

## **Think about these things**

Texts: Philippians 4:8-9; Galatians 3:1-6  
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**Phil. 4:8-9: Finally, brothers *and sisters*, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is <sup>[a]</sup>lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 As for the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.**

I have some right, pure, lovely, commendable . . . excellent and praiseworthy things for us to think about this morning and here they are:

The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord  
She is His new creation  
By water and the word:

Ah, the church has “one foundation” and it’s not the granite slabs laid on ledge. It’s not anything constructed, or built by man. Indeed the foundation of our identity is neither a building, nor a received tradition it is “Jesus Christ her/our Lord.” It is the person of the Son of God—He is our foundation even as we are founded in Him. That’s the first thing: He formed us, He establishes us. Our worth, our value, our very existence is attributable to Jesus Christ and Him one.

Secondly, it is not what we were, or where we were from that matters. The first creation has been succeeded by a second, and more glorious “new creation” and we are the outcome of that act of God! It is He who has made us and not we ourselves.

**Psalm 100:1 Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth.  
2 Serve the Lord with jubilation;  
Come before Him with rejoicing.  
3 Know that the Lord <sup>[b]</sup><sup>1</sup>Himself is God;  
It is He who has made us, and <sup>[c]</sup>not we ourselves;  
*We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*  
4 Enter His gates with <sup>[d]</sup>thanksgiving,  
*And His courtyards with praise.*  
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.**

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### <sup>1</sup> Footnotes

- a. A thank offering
- b. Psalm 100:3 Or *He*
- c. Psalm 100:3 Some mss *His we are*
- d. Psalm 100:4 Or *a thank offering*

**5 For the Lord is good;  
His mercy is everlasting  
And His faithfulness is to all generations.**

So, we are who we are in Jesus Christ, He is our foundation and we are His work.

From heaven He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her  
And for her life He died. Verse 1, 2nd half, "The Church's One Foundation"

And after He created us, He sought us out. He honored us by choice and the honor He conveyed is that of marriage—we are "His holy bride." We understood ourselves as given to another, ourselves perhaps, or to one another, BUT He came from another realm, from heaven the everlasting and eternal place and His rightful home—the place where He is enthroned in glory and honor—and, setting all of that aside, "He came and sought us." That is to say, He came to claim us as His own, He came to take possession of us due to His love, pure precious and unending love. He made us the recipients of His divine love and He did so freely, to the utter and astonishing amazement of all created beings in heaven and on earth! Not because of anything in us! It is His redemptive love that makes us holy, makes us who we are in Him. That, of course, is the greatest and grandest love story of all—it is the Cinderella story painted on a cosmic scale. And, He paid the bride price of His own blood for the privilege. He died for our life, and He died in advance, paying it forward. We are the blood bought bride of Christ just as we are the blood bought children of God—purchased to the same purpose; that is, to be with Him forever.

Savior, if of Zion's city,  
I through grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in His name

If I now belong to Zion, if my place in the everlasting city of God is secured, by grace and by the goodness of my Savior, that puts the world and all its pretense, power and passions into perspective. *They do not ultimately matter!* That is, they do not matter to the redeemed of God. Our citizenship is elsewhere. We are members of a spiritual family now, indelibly and permanently. This world will pass away, but those who are of the household of God, they shall remain forever. If is the operative word here. It is of paramount importance that I be justified, fully redeemed and wholly sanctified. Because I matter to Him, heaven matters to me—heaven and all that is in it has been made my inheritance my provision, my estate.

Fading is the world's best pleasure,  
All its boasted pomp and show  
Solid joys and lasting treasure  
None by Zion's children know. Verse 4 "Glorious Things of Thee"

Our joys are "solid." I have come into "lasting treasure." It will not trickle away through my fingers. It is "kept for me" where rust does not corrupt, where thieves cannot break

in and steal it. It is not possible for me to lose any of my joy, or treasure! What was secured for me is secure to me.

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name

Jesus is our one foundation, and we, corporately, are His "Holy Bride" . . . We are "His "new creation." We are built on nothing less than Christian hope, and that hope is, "nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." It all depends on Him, and none on me. I take His name and He takes on me. I obtain His honor and He covers me. I am His responsibility. My justification is something God alone could do and did do. Regardless of my condition, my spiritual standing, rich or poor, commendable or despicable . . . it doesn't matter how horridly lost I was. No, once I am found, once I am claimed as His, His righteousness is all that matters.

All other ground is sinking sand

His oath, His covenant, His blood  
Support me in the whelming flood  
When all around my soul gives way (He's my hope)  
He then is all my hope and stay

On Christ the solid Rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand

In the shifting, uncertainty of this world, I find myself placed on the solid rock! Though all around me are drowning, I shall not drown alongside them. I have been snatched from the impending destruction, I have been bought out, out from under the wrath and while I will go through the judgment, I will go as one pre-approved. Yes, all around me is giving way, is sinking sand but that is not my destiny, "On Christ the solid rock I stand." I am the redeemed of the Lord because He said so. And because He said so, I say so. I repeat Himself. "I am His and He is Mine.

1 Loved with everlasting love,  
drawn by grace that love to know,  
Spirit sent from Christ above,  
thou dost witness it is so.  
O this full and precious peace  
from his presence all divine;  
in a love that cannot cease,  
I am his and he is mine.

2 Heav'n above is deeper blue,  
earth around is sweeter green,

that which glows in ev'ry hue  
 Christless eyes have never seen.  
 Birds in song his glories show,  
 flow'rs with richer beauties shine  
 since I know, as now I know,  
 I am his and he is mine.

3 Taste the goodness of the Lord:  
 welcomed home to his embrace,  
 all his love, as blood outpoured,  
 seals the pardon of his grace.  
 Can I doubt his love for me,  
 when I trace that love's design?  
 By the cross of Calvary  
 I am his and he is mine.

4 His forever, only his--  
 who the Lord and me shall part?  
 Ah, with what a rest of bliss<sup>43</sup> Christ can fill the loving heart.  
 Heav'n and earth may fade and flee,  
 firstborn light in gloom decline,  
 but while God and I shall be,  
 I am his and he is mine.

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I have some right, pure, lovely, commendable . . . excellent and praiseworthy things for us to think about this morning. If you will think on these things, you will stay on track, you will keep your focus. And you will not be bewitched by anything, or anyone. This is good medicine for the soul.

**4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all people. The Lord is [a]near. 6 Do not [b]be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

Amen