HOLD ON TO TRUTHFUL SONGS AND HYMNS

**18** And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; **19** Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Eph 5:18-19 (KJV)

 God gives me many blessings in song and hymn lyrics. When you think of the lyrics in some of our old standards such as “Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine” and “The Love of God” and “Amazing Grace”, one either has to weep or shout. These songs praise God and they also send a message to mankind that makes him want to seek God. I am also interested in the person who wrote the hymn or song. Was there a circumstance that brought him or her into the presence of God and inspired the song? Was it just another day but the writer had their mind on things above? I’m inclined to believe that often times the song lyrics we sing were the meditations of the writer. The writer was making melody in his heart, speaking to himself in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

 Our study this week was on Bethlehem. Therefore I have meditated much on the little town of Bethlehem. Consider some of the lyrics to the song “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” “Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” In that little town that seemed so insignificant, the most significant person in all eternity was born for us. The hopes and fears of all time met in the babe of Bethlehem’s manger. This is a wonderful meditation.

 “How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given so God imparts to human heart the blessing of His heaven.” Bethlehem was no eighteen hundreds Dodge City. It was a small, still, quiet place. Though it seemed nothing was going on, God was granting the earth Heaven’s most glorious treasure, His Son Jesus. Again, this is a truth to dwell on! “No ear may hear his coming but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.” He doesn’t physically walk this sinful earth today but He is here. We do not audibly hear him or visibly see him but with an open heart we may embrace him and receive him as our personal Savior. The meek soul may find him. One does not have to be famous, have great ability or wealth to receive Jesus. Remember God sent his Son to a meek and lowly Bethlehem. In the town of Bethlehem Jesus was born without bells and whistles. It was exciting out in the fields where the shepherds were, but in the city it was quiet. When Christ is born in us it may be quiet to us but it is big news in Heaven.

 This is but one of our Christmas songs that we sing each year. Pay attention to the beautiful words in these carols that you will sing this year. Let them become your quiet meditation and let God draw closer to you through them.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram