

♪ Worship Notes ♪

Volume 4, Number 1 ♪ January 2009

New Year's NON-Issue

Dear Friends,

I am terribly sorry, but a crush of health problems and new church responsibilities did not leave me any time to put together an issue of *Worship Notes* for January 2009. Things should be back to normal (?) in time for the February issue. In the meantime, I would like to at least provide you with some prayers and texts relating to starting a new year and to trusting God in the midst of life's unexpected turns.

God bless,
Ron

Encouraging Texts for the New Year

*Almighty Father,
we pray Thee graciously to lead us
through the uncertainties of this new year
of our earthly pilgrimage.
Protect us from the dangers of the way;
prepare us for the duties, the trials,
the joys, and sorrows that await us;
and grant that each change the year brings with it
may bring us nearer to thyself,
and to the eternal joy and rest
that await the faithful
in Thy blessed and glorious presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

(Church of Scotland, 1952)

O Lord,
Length of days does not profit me
except the days are passed in Thy presence,
in Thy service, to Thy glory.

Give me a grace that precedes, follows, guides,
sustains, sanctifies, aids every hour,
that I may not be one moment apart from Thee,
but may rely on Thy Spirit
to supply every thought,
speak in every word,
direct every step,
prosper every work,
build up every mote of faith,
and give me a desire
to show forth Thy praise;
testify Thy love,
advance Thy kingdom.

I launch my bark on the unknown waters of this year,
with Thee, O Father, as my harbour,
Thee, O Son, at my helm,
Thee O Holy Spirit, filling my sails.

Guide me to heaven with my loins girt,
my lamp burning,
my ear open to Thy calls,
my heart full of love,
my soul free.

Give me Thy grace to sanctify me,
Thy comforts to cheer,
Thy wisdom to teach,
Thy right hand to guide,
Thy counsel to instruct,
Thy law to judge,
Thy presence to stabilize.

May Thy fear be my awe,
Thy triumphs my joy.

(Valley of Vision)

O Love beyond Compare,
 Thou art good when thou givest,
 when thou takest away,
 when the sun shines upon me,
 when night gathers over me.

Thou hast loved me before the foundation of the world,
 and in love didst redeem my soul;
 Thou dost love me still,
 in spite of my hard heart, ingratitude, distrust.

Thy goodness has been with me another year,
 leading me through a twisting wilderness,
 in retreat helping me to advance,
 when beaten back making sure headway.

Thy goodness will be with me in the year ahead;
 I hoist sail and draw up anchor,
 With thee as the blessed pilot of my future as of my past.

I bless thee that thou hast veiled my eyes to the waters ahead.
 If thou hast appointed storms of tribulation,
 thou wilt be with me in them;
 If I have to pass through tempests of persecution and temptation,
 I shall not drown;
 If I am to die,
 I shall see thy face the sooner;
 If a painful end is to be my lot,
 grant me grace that my faith fail not;
 If I am to be cast aside from the service I love,
 I can make no stipulation;

Only glorify thyself in me whether in comfort or trial,
 as a chosen vessel meet always for thy use.

(Valley of Vision)

1. What God ordains is always good;
 His will abideth holy.
 As He directs my life for me,
 I follow meek and lowly.
 God indeed in every need
 Doth well know how to shield me;
 To Him, then, I will yield me.

2. What God ordains is always good.
 He never will deceive me;
 He leads me in His own right way,
 And never will He leave me.
 I take content What He hath sent;
 His hand that sends me sadness
 Will turn my tears to gladness.

3. What God ordains is always good.
 His loving thought attends me;
 No poison can be in the cup
 That my Physician sends me.
 My God is true; Each morn anew
 I'll trust His grace unending,
 My life to Him commending.

4. What God ordains is always good.
 He is my Friend and Father;
 He suffers naught to do me harm,
 Though many storms may gather.
 Now I may know Both joy and woe,
 Some day I shall see clearly
 That He hath loved me dearly.

5. What God ordains is always good.
 Though I the cup am drinking
 Which savors now of bitterness,
 I take it without shrinking.
 For after grief God grants relief,
 My heart with comfort filling
 And all my sorrow stilling.

6. What God ordains is always good.
 This truth remains unshaken.
 Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
 I shall not be forsaken.
 I fear no harm, For with His arm
 He shall embrace and shield me;
 So to my God I yield me.

“What God Ordains Is Always Good” by Samuel Rodigast, 1649-1708
 Text From: THE LUTHERAN HYMNAL (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1941)

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