

Hearth to Hearth

Woman to Woman

Vol. 3, No. 1

“And ye are complete in him.” Colossians 2:10

Jan./Feb. 2000

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Hobbies for Temperance

Come Apart... and Rest a While

“And [Jesus] said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.” (Mark 6:31) In today’s complex society people can relate to that. Often we yearn to “come apart and rest awhile,” to find some quiet place far from the fast lane where we may find rest for our tired bodies and minds and recharge our energy resources.

Inactivity, as pleasant as it sometimes seems in theory, is seldom satisfying for

very long. Our minds and bodies were made to be active, to perform meaningful work.

True rest and renewal are best achieved by a change of pace and redirection of interests rather than a complete

cessation of activity. A hobby, one that fits comfortably within our financial budget, can serve this purpose well (and countless hobbies don’t cost anything at all). Hobbies that are of mutual interest to all, or even a few, family members can be a way of sharing time and building camaraderie within the home circle.

Those who spend most of their time at sedentary work can become tired, mentally and emotionally, to the point of exhaustion. For them, a hobby involving strenuous physical activity will provide physical and mental renewal. Hiking, gardening, bike riding or swimming will relieve muscle tension and allow the built up mental stresses to dissipate. Those who desire something more active might enjoy friendly games of baseball or other sports, and during vacations, mountain climbing, camping, even spelunking and white water rafting.

Those who are engaged in manual labor usually find that reading a good book, putting a puzzle together or playing educational and/or Bible-based games will provide a change of pace to their liking. Some will find renewal by engaging in a creative hobby such as painting, needlework or other crafts.

For many people the demands of life prevent their taking extended vacations, but most people can manage “mini-vacations.” A mini-vacation may last only an hour or a day, but it can rejuvenate the spirit and renew vigor. One of my favorite mini-vacations is a leisurely walk in the early morning while the dew is still on the ground. Instead of rushing to see how much distance I can cover in the shortest time, I take time to observe things and reflect upon my Creator’s wondrous works: The delicate yet sturdy webs, sparkling with dew, that have been spun among the grass by diligent spiders; the trilling notes of a bird’s song; tiny

little flowers blooming bravely and beautifully at my feet; the breeze rustling the leaves and gently brushing my skin. At the end of a busy day, during nice weather, as twilight descends, I love to just sit outdoors in our swing and listen to the birds, frogs, crickets and katydids. The cares of the day fade a bit, and I feel a sweet, meditative spirit come over me, inspiring praise in my heart to my Heavenly Father for the blessings of life. “I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” (Psalm 34:1)

Many people derive great enjoyment and fulfillment from engaging in educational hobbies such as astronomy, photography, bird watching and music. For the more adventurous, deep sea diving might have an appeal.

Many folk engage in hobbies for investment, such as collecting stamps and coins, antiques or other “collectibles.” Many relaxing hours can be spent browsing yard sales, flea markets and antiques stores in search of that special item needed for a collection.

Hobbies can even provide a way to earn money. It is very rewarding to earn some income from doing things that one enjoys. Examples include flower arranging, glass etching, making dolls and doll clothing, cake decorating,

(Continued on page 4.)

Our Mission Statement: Believing that we can find completeness in all areas of our lives only “in him, who is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:10), it is the mission of *Hearth to Hearth* to provide a forum for Christian women to reach out to each other in friendship, with joy and hope; and to encourage each other to find our completeness in Christ as we sojourn here on our way to the kingdom.

Women's Role: No Higher Calling

This newsletter is meant to be something very, very special for women. We want to provide an opportunity for women to encourage one another and help each other grow to completeness in Christ in all aspects of our lives, especially in our God-ordained roles as wives and mothers. According to the letters and verbal responses we receive, *Hearth to Hearth* is a blessing and an encouragement to many women, and it pleases us to give God the praise.

Women have a high calling indeed! The minister in the pulpit has no higher calling, nor one with greater eternal consequences than that of the wife and mother. It has been said that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world," and that "behind every good man is a good woman." There is much truth in those statements. As the principal directors of the affairs of our households, we have a responsibility before God to care for our husbands and children in a cheerful, Christ-like manner. It generally falls to us to make home a place of peace and comfort, a haven for the family from the storms of the outside world. Doing so will make an atmosphere where the angels love to visit and where spirituality in the day-to-day lives of family members can be nurtured.

The discipline and training of the children is, in most homes, mainly the responsibility of the mother since it is usually she who spends the most time with them. We recognize that the mothers of young and/or adolescent children have a daunting responsibility. One of the objectives of *Hearth to Hearth* is to affirm them in their role and offer wise counsel from others who have walked in their shoes and have something of positive value to share.

We believe that God has led us into the work of *Hearth to Hearth* to help women understand the nobility of our position in the home and to appreciate and be content in our God-ordained role. All women are homemakers, whether or not we are married or have children, and whether or not we are employed in a job or a career outside the home. If we have not already done so, let us eagerly and joyfully take up our duties as women—daughters, wives, mothers, grandmothers—and find our completeness in Christ in this area of our lives.

Perhaps you are very conscious of the mistakes you've made in this important work. (We all make them!) What better way to "ring out" the old 1999 and "ring in" the new year 2000 than to *find* the "Land of Beginning Again." (See page 11.)

Happy New Year!—Happy New Millennium! (as it has been called)—Yet how sad it is that we are still here on this sin-cursed planet when Jesus wants to take us home to be with Him. As we begin the year 2000, let us determine to take our eyes off the things of this world and place them ever more firmly on the reality of our heavenly home!

Grace & Esther

MAIL CALL:

Yes! I would love to help someone who needs help with home-schooling. Right now, I have bought a computer program for [my son]; he is in 6th grade. It tests and grades him. Some grading has to be done by me. It has an automatic lesson plan or you can use your own. Also he has to write essays and reports. It has a lot of video clips,

especially in Science. They give us specific instruction how to perform a test and tell us what we need for it. It is from Alpha Omega and I can recommend it for students who are studying independently. If the student gets stuck on a problem, he can leave the teacher a "message" in the message box. I really like it too because it gives me more time with the little ones. But we always

do the Science experiments as a whole family together. It's a lot of fun. CA

[See "Ministry of Encouragement" next page. Ed.]

I have very much enjoyed *Hearth to Hearth*. Thank you for sending it to me. Keep up the great work of sharing Jesus' love with others. [It is] an inspiration to me. VA

Maybe you could print some information about water and how important it is [for health] in your newsletter sometime. CO

I want you to know I do enjoy *Hearth to Hearth* very much and I read it from cover to cover. I have enclosed a few names to add to the mailing list.... May God bless you in your work for Him. TN

Thank you very much for the encouragement your ministry brings to me! The sharing of experiences, the counsel from Holy Writ, are so appreciated. If you could include a small space for special needs to be made known so we could help one another it could be a blessing. Just a thought. TN

Just a quick note to let you know how much I enjoy *Hearth to Hearth*. Enclosed is a check to help out on postage. VA

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the entire issue of *Hearth* this time; it is such a well developed theme of love throughout; all the parts make for unity and I think this makes the newsletter satisfying and memorable. The first page about the boy watching his mother embroider is wonderful; also I loved the "wild geese" story; it is touching and beautiful. I love the way that you used so many different stories about giving help and love. To me, stories like this are fascinating. TN

EDITOR'S NOTES:

➤ We are happy to introduce Pat Kroeger, our new Contributing Editor. We are delighted that Pat accepted our invitation to help with *Hearth to Hearth*. Her assistance is much needed and appreciated. I am sure we will all be blessed by her articles appearing in "Hearthstone" and "Hearth Care" in this issue, and by her future contributions to this newsletter. When asked to share something about herself, she wrote:

"I was born and raised in Louisville, KY, and also married a native Louisvillian. My husband and I have been married a total of 10 1/2 years. We have one nine-year-old son whom I home-school. We all love to travel and explore the many beautiful places God has reserved for us. When not traveling, I enjoy many things, both indoors and out, including gardening which I discovered only this past summer. My main interest and hope in this life is my relationship with my God and Savior, and that of my family's. It is the purpose of my heart to live for His glory in whatever capacity He chooses."

➤ A new feature, "Hearth Study," is being introduced in this issue. As wives and mothers we need to keep our minds active, and we believe that there is no better place to exercise our intellect than in the study of the Scriptures. Therefore, we are starting a unique series this month that you will not want to miss!—a series designed to help us hone our Bible study skills. Be sure to check it out on pages 6 and 7.

➤ Also beginning with this issue, we are offering a "Ministry of Encouragement" in several areas. Anyone who feels spiritually discouraged, or has questions about some aspect of Christian living or about a certain area of Scripture and would like to discuss it with someone; anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one through death or divorce or is experiencing the difficulties involved in a blended family and would like to talk with someone who has been through it and would understand; anyone who would like information about healthful food preparation, recipes and menu ideas; and anyone who is interested in finding out more about home schooling their children or find themselves in need of encouragement in this area, please feel free to write, phone or E-mail a *Hearth to Hearth* Encourager. (See box at right.)

If these Encouragers are unable to provide for your situation, they will try to help direct you to where you can find the answers you need. If your area of need or concern is something different, please contact us at *Hearth to Hearth* and we will direct your inquiry to someone who will try to be of assistance.

REQUEST FOR YOUR HELP:

When you have an address change, we would be grateful if you would notify us right away. Doing so will insure that you don't miss any issues. In addition, it will save on our postage costs, as the post office charges us fifty cents for each address correction they provide. If we re-mail that issue to you, it costs an additional fifty-five cents as individual issues cannot be mailed at the bulk rate. With the very limited resources available for printing and mailing *Hearth to Hearth*, this becomes rather cost-prohibitive. You can help by notifying us when you change your address. Thank you!

NOTES OF APPRECIATION:

➤ Our sincere thanks to everyone who wrote or called us during the last year. We are truly thankful that *Hearth to Hearth* has found a place at your hearths, and in your hearts! Your comments were very encouraging. We feel

privileged that God has chosen to entrust this work to us; please pray for us that we won't let Him down.

➤ A heart-felt "Thank You" to Brothers Allen Stump and Lynnford Beachy. Without their able assistance, especially to our Layout and Design Editor (they taught her all she knows about operating computer publishing and graphics programs!), and their printing of *Hearth to Hearth*, it is doubtful that the paper could be published. The cost to have it printed commercially would be prohibitive with the limited funds available.

➤ Last, but far from least, we extend our appreciation to those who have seen fit to help with the costs of printing and mailing the paper. (No other costs are involved except occasional out-of-pocket expenses which the editors cheerfully absorb.) We are glad that we are able to continue to offer the paper free of charge to those requesting it, and wish to encourage you to send us the names and addresses of others whom you believe would be blessed by it.

Hearth to Hearth Encouragers:

Barbara Barton at 70 FM 101 Rd., Hardy, AR 72542 or call her at (870) 856-4428 (she does not have e-mail.) Barbara is a Bible worker, thus studies deeply; her special interests as an Encourager are in the realms of spiritual encouragement and healthful diet and food preparation.

Pat Kroeger, 7616 E. Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40228; (502) 239-5489. E-mail: isha@bullitt.net. Pat is looking forward to being an Encourager to anyone whom she can help. She studies her Bible deeply, she is experienced in home-schooling, and she is also an advocate of healthful living.

Marion Landry, 3209 Chewacan Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93309; (661) 836-1320. E-mail: sewfrau@aol.com. She is experienced in home-schooling and would like to assist others in this endeavor. She also can provide recipes for healthful food preparation. She will be glad to encourage anyone in any way she can.

Esther McDaniel, 1420 Johnson Road, Chunky, MS 39323; (601) 655-8813; e-mail emcdan1274@prodigy.net. Esther (a grandmother of soon-to-be 14 grandchildren—six of them step-grandchildren) would like to help and encourage anyone in the areas of divorce, blended families and raising children and teenagers.

Mittisse Westerbeck, 9048 Old Hwy. 16 N, Millers Creek, NC 28651; (336) 973-7165. (She does not yet have e-mail). Mittisse would especially like to encourage those who have lost a loved one; she also would welcome inquiries regarding home-schooling as she too is involved in home-schooling her children.

A Parable of Forgiveness

“Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.” (Matthew 18:23) This parable in Matthew 18:21-35 teaches us much of the blessings of forgiveness. We are shown that the God of the universe will soon bring us to judgment. As each record is brought before the great Magistrate, everyone, without exception, will be found guilty of great crimes against the government of heaven, “for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” (James 2:10)

Few realize there is potential in each of us to do every abominable, filthy deed that evil minds can conjure, regardless of whether we have actually performed such deeds or not. The rea-

Few realize there is potential in each of us to do every abominable, filthy deed that evil minds can conjure, regardless of whether we have actually performed such deeds or not.

son being, the same spirit that induces one to murder also entices the liar. Every sin, great or small, is motivated by the spirit of Satan. Every sin, great or small, is worthy of death. (Romans 6:23)

According to verse 25 in Matthew 18, even the lives of our families are at stake, for those who have been placed under our care are influenced by our actions. The transgressor cannot repay this great debt and is therefore doomed to certain death. Yet, we see him promise that which he can never fulfill. God knows the sinner can never atone for such crimes but He leads him to repentance and releases him from his guilt; the newly converted sinner is free to live.

Through this illustration we are brought to see our own condemnation before God. Hope comes alive as we surrender ourselves before the great judgment seat, there to find justice and mercy meet.

In verse 28, the pardoned sinner finds a neighbor who has done him a slight wrong. To paraphrase that well-

known text: He loves much who has been forgiven much. (Luke 7:4) Unfortunately, that is not how the story ends. He forgets the great sin for which he has been pardoned. He disregards compassion and tolerance and forgiveness, and instead accuses the neighbor, harshly demanding some compensation of him. The fellow transgressor seeks to right his wrong, just as the pardoned sinner had. Still, the one who had been forgiven the most refuses to offer a small portion of forgiveness for the trivial wrong done to him. Rather, he desires the neighbor to suffer. Others with better understanding perceive how unjust the greater sinner has been toward his neighbor. They intercede, on the neighbor's behalf, to their King. This is where we see the complete equity of God in calling the unmerciful sinner to eternal justice.

God has never turned away the truly repentant. He has granted us great mercies; He has borne long with us in our sins and failures, bringing us to repentance and forgiving us as we recognize and accept that repentance. “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12) We

should also bear with equal patience the faults and weaknesses of others, not when we think they are worthy, but recognizing we all have need of a Savior. God has no mercy for the merciless. “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again” (Matthew 7:2). Instead let us “judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.” (Luke 6:37)

Pat Kroeger

(Hobbies—Continued from page 1.)

quilting, sewing and other crafts of endless variety. One woman I know makes magnets; one particularly appealing one was little faces she made from round slices of a corn cob, using tiny eyes (available at crafts supplies outlets) and scraps of felt or other fabric for the facial features.

Then there are those who enjoy collecting items such as bells, buttons,

bird houses, mugs, spoons, rocks, shells, postcards, lighthouses, candles, figurines, etc. Many years ago I started collecting cat figurines. At that time my goal was to obtain a cat from each state that I visited. Later my family and co-workers started giving me cats and eventually missionaries I knew decided I needed cats from the countries in which they were serving. Each cat, be it china, wood, metal, granite or stuffed, has its own story. (Even a few very special live cats have, from time to time, been part of my collection!)

Through the years I have also collected rocks and seashells which I have used to illustrate nature stories to children during Vacation Bible School. These collections have been a blessing as children are very interested in learning about such things when they can actually handle the objects.

One of the fruits of the spirit is temperance (see Galatians 5:23) which, according to Strong's Greek Lexicon, is “self-control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions...)” The desire and passion to attain our goals, as worthy as they may be, can cause us to neglect our physical health, our spiritual well-being and our relationships with family members and friends. One of the ways to practice temperance is to understand when our bodies and minds have had enough, and then to “come apart and rest a while.” To do this does not indicate laziness or slothful habits; not to do it is to refuse to allow this fruit—temperance—to come forth in our lives. Driving ourselves beyond our limits uses up our God-given life force, inviting physical and—yes—spiritual decay.

God created us multi-faceted individuals, and He placed within us the need for variety in our lives. The proper balance of work and rest enables us to enjoy happy, productive, meaningful lives. God also created within us a need to worship, without which our lives are incomplete. Thus work, balanced with rest and worship, is the way of life planned and approved by our loving Creator God.

Ann Ford

[Ann is a wife, mother and grandmother who is involved in a variety of activities. She volunteers much time and effort in Smyrna Gospel Ministries in addition to being a good friend and neighbor in the community in which she lives.]

Let Gratitude Abound!

Creating an Atmosphere of Thankfulness Within Your Hearth Circle

Are you like me? If I don't use my timer when cooking and baking, I end up with burnt offerings. I am usually doing so many things at once, that I'm prone to forget that I have put something in the oven. Often I'll put the bread in the oven to bake and then come downstairs to my office to answer *Above Rubies* letters. If I don't bring the timer with me, I'll forget all about it—then guess what kind of bread we have to eat?

Recently, I found another use for my timer. It all happened as I was reading



the Word one morning. I was challenged by Colossians 2:7, NASV, where it says we are to be "overflowing with gratitude" or, as the King James Version says, "abounding with thanksgiving." Not only are we to have a daily "attitude of gratitude" but we are to be overflowing and abounding with gratitude. What does this word "abounding" really mean? The Greek word is "perisseuo" and it means "to super-abound, to exceed, to excel, to be in excess—enough and to spare, over and above; it goes beyond that which is necessary." Wow! I was challenged! As I continued thinking, I was reminded of how God's Word encourages us to praise the Lord all day long! Not only are we to be overflowing with gratitude and thanksgiving, but we are to be continually thanking and praising the Lord.

How can I continually praise the Lord? I thought. How can I constantly have an overflowing spirit of thankfulness? I find that I get taken up with what I am doing and the hours go by without thinking about praising the Lord. As I prayed and walked up and down our long driveway (this is where I take my morning prayer walk), God put in my mind the idea of my kitchen timer. Yes, that's it. What a great idea! Thank you, Lord.

I decided to put the timer beside me as I work on the computer, or when



I am busy in the kitchen preparing meals or cleaning. I set it for half an hour. As soon as it rings, I stop for a minute or two and thank and praise the Lord. I then set it again for another half an hour. Now I am getting into a habit of continually thanking the Lord all through the day. It changes my whole day.

I'm sure you will find this a great idea too. You can set the timer each day as you work in your home with your little ones around you, or as you teach your children. When the timer rings, stop for a moment and thank the Lord together. Encourage your children to thank the Lord too. What a wonderful way to teach them to live a life of constant thankfulness and gratitude. Establish this habit pattern in the lives of your children.

By the way, this idea is not just for the days when everything is going great. It's for the trying and difficult days too. This is when you need the timer the most! Maybe the timer will ring just as the children are fighting and squabbling. This is the very time to stop, hold hands, pray, and thank the Lord together. Maybe the timer will ring just as you are "blowing your stack" and the house is in turmoil. Oh what a blessing to have the timer! You are reminded to stop, repent of your attitude and praise the Lord instead.

Maybe you are not very happy with your husband about something. The timer rings! Stop and think of five good things about your husband and thank the Lord for him. Or perhaps there is an urgent matter for prayer in your family or for people you know. What a great idea to have the timer ring every half-hour to remind you to pray.

Maybe the timer will ring when you are in a slough of self-pity. This is just the time to praise the Lord. Of course, you may not feel like doing it. Don't worry. Feelings come and feelings go! Don't let your life be governed by your feelings. Thank the Lord anyway. First Thessalonians 5:23 tells us that God's perfect will for our lives is to thank Him in every circumstance and at all times.

I'll never forget the first time God used this scripture to speak to me. It was about 35 years ago when we were first married. I was four months

pregnant with Wesley, our first baby. My husband, Colin, left me in New Zealand to serve the Lord on a mission in the Philippines with Tell the Nations Crusade. The horrific part was that I didn't know when he was coming



back. They didn't know whether the mission would take them three months or three years. In my emotional, pregnant state I imagined that I would never see him again. I wondered whether this baby would ever see his father. I was heartbroken. I went home from the airport devastated. I cried inconsolably.

Then the Lord spoke to my heart. "Do you want to do my will?"

"Yes, Lord," I sobbed.

"Then thank me, for this is my will concerning you," I heard God whisper to my heart. Because I wanted to be in His will, I began to thank the Lord for taking Colin to serve the Lord. I didn't feel like it. I felt the opposite. I thanked Him in cold-blooded faith. I continued until I really felt thankfulness enter my heart. I won the victory. From that time, I lived in the joy of the Lord. God was good and Colin safely returned shortly after Wesley was born.

Dear wives and mothers, I trust that you will find the timer a wonderful idea in your home. You might even need to purchase a couple of extra timers, and keep them in different rooms. Set one every half hour. Make it a habit of your daily life. Let love, joy, peace, praise, worship, thankfulness, gratitude, forbearance, forgiveness and longsuffering super-abound in your home. Remember, the word means "to overflow with more than is necessary—above and beyond."



Nancy Campbell

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Understanding God's Plan of Redemption

The Tools He Has Provided to Help Us

God's Three Books

From the creation of the world to the present time, the one outstanding purpose of Heaven has been to make known to man the character and work of our Creator and Redeemer. To accomplish this, God has given three books to the human family: first, the book of creation, His word in nature; second, the sanctuary, His word visualized in an object lesson; and third, the Bible, the written Word. The grand central theme of each of these books is the plan of salvation. To study any one of them with any other object in view than to understand God's character and His plan for us is to miss His purpose entirely.

The Book of Creation - God's First Book

The book of nature was given to man while he lived in the Garden of Eden. Through the things that God had made, he was to learn of His omnipotent power, His infinite wisdom, His boundless love and goodness. Before sin marred God's plan, these lessons on His character were perfectly revealed in the beauty and perfection of nature, and above all in man, made in God's own perfect image. In earth and sea and sky God's character was manifest.

The book of nature is still a parable to teach us of heavenly realities, for "as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations." (Isaiah 61:11)

After sin marred this fair world, nature everywhere revealed the presence and character of the evil one. Satan had become "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2) and the terrible conflict between good and evil, between Christ and Satan, was on. This conflict is still on, and this the book of nature plainly reveals in death and decay on every hand. To understand this conflict so that we shall line up on God's side is the real objective of true nature study. Unless in our study and teaching of nature, the work of Christ not only as Creator but as Redeemer, is made plain, it cannot truthfully be called *Christian* education, even though it be so labeled.

Although death and decay are everywhere manifest, the trees shed their leaves only to put forth new ones in the freshness of the springtime. The plants die only to rise again in fresh verdure at the appointed time. Even man himself as he lays down his life, looks forward to the resurrection, when he shall come forth in immortal youth and glory. Each yearly round demonstrates the spring, summer, autumn and winter of life, and the resurrection morning. And all show God's gracious care and imperishable love toward all the works of His hand.

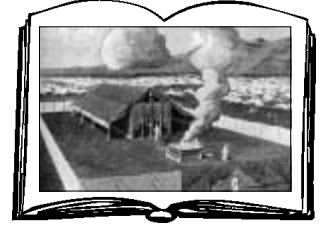


The Sanctuary - God's Second Book

For about 2500 years the book of creation was man's only lesson book. During this time, he gradually failed to discern the spiritual lessons in nature, until at last the Creator was lost sight of. Then he deified and worshipped the things

of nature—the sun, moon, stars, water, earth, and even the animals that God had made for his use. He "worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator," and as a result, his "foolish heart was darkened." (Romans 1:25, 21)

Then God called Abraham away from his idolatrous kindred, that through him and his seed He might reveal to the world His character and His divine purpose. As time went on, the descendants of Abraham were for generations held in Egyptian bondage, where they were fast losing sight of the character of the true God, the Creator, and of the wondrous plan of salvation. Their manner of life made it difficult for them to grasp the grand truths of redeeming love. How were they to be prepared to fulfill Heaven's plan for them?



The Master Teacher knew how. He would teach them through the most marvelous object lesson ever conceived and ever used—the sanctuary. He who knew that nearly ninety percent of what we remember comes through the eyes and the hands, while only about ten percent comes through the ears, emphasized the importance of clearly understanding His plan by appealing first to the ear in giving the most minute and explicit directions for the construction of the sanctuary, next to the eye by showing Moses the pattern, and finally to the hand by instructing the people to unite in its construction. In this masterpiece of true Christian education, this comprehensive textbook of visual education, God demonstrated in perfect detail all the various stages of the plan of redemption, not only for the world as a whole, but for each individual for whom the Lamb of God has given His precious life.

Every step of the way from the moment we enter the gate of the sanctuary and experience justification by accepting the offering made for our sins, typified in the court, through the lifelong process of sanctification, typified in the holy place, into the glory room, the most holy place, where are typified the blotting out of all sin and the granting of life's reward—the entire work of Christ for our salvation is made clear and simple and beautiful and deeply impressive in the book of the sanctuary. It is indeed *The Path to the Throne of God*. And, as in the book of nature each yearly round represents the full span of life, so in His second book, the sanctuary, the complete plan of redemption was repeated in type every year.

Like the book of nature, the book of the sanctuary is for all ages and for people in all walks of life. By means of this divinely planned object lesson, that which otherwise would be a complicated study suited only to the learned, is made plain and simple even to a child.

To the mature Christian student a knowledge of the sanctuary is of inestimable value, because it makes the entire plan of salvation visible in one magnificent view. Through this study he is able to organize and classify his Bible knowledge so that he can see its parts in their proper order and perspective. Indeed, the sanctuary may be compared to a mammoth and limitless filing case, where every essential

Bible doctrine has its own place into which it fits perfectly in God's great plan.

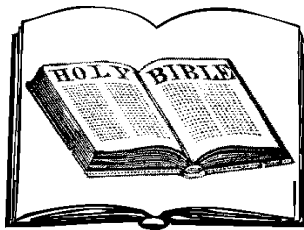
When viewed in the light of the sanctuary, the Bible thus becomes a great system of truth, not a scrapbook of disconnected and unrelated fragments. When considered in its fullness, the sanctuary is like a wonderful mosaic of divine revelation; one truth omitted spoils its symmetry; one error introduced mars its perfection. Thus the sanctuary not only illuminates truth, but it reveals error. For this reason the importance of understanding the lessons portrayed in the sanctuary can hardly be overestimated.

A spiritual study of the sanctuary is sure to awaken in the Christian student an insatiable longing to delve more deeply into the inexhaustible mine of Bible truth. It will inspire him with a profound love of the truth for these last days. How quickly and how vividly, and how truly will a study of this book of God—the sanctuary—reveal the importance and the eternal perpetuity of the Creator's divine law—the Ten Commandments! Such a study will give the student an experience that will be his anchor through earth's final crisis.

The Written Word - God's Third Book

For about fifteen hundred years the sanctuary was the main book through which God taught His people of His character and the plan of salvation. Not until after the sacrificial lamb met its antitype in the death of the Lamb of God was God's third book, the Bible, completed. Even then it was another fifteen hundred years before the printing press came into use, and the Bible began to be printed in the language of the people, and thus made available to the world.

As in the book of nature and of the sanctuary, so the "grand central theme" of the Bible is Christ and redemption. The Bible is a divine commentary which throws the searchlight of Heaven on the other two books, giving a brilliant illumination to their theme—redemption. While, on one hand, the Bible illuminates the truths worked out in God's wondrous object lesson, the sanctuary, on the other hand the sanctuary is the substructure of the entire Bible. It is not merely a golden thread running throughout the Bible, but it is a complete golden network of truth entering into and binding together into one harmonious whole all parts of the Sacred Volume—history and prophecy, poetry and song, law and gospel. It is a visible illumination of all its essential doctrines, giving to each a new and deep significance.



Summary of God's Three Books

These three books make a vast and complete library of divine revelation, and with them at his command, the student will be enabled to interpret with accuracy not only God's plan for the world as revealed in prophecy, but His plan for himself personally, so that we even more than those who have gone before, shall most surely be "without excuse" (Romans 1:20) if we neglect to study God's three books, and be benefitted by their truths.

The Sanctuary - a Neglected Book

Most Christians are quite familiar with God's book of nature as well as with the written Word of God—the Scriptures. Many, however, are not aware of the great object lessons to be found in the book of the Sanctuary. For this reason, we have been impressed to begin a series on this neglected book.

The subject of the sanctuary permeates all of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, but certain books are devoted wholly to its study. The sanctuary that was built by Moses, is described very minutely in chapters 24 to 40 of the book of Exodus. Then the book of Leviticus is devoted to a detailed account of all the services that were conducted in this earthly sanctuary. In the New Testament, the book of Hebrews is devoted to the subject of the sanctuary, its ordinances and their meaning, and much of the book of Revelation is written in "sanctuary language" as well. Understanding the language of the sanctuary is a great aid in the study of that wonderful book!

In Exodus 25:9 & 40 and Numbers 8:4 it speaks of making things "according to the pattern" that God had showed Moses in the mount. Then in Hebrews 8:5 we are reminded of that fact, while much of the rest of the chapter explains that the "true tabernacle" is in heaven.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:3) David said, "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary." (Psalm 77:13) Paul said, "Know ye not that ye are the temple [sanctuary] of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16) Jesus said in His prayer to the Father, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.... I in them, and thou in me." (John 17:21 & 23) What does all this mean? The mystery spoken of in Colossians 1:27, where it says: "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery... which is Christ in you, the hope of glory," is the essence of what the sanctuary "object lesson" was designed to teach us.

The Gospels in the Old and New Testaments

It is interesting to note that just as there are four Gospels in the New Testament, there are also four Gospels in the Old Testament for the New Testament is an amplification of the Old and the Old explains the New.

The New Testament Gospels show:

- Christ as King—the Gospel according to Matthew
- Christ as Servant—the Gospel according to Mark
- The humanity of Christ—the Gospel according to Luke
- The divinity of Christ—the Gospel according to John

The Old Testament Gospels show:

- Christ our Sanctuary—the Book of Exodus
- Christ our Sacrifice—the Book of Leviticus
- Christ our Guide—the Book of Numbers
- Christ our Reward—the Book of Deuteronomy

There is much interesting and instructive symbolism to be found in a study of the sanctuary. I once heard someone say they could spend many hours elaborating on the symbolism to be found in just the bell on the hem of the high priest's garment! Obviously, we will not be able to go into such detail in the small amount of space allotted to us in *Hearth to Hearth*. We would, however, in the next few issues, like to touch on enough to whet your appetite for further Bible study on your own, on this important subject. So get out your notebook, sharpen your pencil, find a few highlighting tools to mark important thoughts in your Bible, and let's get ready to delve a little deeper into a study of God's "second book"; God's "way"—the sanctuary.

Esther McDaniel

[The major portion of this article has been quoted from the book, *The Path to the Throne of God*, by Sarah Elizabeth Peck.]

Suffering While Singing

[The following is "A Letter from Laine," one of an on-going series available on the Internet. All scriptural quotes are from the New American Standard Version. Ed.]

Dear Sisters,

Last week [in her letter on the Internet] I talked about the transforming power of God. This week I would like to talk about suffering. Ouch. They don't go together, do they? Well, I am afraid that sometimes they do.

I remember when I wrote to our pastor quite awhile ago and shared with him all that the LORD was teaching me. I was so excited about my new walk with Christ. I was so excited about all that I was learning about my Father and His Son. I was so excited about His grace and His joy and His awesome peace in my life through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. God couldn't and wouldn't want suffering in my life too, would He? I wrote to my pastor that I wasn't ready for any suffering. I knew it was in the Scripture, and that is what bothered me. Specifically this verse: "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." (Philippians 3:10)

Transforming power is knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection in our lives. How I loved that part! But what follows is some other Words that most Christians would prefer to just skim over, myself included: "and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." Those are not light Words at all. Those are much stronger Words. I didn't think I could do them. I pictured myself being beaten, stoned, or whipped, and knew without a doubt that I didn't want to go there. I asked my pastor for a way out of suffering. Of course, he couldn't give me one. It all goes hand in hand, doesn't it? But what exactly does it mean to have "fellowship of His sufferings?" And is it possible that I am realizing some of those sufferings now? Yes, I soon realized that it was suffering that had brought me to the place where I am today in Christ. Without suffering I

Without suffering I would have gone on in my complacent, merry way and would never have known the intimacy of my loving Father.

would have gone on in my complacent, merry way and would never have known the intimacy of my loving Father. It was suffering that had stopped me short in my sorry tracks, turned me around, and brought me back full force to His loving arms.

I remember writing to the elders of our church, who had prayed for me when I was ill, that Job would have likely gone through all his sufferings all over again just to hear the voice of God in that storm. I know I would. I love His Voice so much through His Living Word to me. It was worth

any amount of suffering to hear Him speak. His Word is pure gold to me now. Pure, pure Gold.

God did three things to bring me to my knees. I had a miscarriage at five months of pregnancy. I lost a part of my health. And I almost lost my three-week-old son, Gabe, to pneumonia. It was the last thing that really undid me. Without a doubt, I had suffered. And it was in the midst of my suffering that I met my God as never before. "And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, Who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." (1 Peter 5:10)

Suffering had its perfecting work in my life. I surrendered to my LORD in the midst of it. I'm not as afraid of it as I used to be. Rather I see it in a different light now; for I still suffer, to this very day. Oh, I am not stoned or beaten for my faith, but I definitely feel pain and a certain torment of my soul to see what is going on here in my country, in my city, in my neighborhood, and in my extended family. I can't help but grieve and cry out to God. "And if He rescued right-

The result of Silas' and Paul's praise during their pain that night was the jailer and his entire family giving their lives to Christ.

eous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day with their lawless deeds), then the LORD knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment." (2 Peter 2:7-9)

I remember a story of Paul and how the LORD had led him to Macedonia through a vision. Once Paul arrived in Macedonia, however, he was soon beaten and thrown into prison. What amazed me was Paul's attitude. He didn't shake his fist at God and say, "Why did you give me this vision only to have me land in jail beaten? Do you delight in my pain?" No, rather, a wounded Paul did this while fastened securely in stocks. "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them." (Acts 16:25) The result of Silas' and Paul's praise during their pain that night was the jailer and his entire family giving their lives to Christ. The vision and will of God perfected. But not without a certain amount of pain on Paul's part.

This verse hit me like a ton of bricks. God had called me to be a wife to Art. God had called me to be a mother to my four children. God had called me to be a homemaker. And God had called me to home-school my children. Without a doubt, I knew He had called me in each of these four areas. But they were not areas without a certain amount of pain and conflict. It takes a certain amount of suffering to have a godly marriage. It takes a certain amount of

suffering to raise godly children. It takes a certain amount of suffering to make this house a home. And it takes a certain amount of suffering to teach one's children every day. It is not easy. It is definitely a dying to oneself that He might live, for that is the essence of godliness. I really don't know how I ever attempted to do it apart from His strength. No wonder I felt overwhelmed before I began to cling daily to Him.

What did I used to do before when I felt "beaten" by it all? Well, I would call my friend and complain to her. Do you think that helped me any? Not really. I felt a little better for a little while, but I always felt guilty afterwards and still in the same sorry boat.

I learned something better for my life in the above verse. I began to practice it little by little in my own home. I began to sing while suffering. Many times it was an inner singing while praise music played softly in the room. Sometimes it was loud praise music with me singing loudly with it. Guess who heard and noticed? My husband and my children. I learned to praise God and to sing to Him in the midst of my suffering. I learned to cry out to Him while praising His name. Believe me, it is something much more beautiful to behold than complaining to my friend. I think it is the beginning of entering into the fellowship of His sufferings.

Since I often speak about the love of God and His joy and His peace in my life, sometimes I think that my family and my friends do not know of my sufferings.

Since I often speak about the love of God and His joy and His peace in my life, sometimes I think that my family and my friends do not know of my sufferings.

only Father does. There is hardly a week that goes by that I do not cry out to Him in pain. I don't think you can live in this world without a certain amount of pain and suffering. I felt it just listening to the news on the radio this week. It cuts like a knife sometimes. I felt it when my aunt called tonight to tell me of my cousin's new baby who is not doing too well. I felt it when I read a magazine article of my brothers and sisters in Christ who are being tortured for their faith in other countries.

What has helped me with the pain in my life is knowing Christ. It is dying to myself daily that He might live in me through the power of His Holy Spirit. Jesus is so beautiful. Jesus is so strong. Jesus is everything I need. Jesus is my life. Just as this verse says: That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." (Philippians 3:10)

That I may know Him, that I may know Him, and that I may know Him! Starting here and for all eternity. No wonder if a mind is stayed on Him it has peace that passes all understanding, even in the midst of suffering. No wonder. Have I reached that perfection? No, but I press on and press on "toward the goal of the upward call of God in

Christ Jesus. Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead." (Philippians 3:13, 14) I can never do it. But He can do it all and more through me. It is what makes our God so incredibly awesome and so incredibly full of grace. I hope I never get over it.

Would I choose to suffer? No. My human tendency is to run from it. But He teaches me so much about Himself in

There is hardly a week that goes by that I do not feel that I am not the best mother; that I could be a better wife; that my homemaking is in dire need of help; or that my children could learn from someone way better than me.

my pain, so much about His love, His faithfulness, and His peace that passes all understanding. In fact, some of the verses that are so precious to me are the ones that He highlighted during some of my most distressing times.

"But let all who take refuge in Thee be glad, let them ever sing for joy; and may Thou shelter them, that those who love Thy name may exult in Thee." (Psalm 5:11)

"The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble." (Psalm 9:9) "Thou hast relieved me in my distress." (Psalm 4:1b)

"Thou hast put gladness in my heart." "In peace I will both lie down and sleep. For Thou alone, O LORD, dost make me to dwell in safety." (Psalm 4: 7, 8)

There is hardly a week that goes by that I do not feel that I am not the best mother; that I could be a better wife; that my homemaking is in dire need of help; or that my children could learn from someone way better than me. Oh, and there's more and more where that came from. I have found that the suffering has become even worse since I began to write and speak to women to encourage them in their walk with God and in taking care of their homes. There is definitely a spiritual battle going on at times where I experience real suffering and call out to my God like never before. Jesus is my strength. Jesus is my fortress. Jesus is my solid rock. The sweetest intimacy I know is the comforting Hand of my God as I cry out to Him in pain. Then He sets me to the task again with newfound strength, weak as I am, but confident again that through Him I can do all these things because He strengthens me.

Suffering while singing? Yes. Singing while suffering? Sometimes. Because if Paul can sing to God after being beaten, I can surely sing to Him also after a rough day in my home. How? Only through Him who strengthens me. He was Paul's Rock, and He is my Rock today. He is your Rock as well.

"Great peace have they who love your Law, and nothing can make them stumble." (Psalm 119:165) "I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your Word." (Psalm 119:147)

Love, Laine

[From *Laine's Letters* at <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/creek/8180>. Used with permission.]

Restoration—of Floors and Hearts

As we go through our daily routine, even humble household chores can be lessons in faith. “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14) If we are spiritually discerning, we will hear God speaking to us out of the menial labors of life. God is ever present with us throughout our day, trying to redirect our thinking to Him. Even the lowliest of tasks can become a living testimony to a loving God. I recently had just such an experience.

When our house was first built, everything in it was fresh and new. Over the years, though, everyday wear and tear began to take its toll. Subtly, almost without perception, what was once shiny and new was becoming worn and old. I came to notice recently that the kitchen floor was looking rather dull and lifeless and basic cleaning was not correcting the problem.

I commented to my husband about how poor the floor looked, but he didn't see anything wrong with it. He thought it looked just fine. “But don't you remember how it looked before?” I asked, describing the shine and look of its former years. No, he really didn't remember it looking any different. That weekend family and friends gathered for home church. Becoming increasingly embarrassed at the sight, I commented on the kitchen floor, expecting anyone who had eyes to see to agree with me. But no one did. Everyone reassured me they thought the floor looked just fine.

Undaunted, I later proceeded to scrub and rub to try to restore the natural beauty I remembered from when the house was new. On my hands and knees I worked with an arsenal of cleaning supplies. Much to my dismay, there did not seem to be a cleanser or cleaner that could undo what 10 years of living had done. It looked like the floor would have to be replaced. I considered all those new and improved styles I could replace my current one with, but before resorting to the labor and expense of replacing a no-wax tile floor I decided to give it one more try. I would

rent a floor machine and strip off the build-up, even if I had to strip off the no-wax finish.

After explaining what I needed to the clerk at the store, I discovered that floor machines were no longer in demand and had been eliminated from stock. I was beginning to lose all hope when another customer waiting in line overheard our conversation. She interrupted to explain she was faced with a similar situation several years before but had found a product that she was certain would clean my floor to like new again. This particular cleaner was made especially for my type of floor, but could only be obtained directly from a flooring company. Since they were in the business of making floors, they knew best what it would take to get and keep them clean.

I purchased a small bottle of the cleaner just to “check it out.” After reading over the instructions and considering the condition of my floor, I decided it would serve me best to use it full strength. On my hands and knees again, I



spread the bluish liquid over a few tiles and proceeded to scrub, only this time something was different. Dark grime started to dissolve and lift off the tile before my eyes. As I wiped the up the mess, there it was again, my floor, just the way I remembered it! Excited, I began to work in earnest, just a few tiles at a time. I was careful to get down into the grooves of the pattern so as not to leave any trace of dirt behind. After several rows were cleaned I stood back

to survey the result. I couldn't believe the difference. It was like comparing black and white! I was thrilled! When my husband saw the floor, he was amazed. He had not realized how bad it had gotten. And although he was happy to see the result, he couldn't quite understand why I was so overjoyed that I couldn't wait to get back to work.

As I worked, I decided to also move the appliances out and work back into every nook and cranny I could find. Even though no eye could see behind them, *I knew* what was back there. Any job worth doing is worth doing right. Working this way on the floor made it take several more days to complete. During that time, different people

(Continued on page 12.)

Land of Beginning Again

(And its Sequel)

I wish that there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
And all of our poor selfish grief
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door
And never be put on again.

I wish we could come on it all unaware,
Like the hunter who finds a lost trail;
And I wish that the One whom our blindness had done
The greatest injustice of all
Could be at the gates like an old friend that waits
For the comrade he's gladdest to hail.

We would find all the things we intended to do,
But forgot and remembered too late,
Little praises unspoken, little promises broken,
And all of the thousand and one
Little duties neglected that might have perfected
The day for one less fortunate.

It wouldn't be possible not to be kind
In the Land of Beginning Again;
And the ones we misjudged and the ones whom we grudged
Their moments of victory here
Would find in the grasp of our loving handclasp
More than penitent lips could explain.

For what had been hardest we'd know had been best,
And what had seemed loss would be gain;
For there isn't a sting that will not take wing
When we've faced it and laughed it away;
And I think that the laughter is most what we're after
In the Land of Beginning Again.

So I wish that there were some wonderful place
Called the Lane of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
And all of our poor selfish grief
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door,
And never be put on again.

Louisa Fletcher Tarkington

Thank God I have found that wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all my mistakes and all my heartaches
And all of my poor selfish grief
I have dropped like a shabby old coat at the door
To never put on again.

I suddenly came on it all unaware,
As I stumbled and fell in my sin;
And I found that the One whom my blindness had done
The greatest injustice of all,
Was there at the gate, like an old Friend that waits
To forgive and to welcome me in.

Then He showed me the things I'd intended to do,
And he said, "Try again though 'tis late."
Little praises were spoken, and my promise unbroken
And thus I performed one by one,
Little duties neglected; and thus I perfected
The day for one less fortunate.

I find it much easier now to be kind
In the Land of Beginning Again;
And the ones I misjudged, and the ones whom I grudged
Their moments of victory and praise,
Have found in the grasp of my loving handclasp
More than penitent lips can explain.

For what had seemed hardest, I know now is best,
And what had seemed loss is now gain;
For there isn't a sting that will not take wing
If we take it to Jesus and pray.
For the thing most worthwhile is the light of His smile
In the Land of Beginning Again.

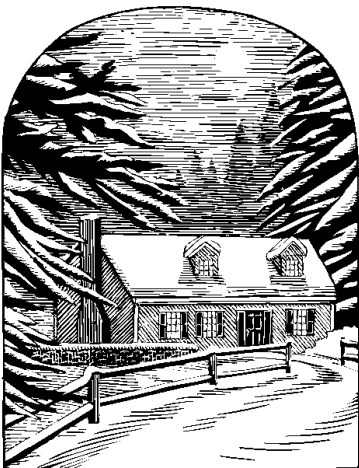
So I'm glad I have found that wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again;
Where all my mistakes and all my heartaches
And all my poor selfish grief
I can drop, like a shabby old coat at the door
And begin with my Savior again.

E. L. Pingnet

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MORNING SURPRISE



I found the world this morning
'Neath a blanket pure and white,
The snow so soft and gentle
Had fallen through the night.
No footprints marred its loveliness,
No earthly thing was there,
And only wintertime supreme
Had made the whole world fair.
I found the trees this morning,
Each one dressed in splendor true,
With every branch all covered
By the nighttime snow so new,

How lovely was the hilltop
In the early morning dawn,
Just before the world awakened,
As the nighttime fast was gone.
I found the world this morning
And I thought it quite a thrill,
As the precious little snowflakes
Brought a charm to yonder hill.
It was pleasant at the dawning
And my heart was filled with charms,
When I found the world this morning
Snug and safe in winter's arms.

Garnett Ann Schultz

(Continued from page 10.)

had an opportunity to see my “miracle” in progress. It wasn’t until the floor’s original beauty was seen that the old floor’s filth was made obvious. Those who had once thought there was nothing wrong with the floor, who thought it was *supposed* to look that way, began to understand what drove me on in search of the perfect solution. And while it wasn’t complete yet, everyone had an idea what the finished product would look like. Now they were beginning to see what I knew was there all along.

Through this process, the Lord opened to me the work of His Spirit on the heart of man. In the beginning man was shiny new. Not a single blemish marred that perfect heart. Then entered sin. It didn’t take long before the grime of iniquity started to build up like stone. No amount of self-righteous works could remove the soil. Sadly, over time, man began to forget what he was in the beginning. But God didn’t forget. He could have wiped out the fallen race and started over with a “new and improved” version, but He didn’t. Instead He designed a way to make the old new again—not just like new, but better than new. Since He was the Creator of this race, He knew exactly what it would take to restore it. Nothing diluted would work. It would take the full strength of the Almighty to make it work. And He brings the good news of His perfect solution to us through others who have experienced the same miracle of love.

Through His Son God anxiously works to restore the heart of man back to its original beauty. It is not an overnight sensation. Little by little the power of the Spirit of Christ works in the heart to dissolve and remove the result of sin in the life. Not one corner is left untouched. He reaches back far into where no eye can see, and will not rest until the job is complete. Although few ever realize the extent of degradation that sin brings, when Christ makes an old man into a new man, people take notice. The kind of change that takes place is progressive, but so obvious it’s like comparing black and white.

There is real joy in rediscovering the new man, a joy that only those know who understand what might have been lost. The ultimate joy, however, belongs to God as He sees “the travail of His soul and [is] satisfied” (Isaiah 53:11). “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Pat Kroeger

[Pat is a Contributing Editor for *Hearth to Hearth*. Please see her introduction in “Hearth Call.”]

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