God, and joint heir with Christ. Redeemed, redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb. Amen. "And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also." Thank God, it is real. It fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for me, and I am kept by His power by faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. I believe it, hallelujah, I believe it, and humbly thank God for such glorious hope, made possible by His wonderful plan of salvation for us.

My Wings - Psalm 55

"My troubles are more than I can bear,"
I cried in my sore complaint.
My spirit is withered, my soul depressed,
My heart is about to faint.

O for the wings of that dove I see,
Then I would fly away
And leave it all behind, I said,
"I wish it would be today."

But I found my wings when I knelt in prayer,
On the spot where my troubles came.
There I cast my burden upon the Lord,
And he promised to sustain.

Then His grace that came winging its way to me,
Was sufficient to hold me fast.
My spirit was lifted, my heart relieved,
And my night of depression past.

**"Who knoweth whether thou art come to the Kingdom
for such a time as this?"
Esther 4:14**

We aren't living in Esther's time. Sure, that was long ago. We are living now, centuries later. But such a time as this. We are in glorious days, maybe the last days. Earth shaking days. Men and women who are real Christians, real Kingdom believers, crisis days. Atomic, hydrogen bombs, satellites and launched intercontinental missiles, but here we stand with a message that fits our day; of solution, of hope, of real security, of peace, of wonder working power and grace in our lives, of a glorious future that even death can't destroy. It fits our age; sure a time as this, fully and adequately and really. We are privileged to be in the Kingdom for such a time as this. Let's not be overcome; lift up your heads. The world needs us in this strategic age. Christ is equal to it all. The Christian has all the advantage in the world. Something to rejoice about.

CRUCIFIXION AND BEYOND

As Jesus passed down the road that led to the hill of crucifixion, we read that a great company of the people followed Him, and of women which bewailed and lamented Him. Some of these were women from Galilee and of Jerusalem, among them Mary, the mother of Jesus. No doubt a great number came out of curiosity to see, but of the women, they came to mourn and weep. Of the disciples they had all forsaken Him and fled, except John, because of fear alone who dared to draw near these women and but one man, who were not afraid to show their pity, nor manifest their love. What a distinguished honor to the feminine sex that, in this darkest hour no stain of disloyalty or cowardice is attached to these faithful Jews. Enough for that. And now the words of affectionate care in the commitment of Mary to John's home and care, and John to the high honor of caring for this honorable and honored woman.

No doubt these are anxious and uncertain days for Mary, in spite of all she knows about her Son. He commits her to John, definitely restoring her to purer human relationships. No doubt that with her, as with others, she failed to comprehend the full meaning of what was taking place. The fact of a resurrection was not even remotely considered in the picture, hence the uncertainty and fear, without the eye of faith to pierce the future days. And Jesus, knowing they did not understand, yet reaches out as far as He can in solicitude and concern for His mother with words that mean something like this, "Fear not, Mary, you will be taken care of." Joseph her husband is probably dead, she being a widow in that case.

Exactly where John's place of abode was in Jerusalem we don't know, but wherever it was, Mary was taken there, and John fulfilled the obligation that was committed to him. Then on resurrection morning, when Peter and John had found the tomb empty, I'm sure John lost no time in getting home to tell the good news. When Jesus appeared to about five hundred brethren at once, it is highly probable that Mary was there. We find her once more in the upper room among the one hundred and twenty on the day of Pentecost when they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

"Consider Him" - Hebrews 12:3

Consider His record. The question asked of outstanding personalities is "What did they do?" We can rightfully ask that of Christ Jesus.

His birth was lowly; most of His boyhood in obscurity at home in subjection to the discipline of that home. In His manhood, and in His earthly ministry, which really began as a public minister at thirty, and ended at thirty-three, it is impossible to record it all; it is monumental in its extent. He preached to the poor, He spoke words of comfort and healing to the broken hearted, He healed the sick, cast out devils, raised the dead, lifted the fallen, wept over the erring, delivered the blind, the lame, the deaf, the dumb, cleaned lepers, and pointed men the way to Heaven. He went about doing good to the bodies and souls of men everywhere. Even Pilate said, "What evil hath He done?" And there was no answer. "He was God manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." (I Timothy 3:16) His works bear record, that He is the God-sent one for our good.

"Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14

Crisis times call for leaders. God needs men to stand in the gap. Who knows whether it is there? We are in earth shaking days, no doubt last days. Every true Christian is a key person. The Christian has all the advantage in the world. With true spiritual bifocals, he can see today's happenings near at hand, but also the long range view beyond. God's tomorrow will be brighter than today. Stand fast in the Lord. Fight like men, be strong. Our hope is anchored to Him.

Psalms 27:13, 14

Wait on the Lord. You can afford to wait. It is better to wait than to faint. It is not always the hurrier that gets things done. It is many times the sure steady puller. Good things often come to those who wait. "Wait on the Lord, and He shall strengthen thine heart." Wait, I say, on the Lord."

My Thoughts at the Funeral of a Dear Christian Friend

Gone — but not forgotten,
Gone — but living still.
Gone — to be with Jesus,
Gone — it is God's will.

Gone — we'll meet you later,
Gone — we're coming too.
Gone — from pain and sorrow,
Gone — to life anew.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 1967

How common is this greeting! We greet our friends and smile as we do so. We know there have been joys since New Year's 1966. Yet our life has been checkered with joys and sorrows; heart gladness and heartache. The pursuit of happiness is the right of every person. And we all want it. The quest of all. Where can it be found? In greater possessions, more conveniences, a better home, a nicer car, better clothes, and numberless things? Is it in things? I ask you frankly, have acquiring these brought you greater happiness? Can I have happiness in 1967? If so, I believe the Lord, the author of life, has the formula. He knows how to deal with the foes of happiness. Sin, fear, sorrow, pain, disappointment, need. The hope and fear of all mankind are met in Him. Believe me, it's true.

"Wherefore He Is Able Also." - Hebrews 7:25

"Able also," suggests something before hand that declares His ability or accomplishments. He is the forerunner beyond the veil, a high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec, made a high priest after the power of a endless life, the bringer in of a better hope, made a creator of a better testament. (Could there be a better?) And undying and unchanging. What a Priest! What a Savior! Able also to save? A thousand times yes. Able and willing to save you to the uttermost. That involves saving me from an awful lot. My sinning failure, my weakness, my helplessness makes me unfit for that eternity. But He is able. He is Holy, harmless, undefiled; separate from sinners and made higher than the heavens. I sometimes think it's almost too good to be true, that I am saved and on my way to Glory. It's all because of Him who saves from the uttermost to the uttermost. I love Him.

**"And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God,
and the song of the Lamb." Revelation 15:3a**

Singing is done at many occasions. Most weddings have special songs, usually songs of love. They express the emotions we feel. It seems that a funeral would be incomplete without songs of hope and comfort. Then there are songs of joy, of rejoicing, of victory.

Moses' song was one of victory that God gave the children of Israel at the crossing of the Red Sea and the destruction of Pharaoh's army that pursued them. The song of the Lamb is a song of the saints rejoicing in Christ's redemption after their final victory, in the city of Heaven. What a glorious chorus that will be, and I intend to share in that singing. All praises be to God and our Redeemer! By His grace I can't afford to miss it. What singing that will be!

**A BACKSLIDDEN FRIEND
"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation." Psalms 51:12**

How happy she was! It was a marvel to see the glow of personal salvation and victory over the old past sin and corruption which filled her whole personality. It was so refreshing to hear her testimony, and the reality of hearing her say it; was a marvel to her to know what God had done for her.

Then the glow faded, and we knew something was wrong. The appeal of the old past again laid hold upon her, and back she went. The troubles began, one after another, but no joy in the Lord. Why did you go back? Why, dear friend? Are you happier than when you were victorious and glowing? No, definitely not. Then you were the happiest anyone knew you ever to be. Come back, friend. We are grieved and disappointed this has happened to you. We rejoiced with you, and want to do it again. Though you have sinned, He has mercy and pardon. You can begin again. Can you hear Him calling, can you hear us calling, come back to God, to Jesus? For you we are praying, and longingly waiting. Will you now?

"My Cup Runneth Over" - Psalms 23:5

We all like good measure when we are on the receiving end of benefits. "Running over" suggests generosity, the giver, and more than fulness in the receiver. That kind of fulness as the Psalmist suggests, implies blessing and thanksgiving and praise and joy and goodness and love, and peace. Did you ever see the cup of the sinner, the carnal man run over? I have and so have you. Was it blessed? The air was tense, and as we say, "blue" with profanity, as they spouted off, with bitterness and complaints and charges and sarcasm and anything but pleasant. It all depends what the cup is full of, the heart. Let me be around when the cup of the pure in heart overflows. None of us can enjoy the other kind. One creates heaven, the other hell. Lord, purify my heart, then it will be a blessing to overflow.

"Consider Him" - Hebrews 12:3

Much of the world is in darkness as to the mission of Christ, or how important it is to them in a personal way that He came; for He came for all, all the people of the world. His purpose and mission leaps beyond the fixed boundaries of men, color, race, social levels, caste, political parties, ideologies or environment and condition. Whatever, whoever, wherever I am, I can be assured of His interest in me. God so loved the world, he gave His only begotten Son. He came for me, He said so. He has much to offer. It is what I need. In Him is wrapped up all the hopes and fears and quest of all mankind. It is not just an ideal to be aimed at and hoped for; it is a real life, loving, giving, inspiring, motivating, ennobling, thrilling life, in Jesus Christ, imparted through Him to me. Starting in me on earth, and ending in Heaven. It fits every phase of my life. Jesus, Lord of life, your way is best of all.

"Consider Him" Hebrews 12:3

Who is He? Why should I consider Him? What have I to do with Him? What has He to do with me? Who is He that wants to intrude in my life and thoughts and plans if I don't want anything to do with Him? Does He have to thrust Himself at me when I'm not interested? Can't He leave me alone? Are these the questions of many, the angry retorts at those who press His claims upon them? No doubt they are.

No one knows my life better than my Creator. His plan for me involves my happiness, harmony, peace, ambitious realizations, relationships, attitudes; and His plan for me is made possible through Jesus Christ. Many have come to experience that His way is the best way, the right way, the joyful way, toward which my energies may be expended in a purposeful and satisfying way, having promises of the life that now is, and that is to come. Consider Him; He stands in the center of that plan for me. Finding His way is like finding hidden treasure or pearl of Great price.

THE INNER WAY

I went to church this Lord's Day
To meditate and sing and pray.
And though the fog the sun had hid,
It made no difference if it did.

For sunshine's something in my soul,
Which fog and clouds cannot control.
It's God's great grace so full and free,
His peace and love He gives to me.

So in God's sanctuary blest,
My soul had light and warmth and rest.
Though outside skies have turned to gray,
I'm glad I've found the inner way.

God has Spoken - Hebrews 1:1

God longs to communicate with man, and have fellowship with Him. He knows all the avenues of communication. We are aware of most of them: the written word, the Holy Spirit, the Son, through nature, through providences, dreams and visions, and by angels. How often can we say, "And God was there," when some deliverance was wrought, and we know He had spoken through this experience to reveal His nearness? His authoritative word is still a sure foundation. He speaks through His Son, who spoke as one who has authority. He speaks to us face to face, and heart to heart. I can trust my whole life to such a One, and I do. I will hold His hand and let Him lead. "The Eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." (Deuteronomy 33:27.)

The "God is Dead," slogan is certainly unrealistic. It would remove for some an authoritative word given for man's good, for God speaks with authority on man, sin, conduct, right attitudes, right relationships with God and the universe, about destiny, and the vast unknowns of men. It is no problem to Him. He knows all the answers, and they are truly the right ones. As I face life from day to day, I need Him with me each unfolding experience. He is very real to me in everyday life.

A New and Living Way Hebrews 10:20

What's new? Why, this is New Years Day. The things and happenings of the past are not all old. Ahead of us are 365 divisions laid out for us. Much of our memories will not be of 365 days, but of events, and happenings, highlights and valleys of experiences. We reviewed the events of last year, and many of them are real and startling in their nearness to our thinking. Weddings, births, deaths, that car accident, that unhappy report, that happy report, and high spiritual achievements, and low tides in our spirits. Yet so much has been routine, the monotony of day by day walking and doing. Whether routine, spectacular, or startling, God's blessings have been new every morning, they fail not. How real God is! God dead? Nonsense. The Lord is my portion, new strength, new blessings, new assurance, new experience, new providences, new unfoldings of His great and perfect Will and plan for me. Our daily sufficiency is in Him. That is enough for me.

"Your Reasonable Service"

Nothing can be more consistent with reason than that the work of God should glorify its author. We are not our own; we are the property of the Lord, by the right of creation and redemption, and it would be as unreasonable, as it would be wicked, not to live to His glory in strict obedience to His Will. The reasonable service of the apostle may refer to the difference between the Jewish and Christian worship. The forever religious service consisted chiefly in its sacrifices, which were

irrational creatures in the lambs, ravens, kids, bulls, goats and turtle doves, which were offered under the law. The Christian service or worship is rational because it is performed according to the true intent and meaning of the law; the heart and soul being engaged in the service. He alone lives the life of a madman and a fool, who lives the life of a sinner against God; for in serving against His maker, he wrongs his own soul, loves death, and rewards evil unto himself.

"IN THE LAST DAYS"

Last days, last words, last testament, last supper, and last things all hold deep and solemn meaning to us. There, it may be, the gavel of finality has fallen, and we feel like something has come to an end. The first killing frost, and first snowflakes make us say summer and fall are over, winter is here. The Bible says, "The night cometh when no man can work." The day is over. The sun has set. Darkness creeps in.

Earth's day has an ending. Time is running out. These days are our days. Days that are perilous indeed, especially to spiritual living, and to the spirit of man. These are days of opportunity granted to us by God. Opportunity to be saved, opportunity to serve God and my present age, opportunity to prove that the foundation of God standeth sure, even though foundations are being undermined and destroyed. Discovering that His keeping power is all sufficient for all that life can bring.

Last days are dangerous if we lose sight of God. Last days are glorious, since we have the privilege of being His witnesses, like lighthouses along the shore of time, leading men to sure footing and purposeful living. Last days will finally end. God's tomorrow is at hand. It can be better for us. It can be worse. Better if He is our Savior. Worse if He isn't. The door of His salvation is still open. Thank you, Lord.