

**Devotional Thoughts :: Union and Communion****Union and Communion - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/10/22 7:36**

“Union and Communion or Thoughts on the Song of Solomon” by Hudson Taylor (1832-1905, founder of the China Inland Mission) is a blessing to me.

I would like to post excerpts from this book in this thread.

This book is available here on Sermonindex:

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/bible_books/?view=book&book=541

In the secret of His presence
How my soul delights to hide!
Oh, how precious are the lessons
Which I learn at JESUS' side!
Earthly cares can never vex me,
Neither trials lay me low;
For when Satan comes to vex me,
To the secret place I go!

--- Ellen Lakshmi Goreh (1853 - 1937)

Re: Union and Communion - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/10/22 7:38

SONG OF SONGS 1:1
The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

“Well may this book be called the Song of Songs! There is no song like it. Read aright, it brings a gladness to the heart which is as far beyond the joy of earthly things as heaven is higher than the earth. It has been well said that this is a song which grace alone can teach, and experience alone can learn. Our SAVIOUR, speaking of the union of the branch with the vine, adds, “These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (John xv.11). And the beloved disciple, writing of Him who “was from the beginning,” who “was with the FATHER, and was manifested unto us,” in order that we might share the fellowship which He enjoyed, also says, “These things we write unto you, that your joy may be full.” Union with CHRIST, and abiding in CHRIST, what do they not secure? Peace, perfect peace; rest, constant rest; answers to all our prayers; victory over all our foes; pure, holy living; ever-increasing fruitfulness. All, all of these are the glad outcome of abiding in CHRIST. To deepen this union, to make more constant this abiding, is the practical use of this precious Book.

--- Hudson Taylor

Re: Union and Communion - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/10/22 7:40

SONG OF SONGS 1:2
Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth:
For Thy love is better than wine.

“The words are not those of one dead in trespasses and sins, to whom the LORD is as a root out of a dry ground --

without form and comeliness. The speaker has had her eyes opened to behold His beauty, and longs for a fuller enjoyment of His love.

and yet, alas! He is not always with her: He comes and goes. Now her joy in Him is a heaven below; but a gain she is longing, and longing in vain, for His presence.

Where is the blessedness I knew
When first I saw the Lord?

Though never at rest in his absence, she cannot trust him fully; and she does not care to give up her own name, her own rights and possessions, her own will to him who has become necessary for her happiness. She would fain claim him fully, without giving herself fully to him; but it can never be: while she retains her own name, she can never claim his. While she retains her own will, and the control of her own possessions, she must be content to live on her own resources; she cannot claim his.

Could there be a sadder proof of the extent and reality of the Fall than the deep seated distrust of our loving LORD and MASTER which makes us hesitate to give ourselves entirely up to Him, which fears that He might require something beyond our powers, or call for something that we should find it hard to give or to do? The real secret of an unsatisfied life lies too often in an unsundered will. And yet how foolish, as well as how wrong, this is! Do we fancy that we are wiser than He? or that our love for ourselves is more tender and strong than His? or that we know ourselves better than He does? How our distrust must grieve and wound afresh the tender heart of Him who was for us the Man of Sorrows!

--- Hudson Taylor

Re: Union and Communion - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/10/22 7:48

SONG OF SONGS 1:3 --

Thine ointments have a goodly fragrance;
Thy name is as ointment poured forth;
Therefore do the virgins love Thee.

Take the right place before Him, and He will be most ready, most glad, to satisfy thy deepest longings, to meet, supply thine every need. *

SONG OF SONGS 1:4

Draw me: we will run after Thee!

She will yield her very self to Him, heart and hand, influence and possessions. Nothing can be so insupportable as His absence! If He lead to another Moriah, or even to a Calvary, she will follow Him.

But ah! what follows? A wondrously glad surprise. No Moriah, no Calvary; on the contrary, a KING! When the heart submits, then JESUS reigns. And when JESUS reigns, there is rest. And where does He head His bride?

SONG OF SONGS 1:4

The King hath brought me into His chambers.

Not first to the banqueting house -- that will come in due season; but first to be alone with Himself.

He takes His now fully consecrated bride aside, to taste and enjoy the sacred intimacies of His wondrous love.

The Bridegroom of His Church longs for communion with His people more than they long for fellowship with Him, an

d often has to cry: --

Song of Songs 2:14 --

Let Me see thy countenance, let Me hear thy voice;
For sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.â€

â€this is the first-fruit of her consecration.â€

SONG OF SONGS 1:4 â€

We will be glad and rejoice in Thee,
We will make mention of Thy love more than of wine.
Rightly do they love Thee.

--- Hudson Taylor

*Quotation from hymn â€Jesus, I am Resting, Restingâ€

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjDWhaq0zlg>

Excerpt from â€Hudson Taylorâ€™s Spiritual Secretâ€ by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor:

â€The secret of his own strength was not far to seek. Whenever work permitted, Mr. Taylor was in the habit of turning to a little harmonium for refreshment, playing and singing many a favorite hymn, but always coming back to â€

Jesus, I am resting, resting, in the joy of what Thou art; I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

He had learnt that, for him, only one life was possible â€ just that blessed life of resting and rejoicing in the Lord under a ll circumstances, while He dealt with the difficulties, inward and outward, great and small.â€

Re: - posted by followthelamb, on: 2020/10/22 9:33

Amazing! Thank you so much for this thread...back on July 16th I also was feeling led to post from â€Union and Communion or Thoughts on the Song of Solomonâ€ by Hudson Taylor but got distracted and forgot to post. God is so good. God is faithful!

Re: - posted by followthelamb, on: 2020/10/22 9:48

This:

SONG OF SONGS 1:4 â€

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And where does He lead His bride?â€œ

SONG OF SONGS 1:4 â€œ

The King hath brought me into His chambers.

â€œNot first to the banqueting house -- that will come in due season; but first to be alone with Himself.â€œ

â€œHe takes His now fully consecrated bride aside, to taste and enjoy the sacred intimacies of His wondrous love.â€œ

â€œThe Bridegroom of His Church longs for communion with His people more than they long for fellowship with Him.."

Re: - posted by billy1980 (), on: 2020/10/22 11:05

Beautiful...

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/10/24 1:49

Hi followthelamb, William,

We have a wonderful Saviour!

We give Him our ashes and He gives us His beauty (Isa. 61:3).

Ps. 27:4-6 (BSB) â€œ

One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

To behold the beauty of the LORD

And to meditate in His temple.

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion;

In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me;

He shall set me high upon a rock.

And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me,

And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

1 Cor. 1:9 â€œ

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn: A Wonderful Saviour is Jesus My Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaJ4cw0scJk>

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/10/29 8:24

Song of Songs 1:3
Because of the fragrance of your good ointments,
Your name is ointment poured forth;
Therefore the virgins love you.

HYMN - HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS

Lyrics:

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary, rest.

Dear Name! the Rock on which I build,
My Shield and Hiding Place,
My never-failing Treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace!

Jesus! my Shepherd, Husband, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King;
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath,
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death.

Author: John Newton, 1779

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pfumgpnshag>

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/10/29 8:27

Song of Songs 1:5
I am black,
but comely,
O ye daughters of Jerusalem,
as the tents of Kedar,
as the curtains of Solomon.

HUDSON TAYLOR:

Another discovery not less important awaits her. She has seen the face of the KING, and as the rising sun reveals that which was hidden in the darkness, so His light has revealed her blackness to her. "Ah," she cries, "I am black"; -- "But comely," interjects the Bridegroom, with inimitable grace and tenderness. "Nay, black as the tents of Kedar," she continues. "Yet to Me," He responds, "thou art comely as the curtains of Solomon!" Nothing humbles the soul like sacred and intimate communion with the Lord; yet there is a sweet joy in feeling that He knows all, and, notwithstanding, loves us still. Things once called "little negligences" are seen with new eyes in "the secret of His presence."

BENSON COMMENTARY:

"I am black" I confess, as to myself, I am contemptible and deformed. She alludes to the complexion of Pharaoh's daughter; "but comely" Yet I am glorious within, (Psalm 45:13); and comely, through the beauty which my husband hath put upon me, by his graces conferred upon me, in justification and sanctification. "As the tents of Kedar" Of the wild Arabians, the posterity of Kedar, (Genesis 25:13,) who dwelt in tents, which were black and uncomely. "As the curtains of Solomon" As the hangings wherewith Solomon's house was furnished, which none can doubt were most beautiful and glorious. So these two last clauses answer to the two first, and that in the same order in which they lie.

MY THOUGHTS:

In ourselves, in our flesh, apart from Christ, we will always be "black" like the tents of Kedar. But, in Christ and Christ in us, by the Holy Spirit, we will be forever beautiful and glorious, "like the curtains of Solomon."

(Comment: Kedar was a son of Ishmael " Gen. 25:13).

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches" "Abide in Me, and I in you (John 15:4-5)". Branches abiding in the vine are surely filled abundantly with the life, the nature, the beauty and the glory of the vine, not by any work of the branch, but simply by union and communion with the vine.

For we who have been baptized into Christ (that is, immersed into Christ; that is, we in Christ and Christ in us) have clothed ourselves with Christ (Gal. 3:27).

Isa. 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
My soul shall be joyful in my God;
For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments,
And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

We do not look back to the old things, but --

Phil. 3:13 "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Col. 1:27 "

Christ in you, the hope of glory.

2 Thess. 2:13-14

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 8:1-2, 14

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Lot's wife looked back, fixed her eyes on the place of condemnation, and became a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:17,26).

But, we --

2 Cor. 5:7

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/11/15 2:19

Song of Songs 1:6 (ASV)

Look not upon me, because I am swarthy,
Because the sun hath scorched me.
My mother's sons were incensed against me;
They made me keeper of the vineyards;
But mine own vineyard have I not kept.

HUDSON TAYLOR:

Our attention is here drawn to a danger which is pre-eminently one of this day: the intense activity of our times may lead to zeal in service, to the neglect of personal communion; but such neglect will not only lessen the value of the service, but tend to incapacitate us for the highest service. If we are watchful over the souls of others, and neglect our own -- if we are seeking to remove the motes from our brother's eye, unmindful of the beam in our own, we shall often be disappointed with our powerlessness to help our brethren, while our MASTER will not be less disappointed in us. Let us never forget that what we are is more important than what we do; and that all fruit borne when not abiding in CHRIST must be fruit of the flesh, and not of the SPIRIT. The sin of neglected communion may be forgiven, and yet the effect remain permanently; as wounds when healed often leave a scar behind.

MY THOUGHTS:

John 15:5-6

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

Rom. 11:22

Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Heb. 6:7-8

For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

Comment:

Those who are burned are those producing thorns and thistles because they are not abiding in Christ.

The apostle Paul acted to ensure that he himself would not be disqualified after preaching to others (1 Cor. 9:27).

And, only the one who endures TO THE END is saved (Mark 13:13).

We become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast TO THE END (Heb. 3:14).

Paul resolved to press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:12). He said, Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:13-14).

The crown of righteousness is awarded to those who fight the good fight of faith and FINISH THE RACE and Paul made it.

2 Tim. 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

BARNES' NOTES ON THE BIBLE:

1 COR. 9:12

When I have preached to others - Doddridge renders this, "lest after having served as a herald to others, I should myself be disapproved;" and supposes that there was allusion in this to the Grecian "herald," whose business it was to proclaim the conditions of the games, to display the prizes, etc. In this interpretation, also, Macknight, Rosenmuller, Koppe, and most of the modern interpreters agree. They suppose, therefore, that the allusion to the games is carried through all this description. But there is this difficulty in this interpretation, that it represents the apostle as both a herald and a contender in the games and thus leads to an inextricable confusion of metaphor. Probably, therefore; this is to be taken in the usual sense of the word "preaching" in the New Testament; and the apostle here is to be understood as "dropping" the metaphor, and speaking in the usual manner. He had preached to others, to many others. He had proclaimed the gospel far and near. He had preached to many thousands, and had been the means of the conversion of thousands. The contest, the agony, the struggle in which he had been engaged, was that of preaching the gospel in the most effectual manner. And yet he felt that there was a possibility that even after all this he might be lost.

I myself should be a cast-away. - This word (ἀδοκίμος, adokimos) is taken from "bad metals" and properly denotes those which will not bear the "test" that is applied to them; that are found to be base and worthless, and are therefore rejected and cast away. The apostle had subjected himself to trials. He had given himself to self-denial and toil; to persecution and want; to perils, and cold, and nakedness, and hunger. He had done this, among other things, to give his religion a fair trial, to see whether it would bear all these tests; as metal is cast into the fire to see whether it is genuine, or is base and worthless. In doing this, he had endeavored to subdue his corrupt propensities, and bring everything into captivity to the Redeemer, that it might be found that he was a sincere, and humble, and devoted Christian. Many have supposed that the word "cast-away" here refers to those who had entered the lists, and had contended, and who had then been examined as to the manner in which they had conducted the contest, and had been found to have departed from the rules of the games, and who were then rejected. But this interpretation is too artificial and unnatural. The simple idea of Paul is, that he was afraid that he should be disapproved, rejected, cast off; that it would appear, after all, that he had no religion, and would then be cast away as unfit to enter into heaven.

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/11/20 6:09

Song of Songs 1:7 (ASV) â€“
Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth,
Where thou feedest thy flock,
Where thou makest it to rest at noon:
For why should I be as one that is veiled
Beside the flocks of thy companions?

HUDSON TAYLOR:

We now come to a very sweet evidence of the reality of the heart-union of the bride with her LORD. She is one with the GOOD SHEPHERD: her heart at once goes instinctively forth to the feeding of the flock; but she would tread in the footsteps of Him whom her soul loveth, and would neither labour alone, nor in other companionship than His own.

She will not mistake the society of His servants for that of their MASTER.

JAMIESON-FAUSSET-BROWN BIBLE COMMENTARY:

She feels estranged even among Christ's true servants, answering to "thy companions" (Lu 22:28), so long as she has not Himself present. The opposite spirit to 1Co 3:4.

MY THOUGHTS:

Abraham walked with God Himself.

And to Abraham and his seed, that is Christ, were the promises spoken (Gal. 3:16).

Lot walked with Abraham, Godâ€™s true servant, and had no direct personal fellowship with God.

And from Lot came the Moabites and Ammonites (Gen. 19:38).

Song of Songs 1:8 â€“
If thou know not, O thou fairest among women,
Go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock,
And feed thy kids beside the shepherdsâ€™ tents.

HUDSON TAYLOR:

These are the words of the daughters of Jerusalem, and give a correct reply to her questionings. Let her show her love to her LORD by feeding His sheep, by caring for His lambs (see John 21:15-17), and she need not fear to miss His presence. While sharing with other under-shepherds in caring for His flock she will find the CHIEF SHEPHERD at her side, and enjoy the tokens of His approval. It will be service with JESUS as well as for JESUS.

Quote:
----- While sharing with other under-shepherds in caring for His flock she will find the CHIEF SHEPHERD at her side, and enjoy the tokens of His approval. It will be service with JESUS as well as for JESUS.

BARNESâ€™ NOTES ON THE BIBLE:

The chorus, and not the king, are the speakers here. Their meaning seems to be: If thy beloved be indeed a shepherd, then seek him yonder among other shepherds, but if a king, thou wilt find him here in his royal dwelling.

MY THOUGHTS:

When the Lord Jesus commissioned His disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you," He also said, "Lo, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE."

ANDREW MURRAY (1828-1917):

For all time the principle is to hold good for all His servants that without the experience of His presence ever abiding with them, their preaching would have no power. The secret of their strength would be the living testimony that Jesus Christ was every moment with them, inspiring and directing and strengthening them. It was this that made them so bold in preaching Him as the Crucified One in the midst of His enemies. They never for a moment regretted His bodily absence; they had Him with them, and in them, in the divine power of the Holy Spirit.

In all the work of the minister and the missionary, everything depends on the consciousness, through a living faith, of the abiding presence of the Lord with His servant, the living experience of the presence of Jesus as an essential element in preaching the Gospel. . If this be clouded, work becomes a human effort, without the freshness and the power of the heavenly life. And nothing can bring back the power and the blessing but a return to the Master's feet, for Him to breathe into the heart, in divine power, His blessed word: "Lo, I am with you always!"

AUTHORITY

In giving the Great Commission, the Lord Jesus first said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18).

ANDREW MURRAY:

But let us remember that this power is never meant to be experienced as if it were our own. It is only as Jesus Christ as a living Person dwells and works with His divine energy in our own heart and life that there can be power in our preaching as a personal testimony. It was when Christ had said to Paul, "My strength is made perfect in weakness," that he could say, what he had never learned to say before "When I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Cor. 12:9,10).

It is the disciple of Christ who understands aright that all the power has been entrusted to Him, to be received from Him hour by hour, who will feel the need and experience the power of that precious word: "Lo, I am with you always," the Almighty One.

SOME THOUGHTS ON AUTHORITY:

Christ's authority is to give eternal life.

John 17:1-3

Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

The authority of under-shepherds is the Chief Shepherd's authority to give eternal life.

But no under-shepherd has eternal life in himself to give. Eternal life is in Christ (1 John 5:11-12) and only the Holy Spirit can give Christ's life to men (Rom. 8:11, 2 Cor. 3:6).

What are under-shepherds?

1 Cor. 3:6 '

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

An under-shepherd is not the Light, but sent to bear witness of it; not the Sun, but the star that announces the dawn, and wanes in the growing light; not the Bridegroom, but the Bridegroom's friend; not the Shepherd, but the porter to open the door into the fold (John 3:27-30; John 10:3) -- quote from F. B. Meyer (1847-1929).

May we all -- lambs and sheep and under-shepherds -- boast only in the Lord (1 Cor. 1:31) and yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit who alone can give us eternal life and righteousness and holiness and peace and joy in our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 3:6; Rom. 8; John 14:16-28, 16:5-14.)

WILLIAM LAW (1686-1761):

Tell me then no more of your new skill in Hebrew words, of your Paris editions of all the ancient fathers, your complete collection of the councils, commentators, and church historians. Did Christ mean anything like this, when he said, "I am the way, the truth and the life"? Did the apostle mean anything like this, when he said, "No man can call Jesus Lord, but by the Holy Ghost"? Great, good, and divine teachers, you say, were many of the fathers. I say nothing to it, but that much more great, good, and divine is He, who is always teaching within you, ever standing and knocking at the door of your heart, with the words of eternal life.

You perhaps may ask, why I go on writing books myself, if there is but one true, and divine teacher? I answer, though there is but one bridegroom, that can furnish the blessing of the marriage feast, yet his servants are sent out to invite the guests. This is the unalterable difference between Christ's teaching, and the teaching of those, who only publish the glad tidings of him. They are not the bridegroom, and therefore have not the bridegroom's voice. They are not the light, but only sent to bear witness of it. And as the Baptist said, "He must increase, but I must decrease"; so every faithful teacher saith of his doctrine, it must decrease, and end, as soon as it has led to the true teacher.

All that I have written for near thirty years, has been only to show, that we have no master but Christ, nor can have any living divine knowledge, but from his holy nature born and revealed in us that dying to self, to be born again of Christ, is the one only possible salvation of the sons of fallen Adam.

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/11/21 6:38

SOME THOUGHTS:

In our Heavenly Father's house, lambs grow and become sheep, sheep become under-shepherds, and, ALL go on to be perfected in Christ. (1 Pet. 2:2, Heb. 5:12).

Eph. 4:13-16 '

until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of

f the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head â€” Christ â€” from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

It is a life-long journey to gain Christ and be conformed to His image. Even Paul, the great under-shepherd, in the closing years of his ministry, still said:

Phil. 3:12-14 â€”

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

We are comforted. Our Great and Good Shepherd is every moment with all, upholding all (Heb. 13:5-6; Ps. 63:8, Ps. 145:14). The lambs, He carries in His bosom (Isa. 40:11). All are safe in His everlasting arms (Deut. 33:27).

Even though we walk through the darkest valley, we will fear no evil, for the Lord is with us. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow us all the days of our lives and we will dwell in the house of the LORD forever (Ps. 23).

Re: - posted by deogloria, on: 2020/11/22 0:54

Thank you Jade for those many wonderful words !

"Tell me then no more of your new skill in Hebrew words, of your Paris editions of all the ancient fathers, your complete collection of the councils, commentators, and church historians. Did Christ mean anything like this, when he said, "I am the way, the truth and the life"? So important to be reminded what really matters as Christians.

"It is a life-long journey to gain Christ and be conformed to His image..."
So true, and yet it is so easy to get distracted even with various christian ministries and teaching.

"Even Paul, the great under-shepherd, in the closing years of his ministry, still said:

Phil. 3:12-14 â€”

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me..."

Just another verse:

"Though I am the least deserving of all Godâ€™s people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ." (Eph. 3v8) NLT

Blessings

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2020/11/22 7:57

Hi deogloria,

Good contribution!

Thank you.

Blessings