

SOUTHERN Gospel 2

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

by Nan Allen

“CALVARY COVERS IT ALL”

with “Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary”

Does Calvary cover or does Calvary lift?

The two songs in this medley seem to suggest that Calvary does both.

What does Jesus' blood on Calvary cover?

Read Romans 3:25 and I John 2:2. How does this relate to the covering of sin referred to in the song “Calvary Covers It All”?

Now read Galatians 3:13. What does Paul say is lifted?

Lay your burdens before the Lord. Ask Him to cover them and to lift you.

“THE HAPPY JUBILEE”

with “Summertime in My Heart”

There is a parable in Matthew 25:1-13. How does this parable relate to the song “The Happy Jubilee”?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10,17. Why is this good news?

Ask God for renewal and to help you live as a new creation in Him.

“HE TOUCHED ME”

with “Something Beautiful”

Jesus healed many people during His days on earth. Some of those healings are recorded in the gospels. One such story can be found in Luke 5:12-15. Read this story. How was the man healed?

Now read Luke 8:43-47. How was this woman healed?

How are the two healings different?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. How does this verse relate to Jesus' healings in Luke's gospel?

Pray for healing—for yourself and for others. Remember that God is the Great Physician and can heal all wounds.

“HOLY SPIRIT (MEDLEY)”

includes “Surely the Presence (of the Lord Is in This Place)” and “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Many times worship refers to the gathering of believers with a common goal of lifting up the name of Christ. This was begun in the early church. Read about these gatherings in Acts 2:41-42. What was the attitude of the people in this gathering?

Read 1 John 1:7. What makes a sweet fellowship of believers?

Read Romans 8:14-17. There is a sweet spirit among believers because of our relationship as what? Who binds us together in this relationship?

Petition the Lord for a sweet fellowship among the believers in your church. He longs to see us in communion with Him and with others.

“JESUS IS COMING SOON”

with “The King Is Coming”

It is unclear (at least to some) exactly how Jesus' return will be revealed to us. But one thing we all believe is that He is coming again! Read the last chapter, Chapter 22, of the Book of Revelation.

Paul also reveals details about this return. Although all questions are not answered, there are a few questions that are specifically addressed in his letters and in John's revelation:

1. What signal will we hear at His return? Read I Corinthians 15:52 and I Thessalonians 4:16-17.
2. Who will accompany Him? Read 2 Thessalonians 1:7.
3. When will He come? Read I Thessalonians 5:1-2.
4. Who will see Him? Read Revelation 1:7.

These are just some of the references to Jesus' second coming. There is speculation about how and when these events will occur; however, all we are sure of is that **HE IS COMING—SOON!**

Get ready for Jesus' return. Rejoice in His promises!

“JUST OVER IN THE GLORYLAND”

with “We’ll Understand It Better By and By”

These great songs about heaven are fun to sing and have words of great hope for the believer. Let's look at Scriptures from which these lyrics come.

First, read John 14:1-2. Jesus is giving His famous after-dinner speech to the disciples. He is giving final instructions and making promises right before He goes to the cross. What does He promise in this passage?

Earlier in the speech, Jesus makes a bold statement to His disciples. Find it in John 13:6-7. What does He say about their understanding?

In I Corinthians 13:12, Paul hints at this same theme. When will we understand all about Jesus and His purpose?

Read further in I Corinthians 15:50-58 about the last days on earth and eternal life that is coming. Verse 57 says, “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”* Praise God for His promise and His victory through Jesus.

*Scripture quotation taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

“LEAD ME TO THAT ROCK (MEDLEY)”

*includes “Lead Me to That Rock,” “I Go to the Rock,”
and “Sheltered in the Arms of God”*

Read Psalm 61:1-4. The song “Lead Me to That Rock” is based on this Scripture. What does the rock symbolize here?

Read Psalm 27:1-5. Does the symbol of the rock mean the same here? How is it similar or different?

Read Psalm 118:19-24. Notice in verse 22 that something happens to a stone. To whom is this referring? Jesus quoted this verse several times. Find them in Matthew 21, Mark 12, and Luke 20. Two more references to this same metaphor can be found in Acts 4 and 1 Peter 2. This concept must have been important. Why do you think it is?

Ask God to lead you to the Rock.

“THE LOVE OF GOD”

The third verse of this song can be traced back a thousand years to a Jewish poem. Read it aloud.

In the early 1900s, Frederick Lehman, a Nazarene pastor and songwriter, heard these words quoted at a camp meeting and began to write the other verses and a melody. The poetic sentiment is so beautiful, but the words are so true! Read Jeremiah 31:1-3. How long will God’s love last for His people?

Read Ephesians 3:14-18. Focus on verse 18. Is it possible to understand the dimensions of God’s love?

Ask God to help you know His love, even though you might not understand it.

“UNTIL THEN”

Read James 5:7-11. According to this, what must we do until Jesus comes again or until we go to heaven?

Read Revelation 21:3-5. To what can we look forward?

Praise God for His peace in the chaos of life and for ultimate peace with Him in heaven.

“WHAT A SAVIOR”

The idea of a savior for the world began long before Jesus appeared on the earth. Read David’s words in 2 Samuel 22:2-3. There is a laundry list of who God is (and will be). List all the attributes:

What do you think the word “Savior” means here?

Read Isaiah 51:6. The prophet adds something to the definition of salvation. What is it?

Read Matthew 1:20-21. What is the coming Messiah to be to His people?

Finally, read or recite John 3:16. From what does He save us?

Lift up a prayer of thanksgiving for our Savior.