HIDDEN IN CHRIST

*“Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.  Let the water and the blood, from the wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure.”*

*“While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyes shall close in death, When I rise to worlds unknown, and behold thee on thy throne, Rock of ages, cleft for me let me hide myself in thee.”*

     To me there is no more comforting thought than to be hidden in Christ Jesus.  It is comforting because I am safe in Him.  I have read where Augustus Toplady was a young minister when he edited for The Gospel Magazine in England.  A short time prior he had been riding horseback through the country when a rain storm arose and he ran for cover under a large overhanging rock.  As he stood in the protection of that rock, God gave him the lyrics to “Rock of Ages.”  A few years later in 1776 he was writing an article on England’s financial state.  As he was writing that England could never pay her national debt, he wrote that man could never by his own works pay his sin debt.  It was then that he without for-thought wrote the words to Rock of Ages in his article.  Toplady died of consumption at the age of 38.  At his death he said “All my prayers are now converted to praise.”  He was rising to worlds unknown and about to behold Jesus on his throne!

     Moses isn’t the only one who has needed the shelter of The Rock.  From time to time we all have needed that hiding place.  I am so glad he is there for us whenever we need him.  David said the Lord was his rock and his fortress.  When Adam and Eve had sinned they searched for something to hide their nakedness and shame.  The only real place to hide is in Jesus.  In fact, he more than hides our sin, he takes it away!

     The ark was a hiding place for Noah when God sent the deluge of the flood.  God kept Noah and all the inhabitants of the ark safe. They were all provided for throughout their time of the flood.  God also had an end in sight for them. They did not know what lay ahead but God did and he had good plans for them.

      Whatever our circumstance may be, God is there for us.  He may have us on the front line of battle but the Rock is within reach.  We may be tending the sheep and find our self face to face with a lion yet the Rock is there.  Our finances may have run out.  Our health may have failed.  Our spouse for the past 60 years may be gone but in all these occasions we have the Rock of Ages.  Death may be inevitable, our breath growing shallow but there is the Rock. “Let me hide myself in thee!”

      God also knew that Moses, when he came out from the cleft of the rock, would forever be a different man.  Because of that precious, glorious time he was hidden in the Rock.  God had plans for Moses.  You see this was not the first time God had hidden Moses.  God had first hidden him in his mother’s Godly confines.  He had plans for Moses.  He then hid him in an ark of bulrushes and he was found of Pharaoh’s daughter which was in God’s plan.  Then he was hidden in a foreign land and God himself found him for he had plans for him.

     “While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyes shall close in death,” even when I come to the end of this life I know I shall be hidden in the Rock of Ages.  He doesn’t forsake me.  When I close my eyes in final sleep I shall rest in Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram