

# **“I Have Set the Lord Before Me”**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from a Lesson by Mark Copeland)

## Introduction:

- A. Psalm 16:8 - “I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.”
  - 1. From a larger context of a michtam of David (golden Psalm) about his own close relationship with God that also speaks prophetically of Jesus’ faith that He would rise from the dead
  - 2. Psalm 16:8-11
- B. Walking alone at eve and viewing the skies afar,  
Bidding the darkness come to welcome each silver star;  
I have a great delight in the wonderful scenes above,  
God in His power and might is showing His truth and love.  
  
Sitting alone at eve and dreaming the hours away,  
Watching the shadows falling now at the close of day;  
God in His mercy comes with His Word He is drawing near,  
Spreading His love and truth around me and everywhere.  
-- Alone At Eve, Will W. Slater, vss. 1 & 2
- C. If we are truly longing to be with God in the hereafter, we will be eager to be with Him at every opportunity we have while here on earth. In fact we will make opportunities to set the Lord before us.

## **I. I HAVE SET THE LORD BEFORE ME IN PRAYER**

- A. A close relationship must be a two-way street
    - 1. God has revealed Himself to us through His creation and revelation
      - a. Rom. 1:20; 2Peter 1:21
    - 2. We must reveal ourselves to Him, which we do through prayer
      - a. To express our need for His blessings - Phil. 4:6-7
      - b. To draw boldly to God to obtain mercy - Heb. 4:14-16
      - c. To express our joy and gratitude for our relationship with Him  
Col. 4:2
  - B. Prayer is our means of receiving help from God
    - 1. David prayed for forgiveness - Psalm 32:3-6
    - 2. Jesus prayed for strength - Matt. 26:36-44
- Closing my eyes at eve and thinking of heaven's grace,  
Longing to see my Lord, yes, meeting Him face to face;  
Trusting Him as my all wheresoever my footsteps roam,  
Pleading with Him to guide me on to the spirit's home.  
-- Alone At Eve, Will W. Slater, vs. 3

## **IV. I HAVE SET THE LORD BEFORE ME IN FELLOWSHIP**

- A. Strength comes from assembling together before God
  - 1. There is strength in numbers - Ecc. 4:9-12
  - 2. There is the very real danger of falling away without it

- a. We need to exhort one another daily - Heb. 3:12-13
  - b. We need to admonish one another through frequent assemblies - Heb. 10:24-25
- 3. A coal removed from the hearth illustration; like coals in a fire keeping each other hot, assembling together is designed to keep the spark alive in our relationship with God and one another
- B. The early church found strength by assembling together
  - 1. When Peter and John were released after being arrested
    - a. Acts 4:23-24, 31-33
  - 2. When Peter was imprisoned - Acts 12:12
- C. Our assemblies can be a foretaste of God's presence, in which we draw near to God together through song, prayer, and His word
  - 1. We enjoy the fellowship of God and His children now - Rev. 7:9-17

Oh! for a home with God, a place in His courts to rest,  
 Sure in a safe abode with Jesus and the blest;  
 Rest for a weary soul once redeemed by the Savior's love,  
 Where I will be pure and whole and live with my God above!  
 -- Alone At Eve, Will W. Slater, chorus

Conclusion:

- A. "In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11)