

## For Me

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:6-8)

During the Civil War in the United States, a farmer named Blake was drafted as a soldier. He was deeply concerned about leaving his family, because his wife had died and there would be no one to support and take care of his children in his absence. The day before he was to leave for the army, his neighbor Charlie Durham came to visit him. "Blake," he said, "I've been thinking. You're needed here at home, so I've decided to go in your place." The farmer was so overwhelmed that a few moments he was speechless. The offer seemed too good to be true. He grasped the hand of the young man and praised God for this one who was willing to go as his substitute. Charlie went to the front-lines and performed his duties nobly. But sad to say, he was shot and killed in the first battle. When the farmer heard the news, he immediately saddled his horse and rode out to the battlefield. After searching for some time, he found the body of his friend. He arranged to have it buried in the churchyard near the spot where they had often stopped to talk after the services. On a piece of marble he carved an inscription with his own hands. It was roughly done, but with every blow of the hammer on the chisel tears fell from his eyes. He placed the marker on the grave of his devoted substitute. Many villagers wept as they read the brief but touching inscription: HE DIED FOR ME. (From Bible Illustrator)

God's penalty for sin is death, but God, through His love and mercy, allowed another to die in our place. Let us give thanks for God's unspeakable gift.

## Tribulation

"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance..." (Rom. 5:3)

In the pictures of the ancient Roman method of threshing grain, one man is always seen stirring up the sheaves while another rides over them in a crude cart equipped with rollers instead of wheels. Rough bits of iron were attached to these cylinders to help separate the husks from the grain. This simple cart was called a "tribulum" from which we get our word "tribulation."

When great afflictions come, we often think of ourselves as being torn to pieces under the cruel pressures of adverse circumstances. Remember, no thresher ever used his tribulum for the mere purpose of tearing up the sheaves but to disclose the precious grain. Likewise, God tries the righteous, but He never puts them under the pressure of sorrow and disappointment needlessly. Let us be patient in tribulation.

## The Lord's Supper

I looked for you last Sunday

In the breaking of the bread,  
When in remembrance of my death

the table there was spread.

But sad to say, I looked in vain  
On that momentous day.  
What appointment more important  
Kept you, my child, away?

The cup, the symbol of My death,  
Spoke of the pain I bore,  
To ransom you from sin and hell  
Both now and evermore

The bread, My broken body  
Proved my love for you still true,  
But as I scanned the table 'round,  
I wondered, "Where were you?"

Has the first love which once you knew  
Grown cold and lost its flame?  
Is there no surge of love within  
At the mention of My name?

Oh, I looked for you last Sunday  
When the table there was spread  
Ah, could you not remember me  
In breaking of the bread?

---Author Unknown

Dead or Alive

Live churches have space problems: parking, class rooms, seating;  
Dead churches do not worry about space.  
Live churches are always changing things;  
Dead churches don't have to; they just stay the same.  
Live churches have noisy children and young people;  
Dead churches are fairly quiet and serene.  
Live churches have a shortage of workers;  
Dead churches usually have a surplus.  
Live churches are always overspending their budgets;  
Dead churches maintain a large bank account.  
Live churches struggle to remember new names;  
Dead churches have known everybody for years.  
Live churches must work at developing new leadership.  
Dead churches don't; they just use the same ones over and over.  
Live churches are filled with givers;  
Dead churches are filled with tippers.

Live churches operate primarily on faith;  
Dead churches operate solely on sight.  
Live churches Evangelize;  
Dead churches Fossilize!

#### A Moments Wisdom

A liar has a forked tongue like a snake, but, unlike a reptile, it also has legs.  
Those who stretch the truth find that it often snaps back and hits them.  
The smallest good deed is better than the greatest good intention.  
Lying covers a multitude of sins — but only temporarily.  
It is possible for a man to live straight in a crooked generation.  
A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.  
Much may be known of a man's character by what excites his laughter.  
No person is strong enough to carry a cross and a prejudice at the same time.  
In general those who nothing have to say contrive to spend the longest time in doing it.  
A great talker has the knack of telling you nothing in a big way.  
An aged Christian, with the snow of time upon his head, may remind us that those  
points of earth are whitest which are nearest to heaven.  
Agnostics insist that they need faith as big as a mountain in order to move a mustard  
seed.