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**Some Golden
Daybreak,
Thanksgiving Will
Come**

#968-A

Series: In Everything Give Thanks

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To say that what was on the table constituted a feast was an understatement. The turkey, itself a majestic tribute to the kitchen craftsmanship of Mother Erickson, rested in the center of the table. Its perfectly browned drumsticks seemed to be raised in a salute to the occasion. Hot, steaming platters of perfectly cooked vegetables formed a circle of adoration around the huge bird, while the festive centerpiece fashioned of fresh fruit and freshly fallen leaves, almost seemed to be unnecessary, though its color streaming along both sides of the tablecloth did form a sort of wall of protection around the soon-to-be devoured delicacies.

“Eric” Erickson sat in his usual place at the head of the table. At the other end was his wife Anita, the grand designer of the feast itself, and the gracious mother of the Erickson clan.

As with so many families, it was customary at Thanksgiving for the Ericksons to take turns giving thanks, one at a time, for the things that God had done for them. The statements were almost predictable. Jerry, the architect, and his wife, Sue, would usually thank God for their beautiful children, their perfect health, and another year of prosperity in Jerry’s thriving architectural designing firm. Elaine, and her husband Arthur, would thank God for their new house, their successful dental practice, and for another year of happiness.

Bob Erickson, the vice-president of a local bank, would thank God for the growth of the economy, for his lovely wife, Anna, and for giving them a free country to live in. As I said, you could almost tape record it and save everyone a lot of agony. Then ‘Dad’ Erickson would read a prayer he had meticulously written out the day before, grammar checked and rechecked by Mom, and they would dive into that bronzed bird as though the last time they had tasted a home-cooked meal was on this auspicious occasion a year ago. It is true, most of them hadn’t eaten since breakfast, with the exception of a few mid-morning snacks, but starvation definitely wasn’t the motivating drive behind their gluttony.

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This year, however, there was one addition to the Erickson clan for the thanksgiving celebration. His name was Richard Ferguson. Richard was a clerk at the bank where Bob Erickson worked, and since he had no family of his own, Bob had graciously invited him to join them. He thought perhaps that the grateful spirit exhibited as the family gave thanks might be a source of encouragement. Anyway, it seemed only right to invite someone “less privileged” for thanksgiving. Dad had agreed, provided the man was “decent and clean”.

Dick Ferguson, from a human perspective, had little to be thankful for. He had been working for the same bank for nearly 20 years without a promotion and with very little recognition even for his faithfulness. And with the computerization of the facilities in recent months, it was questionable whether he would even have a job a year hence. Sickness after sickness had been his lot in life, and now, crippled with arthritis, he could walk only with help, and stand only in a bent over position. He and his wife had never had children, and since both his parents were gone, when his wife passed away suddenly earlier in the year, he was left virtually alone and seemingly forgotten in this world.

Each of the Erickson clan went through their thanksgiving ritual without a flaw; Bob even spiced his up with a few well chosen quotes from a television show he had seen the night before. The rest of the family was impressed. It was Richard Ferguson’s turn to be thankful. Suddenly, Bob realized that probably he had nothing to be thankful for, and it would no doubt embarrass him to have to speak before the whole family. “You don’t need to join in,” Bob Erickson quickly assured the hunched-over guest. “It’s just a family tradition.” Richard smiled broadly. “I would like to share what I have to be thankful for, if I may,” he quickly replied; and with an uncomfortable nod from Papa Erickson, the mild-mannered guest, a bit out of place in the midst of such prosperity, said,

“I want to thank God for giving me peace and joy and love. I want to thank God for giving me comfort in my sorrow, strength in my trials, and purpose in my suffering. But I want to thank God for more than that. I want to thank Him for perfect health, for perfect prosperity, for freedom from pain, for a beautiful home, for such unfailing recognition, for time with my loved ones, for beautiful clothing, and for so many friends.”

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There was dead silence at the table. Was he being sarcastic? Was he deluded? Was he making fun of the others? Knowing him well, Bob Erickson ruled out all three. So in front of all the others, Bob turned to him and in amazement asked, "What do you mean, Dick? Your health is a shambles; you have no money at all; you live in constant pain; you have no beautiful home; you've never been recognized for what you've done; your loved ones are all gone, you have no nice clothes to wear, and your friends seem to have deserted you. Are you putting us on?" The rest of the staid Erickson household froze in disbelief. Openness of this type was a "no-no" at their house, particularly on holidays. But before any of them could apologize for Bob's bluntness, Dick Ferguson, a smile on his face so broad his ears almost split, answered this way:

"You don't understand, Bob. I really *am* thankful for those things. And you are wrong. I have perfect health. I have prosperity beyond my wildest dreams. I have total freedom from pain. I have a beautiful home. I have total recognition. I have more time with my loved ones than you can imagine, more friends than you'll ever know, and clothing designed by the most noted designer in history."

There was dead silence in the room. Dick went on: "No, I know you can't see those things. But I have them all. You see, my gracious friends, today is not thanksgiving for me. Today is a day set aside to talk about Thanksgiving, to celebrate Thanksgiving. But this isn't thanksgiving. Some golden daybreak, thanksgiving will come, and it is for that day that I am living, and for that day that I am thankful."

"On that day, I'm going to trade in this crippled, tired body for one that works better than any in this room. It's already mine; I just have to wait till thanksgiving to wear it. Prosperity? I'm gonna live in a city with streets made of gold. Pain? Never again. A home? I've got a mansion already built by a Master Architect, custom designed just for me. Recognition? The one I've really been working for all these years is going to come up to me, draw me close to Him, and say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." My loved ones? They're not gone for good, they've just gone ahead of me. We're gonna have a family reunion like you've never seen.

"Clothes? I've got garments of holiness that glisten with such

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brightness they actually glow when you look at them. Friends? I'm gonna spend time with my buddy Moses, with Father Abraham, and with my brother Paul. Oh, my precious friends, *some golden daybreak, thanksgiving will come*. So I count it a privilege to spend every day until it does, being thankful that these things that are already mine will one day be mine to enjoy forever! Sure, I am suffering a bit on this earth; but it will be worth it all when I see Jesus on thanksgiving.”

Needless to say, the Erickson family celebrated their first real thanksgiving that day. For the first time they saw beyond the turkey and trimmings; beyond the trite prayers of gratitude for “things” and for “blessings” and they saw that if you were certain of what the life to come held in store for you, you really had something to be thankful for. And they came to see, that though this was a day of celebration, some golden daybreak, the real thanksgiving *would* come.

Richard Ferguson had the big picture. He was waiting for thanksgiving, and while he was waiting, he was being thankful. And that is the issue we must address now.

I- THE REALITY

For the past lessons, we have been looking at what we have to be thankful for, and how it is we are to give thanks. We have looked at being thankful for who God is, for what God did at Calvary, and for our past (the things God has allowed to happen in our lives). We examined how to celebrate thanksgiving in life's prisons, and finally, we looked at how to be thankful, day after day, by garrisoning our minds against thoughts of resentment, while building into our lives thoughts of contentment; how to actually experience thanksgiving of the heart. There is, however, one major source of thanksgiving we have not yet explored. And it is, in all reality, the fountain from which flows the very wellspring of praise that ignites a thankful spirit and sets the stage for a continuous life of praise.

Richard Ferguson hit the nail on the head. The reason we are not more thankful is often because we have a “this-life philosophy” that sees heaven as a vague possibility or even a spiritual probability, but not as a here-and-now reality. It sees the world we live *in* and the world we live *for* as one and the same thing, in direct opposition to how Jesus saw it in John 17. Richard saw it from Jesus' vantage point. He saw this

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world as a place we live *in*, but heaven as the place we live *for*, with the constant reminder of what awaits us there, giving us our motivation for enduring and even enjoying this life on the way to the next. This chart illustrates it very simply:

| <u>The world we live in:</u> | <u>The world we live for:</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pain | No pain |
| Hunger | No hunger |
| Tribulation | No tribulation |
| Persecution | No persecution |
| Sickness | No sickness |
| Death | No death |

The world we live *in* includes pain and hunger and sin and sorrow and sickness and death. The world we live *for*, on the other hand, will be free from pain and free from hunger and free from sin and free from sorrow and free from sickness and free from death. So while we are in this world, though there will be many things to praise God for, and we have in fact spent the last lessons looking at them, our primary cause for praise circumstantially comes from envisioning from the Word the life that will be ours when some golden daybreak thanksgiving really comes.

II- THE RESTORATION

The premise is that if we actually learn to live in this world with our eyes on the next, our praise will be multiplied as we envision what awaits us in the endless eternity just beyond that momentous experience of death—an experience the world calls “tragic” but that God calls “victory”. The purpose of this lesson is to take a quick journey through the Scriptures to grab hold of some of those promises, and to let those promises form the basis for a whole new life of praise.

The first platform for praise we find is that some golden daybreak, when thanksgiving comes, our restoration will be complete. At our redemption Jesus Christ placed His Spirit in us and gave us the ability to be triumphant over sin and victorious in the midst of circumstances. He set within us the capacity to, little by little, through the miracle of His Word, be transformed back into the likeness of God. But as we all know, while we live in this world on our way to the next, sin and disease and pain and disappointment are realities. On occasions the storms they generate so obscure the sun, we actually lose sight of where we

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are going. Ah, Beloved, some golden daybreak, our restoration will be complete. We will be given all we have been promised, and we will be relieved of all that hinders us from being pure. Do you realize; are you thankful for what that day will hold? Listen to the Word of God as it describes the life that is really yours. And as we read, let's quietly stop along the way and give thanks.

1- There will be no more hunger and no more thirst.

Oh, my friend, people in America do not grasp the magnitude of that promise, but in nations across this globe, where millions of people are going to bed hungry every night, and where thousands are dying daily because they have no food, what a praise promise this is. It is found in Revelation.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

(Revelation 7:16,17)

Even if you are not going hungry, you may be one of those who struggles constantly just to put food on the table, and one of those who always feels limited because you're eating hamburgers while the rest of the world seems to dine on caviar. I have good news for you. Some golden daybreak, thanksgiving will come. You'll never go hungry, Beloved, in heaven. As the songwriter said so beautifully, "There's plenty of room at God's table." You and I will be gathered around at a banquet feast so scrumptious the caterers of the elite will stand in utter disbelief at the magnitude of it all. And we will spend an eternity feasting on the Bread of Life and drinking of the Living Water, never to hunger or thirst again.

2- A Mansion awaits you designed by the King.

Not only will you not be hungry, you will not be homeless. In fact, you will find a dwelling place with your name written above the door designed for you and no one else. There's a lot we don't know about that mansion, but what we do know is enough to make the palaces of this life look like tenement slums. Jesus spoke of it clearly remember?

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

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In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
(John 14:1-3)

God is preparing a dwelling place; a habitation; a city filled with rooms where each member of His family will dwell in the luxury of the Master's presence. One day, perhaps quite soon, this earth will be dissolved in a blazing heat, and all that is in it will be destroyed. The most extravagant, the most priceless, the most magnificent dwelling will, in a moment, be no more. But not your heavenly home. Peter said that you have "an inheritance, incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you".¹ Your new home is fireproof. Your new home is burglar proof. Your new home is decay-proof. Termites can't touch it. The paint can't peel. The roof can't leak. The doors can't squeak. It is the perfect home. And though you are not yet enjoying its comforts, it is yours, and you can be praising God for it, even now, that one golden daybreak that new home will be yours. What a reason for praise!

3- We're going to get a brand new body!

Paul made that clear in Philippians.

For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall change our vile body, that it might be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

(Philippians 3:20,21)

In I Corinthians, Paul goes on and explains even more.

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

(I Corinthians 15:41-44)

¹ I Peter 1:4

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Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

(I Corinthians 15:51-55)

Richard Ferguson's arthritis is a temporary inconvenience, though from a human standpoint, he is so crippled he can barely walk. He is the proud owner of a body that cannot be affected by disease, a body that stands straight as an arrow, a body that can run like a sprinter, that can bend and twist without a twinge of pain. He is hurting now, Beloved, make no mistake about that, and make no jokes about that. He is hurting. Ah, but one golden daybreak his new body will come, and it will be thanksgiving at last. Until then, he isn't complaining to God about that body that hurts him. He is thanking God for the body that awaits Him...a body that will never hurt again.

4- Our restoration will be complete!

When I say complete, I mean complete. Let the "Kleenex passage" describe it for us. I love the "Kleenex passage". It is found, as you know, in Revelation, chapter 21. There the Holy Spirit describes the total restoration of man to that glorious state he enjoyed before sin entered his life and took from him so many of the glories His God had designed for him to enjoy. Listen. Listen, and quietly with each sentence, pause to give thanks!

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them,

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and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. (Revelation 21:1-5)

There is an old chorus that is still popular in a lot of churches, particularly in countries plagued by troubles and warfare and poverty and persecution:

*We'll soon be done with troubles and trials,
Yes, in that home on the other side,
Shake glad hands with the elders,
Tell my kindred good morning
Sit down beside my Jesus,
Sit down and rest a little while.²*

(Words and music by Cleavant Derricks)

It'll soon be done. Some golden daybreak, our restoration will be complete. It will be thanksgiving at last. Beloved, these are not myths; these are not fables; these are not empty promises dangled in front of God's children to tease them and lure them into a false sense of hope. Nor are these allegories, symbolic pictures painted by God that say one thing and mean another. This is truth! In fact, so sure did God want to be that we would not take these promises lightly, He inscribed within their borders an incredible warning against anyone who would dare to add to them or take from them.³ This is truth. This is thanksgiving.

And on thanksgiving day, God is going to speak to us and say, "Here I am, I have come to dwell with you and ye shall be my people." Then, Beloved, our loving God is going to tenderly reach into the largest box of Kleenex that man has ever seen, and one by one, person by person, eye by eye, He Himself is going to reach down and carefully, lovingly, wipe away every tear from our eyes.⁴ I believe that means every tear we have ever shed. I believe He is going to actually remove the stains of every tear that has ever rolled down our cheeks...tears we shed at funerals, at the bedside

² "We'll Soon Be Done with Troubles and Trials" by Cleavant Derricks

³ Revelation 22:19

⁴ Revelation 21:4

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of loved ones, at the altar of repentance, at the crossroads of decision-making. Every tear. Every tear. Every tear. Will that be thanksgiving? You'd better believe it. Oh, what a God we have! How can we ever stop praising Him?

*There will be no more death.*⁵ There will be no funeral homes in heaven, no hospitals in heaven, no sympathy cards in heaven; because death will have been swallowed up in victory. You will go to the library of heaven and look in the card file under "death", and there will be nothing there. Death, the enemy that looms on the horizon of life like a gigantic monster threatening with each new day to raise its ugly head and devour someone we love, will not even exist. The dragon will be slain. And death will be no more.

*There will be no more sorrow.*⁵ Never again will the phone ring and bring news of someone whose life has been crushed by the weight of disease or disappointment, by rejection or persecution, by failure or frustration. No more sorrow. Never again will the things that cause our hearts to break be allowed to touch us.

*There will be no more crying.*⁵ Not only will God wipe away all of our tears, He will put a sign on the tear ducts of our lives that says "closed for eternity; not needed any more." The weeping and wailing will give way to singing and praising forever. Some golden daybreak, crying will end.

*There will be no more pain.*⁵ Again, this verse means more to some than to others; but it ought to mean everything to all of us. Never again can disease infest our bodies and cause those bodies to flinch in anguish. Never again can age take its toll, nor will the sight dim, the hearing grow weak, the legs grow feeble, the mind grow dull. Never again. Never again can some be afflicted with deformity or handicap. Never again. There will be no aspirin in heaven. There will be no Tylenol in heaven. There will be no morphine in heaven because there will be no pain in heaven. Some golden daybreak, pain will end.

We could go on and on. But, Beloved, the restoration will be complete. Sin will be no more. The anxious gnawing of those besetting sins that cause us to stumble again and again will be gone, for sin will be gone. Satan will be gone. Sighing will be gone. We will be complete once again, whole once again. If that is not enough good news to cause your heart to sing with thanksgiving

⁵ Revelation 21:4

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morning, noon, and night, then you aren't listening. Some golden daybreak, thanksgiving will come in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...and you and I will be restored to what we were meant to be.

III- THE REUNION

But that's not all. Not only will the restoration be complete, but the reunion will be complete as well.

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 7:9-12)

You will be standing before the throne of God in the angelic choir of eternity, singing your heart out, and you just may look around and the guy standing next to you with the deep bass voice may be Moses. The guy in front of you with the booming voice just might be Peter. (He had a good set of lungs.) That may be Ruth behind you, or Lydia, or Paul, or it may be that precious saint that led you to Christ so many years ago.

You will be able to sit down beside each of your loved ones who died in Christ, and without the horrible constraints of time, you will be able to really have fellowship as you have never had it before. You want something to thank God for? Thank Him that some golden daybreak, there is going to be a reunion the likes of which we never could imagine.

IV- THE RECOGNITION

Something else will happen on thanksgiving. Those who have labored in the energy of the Spirit for the things of the Spirit will be rewarded. Those who have done it for show, and seen to it that they got their recognition on earth, will be bypassed. Jesus promised that in Matthew 6. He said "Verily, verily, I say

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unto you...they have their reward.”⁶ But those who have faithfully labored 'neath shade trees in the Master's vineyard will be called up to the rewards platform in Glory, and God Himself will reward them. Do you think your labors in Christ have gone unnoticed?

Read Matthew 16:27:

For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

I Peter adds:

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (I Peter 5:4)

That's why in Paul was so confident as he said these words:

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand,

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (II Timothy 4:6-8)

Some golden daybreak, the books will be balanced. Those whose lives have been characterized by giving, giving, giving of themselves in Jesus' name will be called before the King, and love pouring from His eyes, He will reach over and place upon them the laurel wreath of eternity. Yea, nothing they allowed the Master to do through them went unnoticed. Some golden daybreak, the recognition will be complete.

V- THE REALIZATION

But none of those things, marvelous as they all are, are as exciting as this final truth. One more thing will be complete. And that one thing will cause all other things to pale into relative insignificance. At last, we will be with Jesus. And we will become *like Jesus* for all eternity. We will see Him. We will be with Him. We will *come* with Him. We will become *like* Him. I do not know about you, but I cannot even grasp a fraction of what that means. I can only read what it says—and worship.

And there shall be no more curse; but the throne of God and

⁶ Matthew 6:16

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of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

And they shall see his face; (Revelation 22:3,4a)

As the song so beautifully says it:

*Oh, that will be glory for me
Glory for me; yes, glory for me
When by his grace I shall look on his face,
That will be glory for me.⁷*

P.P. Bliss

And we will not only see Him, we will see Him as He really is. I Corinthians 13 tells us that now we see God through sunglasses. Ah, but then, we shall see Him face to face as in this hymn:

*Face to face with Christ my Savior,
Face to face, what will it be,
When with rapture I behold Him;
Jesus Christ who died for me.⁸*

*Lyrics by Mrs. Frank A. Beck
Music by Grant Colfax Tullar*

Not only will we see Him, we shall be with Him. We read it only moments ago in Revelation 21:3b,

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Never again will you be separated from the presence of God. Never again can anything come between you and the Master.

And not only will you see Him and see Him as He is; not only will He be with you and never leave you; you will come with Him when He returns.

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:4)

Some golden daybreak, thanksgiving will come. And on that glorious day, everything else will fade from view, for we shall see Him as He is. But more than that, John tells us not only will we see Him, but because we see Him as He is, we will be changed completely into His likeness at last.

⁷ "That Will Be Glory for Me" by P.P. Bliss, ©1940 The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. ©1990 Arr. from James McGranahan by B.A. McKinney

⁸ "Face to Face With Christ My Savior" Lyrics by Mrs. Frank A. Beck, Music by Grant Colfax Tullar ©1927, renewed by Grant C. Tullar

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Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

(I John 3:2)

That, Beloved, is thanksgiving. And nothing, no, nothing that Satan can throw at us in this life can take what God has promised us in that life and make us less than thankful. No fiery dart from his bag of evil—no temptation, no setback, no grief, no sorrow can dim the majesty of what will one day be ours. Some golden daybreak, Jesus will come. Thanksgiving will come. And we will spend the rest of our days, doing what we should have been doing all of our days...praising Him!

VI- THE READINESS

The issue, then, is if we had nothing else in life to praise Him for, would not that which He has prepared for us in the matchless eternity still to unfold be all we would ever need, to fall on our faces and shout until our voices could speak no more, “Alleluia! Praise God, the Omnipotent reigneth! Praise God! His mercy endureth forever. Praise God! He is alpha, omega, beginning and end. Praise God! He IS! And He ever shall be.”

But I believe there is one step beyond learning to praise God for what lies ahead. To see it, I want us to go back to that first illustration. There we saw that while we are living in this world, God wants us to be living for that world. And I want us to see how we can turn the curse into a blessing; how we can turn the test into a triumph; how we can take those fiery darts and let the Spirit hurl them right back into Satan’s face.

What we must do is this: We must learn not only to praise God in spite of the trial, but going one step further, let God use the trial as a hymn book to teach us which of God’s promises we are to praise Him for.

Do you see it? In this world we shall have pain. But some golden daybreak, pain will be gone. So every time pain rears its ugly head and pierces the temple God has designed for you, and Satan tempts you to respond with anger, or discouragement, or fear, why not use that pain as a reminder from God that some golden daybreak, you won’t have any more pain? After all, these light afflictions are but for a moment⁹ compared to the endless joy that will be ours in eternity. So pain now becomes a springboard

⁹ II Corinthians 4:17

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for praise. It is a reminder that this body is temporary, and that some golden daybreak, a brand new, perfect one is ours for eternity. Pain turns to praise. Satan hates that.

In this world ye shall have tribulation.¹⁰ We are guaranteed that. But not in heaven. There we will have no sickness, no sorrow, no crying. So every time tribulation comes into your life and takes from its sheath the sword of destruction, begin to praise God. For the tribulation? No...because some golden daybreak, tribulation will cease; sickness will cease; sorrow will cease; crying will cease. Think about the Kleenex verse and praise Him. Turn sorrow into praise. Remember, "Weeping may endure for a night; but joy cometh in the morning."¹¹ In the morning it will be thanksgiving.

Persecuted? Use it as a springboard for praise. Misunderstood? Use it as a springboard for praise. Facing hunger, disease, even death? These cannot harm you. They can but hasten the day when you are able to celebrate thanksgiving! Therefore, anything Satan does to you will be grounds for you to praise. Because you are enjoying the suffering? God forbid. Because you don't long for the suffering to end? Not at all. But because the suffering is not only God's gentle sandpaper to fashion you into His likeness, it is also God's gentle reminder to praise Him; even God's specific reminder about what to praise Him for. Once again, the curse becomes a blessing. Once again, the prison turns to praise, because some golden daybreak that particular kind of warfare will be over, and Jesus will have come again.

Oh Beloved, listen to the Psalmist:

Praise ye the Lord! Praise O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised. (Psalm 113:1-3)

All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee.

They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power. (Psalm 145:10,11)

Praise him ye heaven of heavens; and ye waters that be above the heavens.

¹⁰ John 16:33

¹¹ Psalm 30:5

Some Golden Daybreak, Thanksgiving Will Come

Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded,
and they were created

He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath not
made a decree which shall not come to pass.

(Psalm 148:4-6)

Do you realize what that means? It means Praise Him! Because
some golden daybreak, all that you have been praising Him for
will become reality...and all of the crying and all of the sighing,
and all of the tests and all of the rest will have been worth it all.
That's what the hymn writer meant when he wrote:

*“It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus,
Life’s trials will seem so small, when we see Christ;
One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrow will erase,
So bravely run the race, ’til we see Christ.”¹²*

Esther Kerr Rushtoi

Beloved, it will be worth it all,

SOME GOLDEN DAYBREAK

Some golden daybreak
God will keep His word.
The trumpet will sound
And we'll be with the LORD.

Sorrow will vanish,
Trials will be gone.
Some golden daybreak,
Thanksgiving will come!

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¹² “It Will Be Worth It All When We See Christ” words and music by
Esther Kerr Rushtoi ©1951

Some Golden Daybreak, Thanksgiving Will Come

A Challenge to Additional Study and Application

1- Make yourself a chart, using this lesson as a starting place, listing the things we must deal with in this world and their absence in heaven. Add to this list on a regular basis as problems and issues come up that you find difficult to thank God for.

2- As those things surface, rather than trying to find some way to praise God for the circumstance itself, praise Him for what God has promised us in the life to come.

3- Spend some time each month contemplating heaven. Make a list of all the Scriptures you can about the life to come, and categorize them in such a way that you can meditate on the glory of what awaits you. You may find some of the verses listed below helpful.

4- Don't be afraid to talk about heaven; don't be afraid to pray about heaven; don't be afraid to anticipate heaven. We may have, in our affluent and comfortable society, lost a touch of the hunger we ought to have for the life that is to come.

5- Meditate on what eternity means. Consider that these light afflictions are but for a moment¹³ when compared to eternity. Consider the difference when you are enduring what seems to be endless, between the fleeting moments of time in this life and the endless eternity through which we will enjoy all of the fullness of fellowship with God.

Additional verses to consider:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Luke 21:27-28 | I Timothy 6:14 |
| Luke 24:43 | Titus 2:13 |
| John 17:24 | Hebrews 9:28 |
| Acts 1:11 | I Peter 4:13 |
| I Corinthians 4:5 | II Peter 3:10-13 |
| II Corinthians 5:1 | Jude 14 |
| I Thessalonians 2:19 | Revelation 3:21 |
| I Thessalonians 4:15-17 | Revelation 5:9 |
| II Thessalonians 1:7-10 | Revelation 12:7-9 |

¹³ II Corinthians 4:17

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