



# THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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## Rejected

By: Misti Chancellor

Rejection. The feeling of being rejected is pretty awful. To young children who are rejected by their peers, it can be devastating. Regardless of your age, being rejected is a difficult pill to swallow. And yet, how many times people who have been rejected, and know how awful it feels, reject others around them?

Sometimes we reject others unconsciously – not even thinking about it, not realizing what we’re doing. We may be busy, or focused on the job at hand, and not realize that we have hurt someone by ignoring them. Accidental rejection is far easier to forgive, than intentional rejection, but it still hurts. If we know that the person didn’t intend to harm us, or to ignore us, or to leave us out, we can let it go easier than if they intentionally left us out because they felt that we didn’t have the right to be included. Those who intentionally reject us may think that we “aren’t good enough” for them. Whatever the reason the person who rejects us might have, we all know how bad we feel when we’re rejected.

Did you know that people do this to Jesus? Some may not do it intentionally. They just get busy and put other things ahead of him. They don’t value the friendship he offers enough to take time for him. They listen to him briefly, and “intend” to spend more time with him, to follow him, to do what he says, but ... something comes up that gets their attention and they forget about him.

Others intentionally reject him. They decide that they haven’t got any use for him. When he calls, they turn a deaf ear. They tune him out, ignore him, and trample on the sacrifice that he made. They try to turn others away from him. They want nothing to do with him.

Jesus tells us, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33). Whether we reject (or deny) him consciously or unconsciously, it will cause him to deny us.

Are you thinking, “I don’t deny Christ; I don’t reject him.”? Do you rush off into your day without spending time with him? Do you arrive at the end of the day too tired to speak to him? Do you skip blessing the food when you’re with others, because you’re afraid of what they’ll think? How do you treat Christ when others are around? Do you act like you’re ashamed of him?

If you’re doing these things, you’re rejecting him. Do you know that when you reject Christ it makes him sad? After the people of Jerusalem had turned against him, Jesus said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!” He was saddened by their rejection. More serious, however, was the consequence of this rejection... “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.” They lost a precious thing by

their denial. How much more we will lose if we reject him and turn away from him! He tells us that if we deny him, that when we stand before God on the judgment day, he will deny us. How sad it would be to be lost ... because you were too busy... because you were afraid that someone might look at you funny ... because ... you just didn’t value him. If we reject him, we face a serious consequence – whether the rejection is intentional or we reject him because we get caught up in the busy-ness of life – we are facing an eternity separated from him.

I would plead with you to value Christ above all. Christ loves you and wants to be your very best friend. Don’t turn him away.

## Lost Forever

By: B. E. Warren

Where is thy hope, poor sinner? What are you going to do?

*Hope* is a God-given anchor, Lavished so freely on you;  
If it is fixed in the Savior, on that bright shore you will land;  
But, if in sin you still linger, Sad your end.  
Lost, forever! Lost, forever! Oh, how sad!

Where is thy refuge, sinner? Look where your pathway will end,  
Repent, or you’ll perish forever, Awful destruction’s at hand;  
Heaven, or hell you are choosing, Fixing and sealing your fate,  
God and his mercy refusing, Lost! Too late!  
Lost, forever! Lost, forever! Oh, how sad!

What can you plead, poor sinner, in the great judgment day?  
Heaven, now offers you favor, Oh, do not cast it away;  
Slighted, the warnings repeated, Leave you in Satan’s control;  
And with all heaven rejected, Lost, your soul.  
Lost, forever! Lost, forever! Oh, how sad!

Where will you go, poor sinner? How will your soul escape?  
Think of thy lot, when forever Cast in the dark, burning lake:  
If, then you’re lost and forgotten, Writing in flames of despair,  
You will remember you’ve chosen to be there.  
Lost, forever! Lost, forever! Oh, how sad!

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### The Road to Happiness

Excerpt from "The Secret of a Singing Heart—By: C. W. Naylor

The desire to be happy is one of the most universal of human desires. Few people put anything else ahead of their own happiness. In many a life this is the most powerful motive. Happiness, like everything else in this world of law and order, is the result of the operation of certain laws. It is a product, the result of certain processes.

One thing should be clearly noted. The road to happiness is not a direct road. If we would arrive at happiness we must first go somewhere else. On the road thither we must pass through the gate of *duty*, and walking on the way of right, pass through the village of *love*, descend into the vale of *humility*, and go over the stony way of *loyalty* and *sincerity* and ascend the heights of *innocence*. Here, without looking for it we shall find happiness.

It is a mistake to think that true happiness can come from mere gratification of desire. Gratification has its part, but often pursuit of a worthy motive is a greater factor. Unworthy motives, selfish desires, and sensual gratifications, instead of producing happiness disappoint and disillusion. It is a law of our natures that the higher the desire to be gratified or the higher the motive that we have the higher and truer the happiness that results. No truer thing was ever said than that they that "sow to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption." It is the inevitable consequence.

Gratification of the desires of the flesh may bring physical joy. The drunkard and the libertine may join in singing their drinking songs, their sensual love songs, and the like, but these are not songs of true happiness. A sensual joy poisons itself and dies in the midst of its song. Pure song brings higher forms of joy and higher and purer inspiration. It springs from pure and innocent love, from the home where love reigns, from the heart that is full of kindness, pity, consideration for others, and love of goodness.

The highest happiness comes from the use of our highest faculties. The exercise of these faculties blossoms forth in the truest and purest joy. Joy of mind and of heart rather than enjoyment of the flesh inspires the heart with rejoicing. The song that has no minor strain is the song of innocence, at peace with God and with its fellow men. Selfish desire and selfish living build an impassable barrier between ourselves and true happiness: The poet spoke truly when he said,

*"Tell me not then of the pleasures that sting,  
Coiled under roses of pride;  
None but the holy and innocent sing,  
Out of a bosom where pleasures abide."*

Innocence need not be a thing that we associate only with childhood. It may be mature. It may be a characteristic of middle age and of gray hair. Innocence is the result of right relations with God and with man. Right relations can exist only when a right attitude is maintained. A right attitude may be maintained only when back of it lie right desires and right purposes.

Happiness is the fruit of harmony. Harmony results from conformity to the laws of our being. The law of God revealed in the Bible is the law of harmony. The holy are most truly happy because they are most truly harmonious. Both their inner lives and their outer lives are harmonious. Their relations with God and with man are harmonious. The elements of strife and warfare are absent.

Happiness is not the result of where we live or our surroundings, or of what we possess. It is the result of what we are. No matter how favorable our situation nor how much nor how many things we possess that should make us happy, if we do not have within our own breast the elements that produce happiness we shall never be happy.

We have already noted that true happiness is associated with innocence. There is nothing from which greater happiness springs than an inner consciousness of being innocent before God. It is a singular thing that a great number of Christian teachers have taught that it is impossible for a Christian to live in innocence before God. The unhappy effects of this doctrine have been to rob the Christian life of many of its joys and to make many people look upon it as an unsatisfying life, a losing battle.

It has been taught that Christians must sin continually day by day. Believing this doctrine it is no wonder that many Christians are unhappy and live far beneath their privileges. Their outlook is one of defeat, of constant shortcoming, of repeatedly enduring a sense of condemnation. Now, such teaching is assuredly not in harmony with the teachings of the Scriptures, particularly of the New Testament. The Christian life there is pictured to be a joyful life. The command is "Rejoice evermore." How can one rejoice evermore when he is conscious of being guilty before God? Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart." If there be no such persons Christ's words are mockery.

What is the New Testament picture of a Christian? It is of a man or woman forgiven of their iniquities, cleansed from their guilt, walking in righteousness before God. Or, as Paul puts it, "Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you." The joyful fellowship that Paul had with Christ, manifested in all his epistles, is a thing inconsistent in its entirety with the sort of life often said to be the Christian life. "But," one may say, "how about the seventh chapter of Romans?" I do not think Paul was very happy when his life corresponded to the seventh chapter of Romans. Paul passed out of the seventh chapter into the eighth chapter that day on the road to Damascus when Jesus appeared to him.

From that day there was a new song in Paul's heart and in his mouth. He lived a new life, the life pictured in the eighth chapter. The seventh chapter is not the picture of a Christian life. It is the picture of a man without grace trying to live up to the law of God and finding himself continually failing. It is a continuation of his argument extending from the third to the sixth chapters, of the failure of works and of the efficacy of grace. Real Christians do not live in the seventh chapter of Romans. It is not the reflection of a Christian experience.

Christians live in fellowship with God. God is their Father. They are not rebellious sons, but obedient sons. Sin is a thing of the motive and of the will. Mistakes, blunders, weaknesses, failures, and unintentional shortcomings are not sins. To treat them as sins is to make a vital error. The Bible does not treat them as sins. Sin is willful disobedience. It is rebellion against God, and nothing save things of this character may properly be called sins, or be treated as sins. These other things often called "sins" do not produce the effects of sin. The real Christian experience is a walk

*(Continued on page 4)*

### A King Listens to Paul's Story

Taken from Egermeier's Bible Story Book

After Felix went to Rome a new governor was sent to take his place. This new governor was called Festus.

Now, Festus was also a Roman as was Felix. He was unacquainted with the Jews and knew little about their customs, religion, and such things. He went to visit Jerusalem three days after he arrived in Caesarea; for there he could learn more about the people he had come to govern, as Jerusalem was the Jews' chief city.

Several days later, after Festus had returned to Caesarea, he called for Paul, who had been in prison all this time, more than two years. And men who had come from Jerusalem stood up to speak false things against Paul. But none of those things could they prove. The Jews still wished to have Paul taken to Jerusalem, hiding their reason. As Festus wished to please the Jewish people he said to Paul, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and be judged there before me, concerning these things of which the Jews accuse you?"

Paul replied, "Against the Jews I have done nothing to offend their law. If I have done anything worthy of death, I refuse not to die. I appeal to Caesar." Festus knew that every Roman citizen had a right to ask this privilege, of appearing before the great ruler of all the Roman Empire, Caesar, so he answered, "You have asked to be sent to Caesar, at Rome, and your request shall be granted."

About this time some distinguished visitors came to Caesarea to see the new Governor. They were Agrippa, the governor of the country east of the Jordan River, and Bernice, his sister. This Agrippa was sometimes called a king. During their visit Festus told them about Paul. He told how the Jews had accused this prisoner of some offense concerning their religious law, which he could not understand. He said also that in his trial before the Jews, Paul had spoken earnestly about one named Jesus, who he said had risen from the grave.

On the next day Agrippa and Bernice entered the judgment-hall with Festus. Then Festus gave command and Paul was brought.

Festus rose to introduce this prisoner to the King. He said, "Before you stands this man whom the multitude of Jews in Jerusalem have declared is not fit to live any longer. But when I found that he had done nothing deserving of death, and when he had expressed his wish to be taken before Caesar, in Rome, I determined to send him there to be judged. Now, however, I have no charge to make against him, therefore I have brought him before you people and especially before you, King Agrippa, that you may hear him and know for what purpose he is being held in bonds."

Agrippa now spoke, and said to Paul, "You are permitted to tell your own story before us."

Paul rose up, stretched out his hand on which hung the heavy chain, and said:

"I am glad, O King, that I may speak for myself today before you, and tell why I am accused by the Jews. I now that you understand the customs and questions which are among the Jews, and you will understand my words.

"From my youth the Jews know my life, for I was brought up in their city. And if they would, they could testify that I lived among the strictest of the Pharisees, keeping the law of Moses as carefully as any of them tried to do. And now I am accused by them because I believe the promise which God made to our fathers, concerning Jesus Christ, whom God raised from the dead.

"The time was when I, too, thought I ought to persecute those who believe in Jesus of Nazareth. And this I did, shutting in prison many of the saints who lived in Jerusalem. I even received authority from the high priest to persecute the saints who lived in distant cities. I was on my way to Damascus to persecute the Christians there when I saw a vision from God. It was at midday, O King, when suddenly I saw on the road a light from heaven, more dazzling than the noonday sun, and the brightness of it frightened me and my companions. We fell to the ground, then a voice spoke to me in the Hebrew language, saying, 'Saul! Saul! why are you persecuting me?' I cried, 'Who are you, Lord?' and the voice replied, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.' That voice commanded me to stand on my feet while I received Jesus' orders. And that voice told me I should tell of Jesus, not only to the Jews, but to the Gentiles as well.

"Because I have obeyed the command I received in that heavenly vision, O King, I am now being persecuted by the Jews who will not believe in Jesus. Again and again they have sought to kill me, but God has thus far delivered me from their plots, and he has given me strength to tell to all who come to me that Jesus is indeed the Christ of whom Moses and the prophets wrote."

Festus beheld the earnestness of this chained speaker and he decided that Paul must be crazy. Not wishing to listen longer to speech he could not understand, he cried out, "Paul, you are not in your right mind. Too much learning has made you crazy!"

But Paul answered calmly, "I am not crazy, most noble Festus, but am speaking words of truth and soberness. King Agrippa knows these things of which I speak, therefore I talk freely to him." Then, turning to Agrippa, Paul said, "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe."

Agrippa answered, "Almost you persuade me to be a Christian." And Paul replied, "I would to God that not only you but all who hear me today were such as I am, except this chain."

But the King was not ready to humble his proud heart and become a Christian. He rose up at once and went aside with Bernice and Festus and others to discuss Paul's case. He said to Festus, "This man has done nothing worthy of death or even of imprisonment. If he had not asked to be sent to Caesar he might be set free at once." But now it was too late to change the arrangement, and Festus could not set Paul at liberty.

### Almost Persuaded

By: Philip P. Bliss

"Almost persuaded" now to believe;  
 "Almost persuaded" Christ to receive;  
 Seems now some soul to say, "Go, Spirit, go thy way,"  
 Some more convenient day On thee I'll call.

"Almost persuaded," come, come today;  
 "Almost persuaded" turn not away;  
 Jesus invites you here, Angels are ling'ring near,  
 Prayers rise from hearts so dear, O wand'rer, come.

"Almost persuaded," harvest is past!  
 "Almost persuaded," doom comes at last!  
 "Almost" cannot avail; "Almost" is but to fail!  
 Sad, sad, that bitter wail, "Almost" but lost!

## The Road to Happiness

(continued from pg 2)

with God. There is mutual understanding between the soul and God. There is earnest desire to please God and an earnest endeavor to do so.

Besides being in harmonious relations with God and our fellow men, unselfish devotion to the highest things for their own sake is the surest way to be happy. It is the tree whose fruit is happiness. It bears "twelve manner of fruits" and always has both the fragrant blossoms and the luscious fruits. The Scripture that says, "The wages of sin is death," is not a threat. It is a simple statement of an inescapable fact, now and here as well as hereafter. Evil always has its own reward and we begin to draw its dividends the moment we are guilty of it. It never goes bankrupt. Its dividends continue to increase as the years go by. On the other hand, the dividends of righteousness are never passed. They are always paid in golden coin.

Disobedience to our best and highest impulses, aspirations, and desires must inevitably result in blighted hopes, an accusing conscience, regret, and a sense of failure. It is poison injected into the cup of happiness. If we would have the song of happiness in our hearts we must learn that the *secret of the singing heart* is to be innocent, to be true to the best there is in us, to be living on a plain above the mire of sin, of selfishness, and of sensual gratification.

## The Happy People

By: D. S. Warner & B. E. Warren

Who but the Christian is happy and free, Filled with the glory of God?

None in creation so happy as he,  
Washed and redeemed in the wonderful blood.

Who but the ransomed can ever rejoice Over the billows of time?

Grace all abounding and hope's gentle voice  
Gladden their spirits, that never repine.

How can a mortal in fetters of sin Taste of a freedom divine?

Only where Jesus is dwelling within,  
Comfort and liberty truly may shine.

Tell me not, then, of the pleasures that sting,

Coiled under roses of pride;  
None but the holy and innocent sing  
Out of a bosom where pleasures abide.

Jesus, the one who my sorrows hath healed,

Thou art the one who my spirit hath sealed;  
Only thy glory from heaven revealed,  
Only thy favor can happiness yield.

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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

### Service Times:

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Wednesday Prayer Meeting        | 7:00 p.m.  |
| Sunday School                   | 9:30 a.m.  |
| Sunday Morning Worship          | 10:30 a.m. |
| Young People's Service (Sunday) | 4:45 p.m.  |
| Children's Service (Sunday)     | 5:00 p.m.  |
| Sunday Evening Service          | 6:00 p.m.  |

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.

## Our Inheritance

By: A. S. Chancellor

Ephesians 1:11 "In whom (Christ) also we have obtained an inheritance..." as I read this scripture I began to think about our inheritance that we have obtained through Christ Jesus. The inheritance of eternal life, the inheritance of a mansion in Heaven, and even the inheritance of a peaceful, joyous, victorious life lived now in this present World.

I also began to think of another scripture in the Bible, one that talks about an individual and his inheritance. In Luke 15:11-32 Jesus speaks of one that had an inheritance from his father. The young man, however, wanted to have his inheritance right then and there and wanted to go out and "enjoy life". Christ speaks of this one and all the problems and sorrows he endured because of his choice and because of how he desired to spend his inheritance

Every day that we have on this earth is a gift from God, and in the same token, is part of the inheritance that each one has been given through Christ, God's Son. How unfortunate are those that are wasting their inheritance on "riotous living" (v.13). Each and every one of us has the same claim to the same inheritance; each one of us has been offered the same wonderful gift. Christ came so that we ALL might have eternal life, a mansion in Glory and a victorious life in this present World. The only difference between the saint and the sinner is that the sinner has decided that it would be much better to waste their life on the so-called "pleasures of this World" in exchange for an eternity of happiness and peace. How unfortunate! If we could only open the sinner's eyes to what they are truly missing out on, doing to themselves and to those around them.

This one that took his inheritance and left his father spent a part of his life desiring to "...have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat..." (v.16). Does this sound like a life filled with happiness, peace, joy or contentment? Was this truly his desire, to be in such a place as this? This was the young man's CHOICE! How many souls are lost today because they have done just this thing, wasted their inheritance, the very thing Christ came to give them, on riotous living, on living the "life of their dreams"!

How glad I am that the story does not end here! How wonderful it is to be able to hear the last part of this young man's journey! As the young man came back to his father to ask forgiveness of all that he had done, the "father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet;" (v.22). Do you realize the significance of the ring? A ring was usually engraved with a family crest. It was a symbol of complete forgiveness and a reinstatement into the family. The young man just wished a place among his father's servants (v. 19) yet his father, upon seeing his return, desired to have him back as part of the family. The father, by giving him the ring, wasn't just saying, "I forgive you", he was saying, "Welcome back to my family; you are forgiven!"

This is just what Jesus Christ came to do for you! He came so that you could become a part of a family, the family of God! With that family comes the most wonderful inheritance ever imaginable!

If you do not know God, or if you have wasted away your inheritance, come to God! Through Jesus' own blood you can be forgiven and become a part of the family of God with all the benefits that come with such a wonderful inheritance!