

WRITINGS OF PAUL GERHARDT

by Paul Gerhardt

A collection of theological writings, sermons, and essays by Paul Gerhardt, compiled for study and devotional reading.

3 Chapters

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S. Accepted in the Beloved

S. Alone With God

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Accepted in the Beloved

It is very wonderful to contemplate the way of the grace of God to a poor sinner; the depths from which it rescues him, and the heights in which it sets him. If we look only at ourselves, even after the knowledge of this grace has filled our hearts with peace and joy, we can never understand why a holy God should take up such as we are; we can do nothing but wonder, while we praise. But the moment the eye is fixed on Christ we cease to wonder. For there in God's presence, is a Man ("the man Christ Jesus"), the object of His infinite delight, the joy of His heart. In the face of that Man the glory of God, the token of His perfect satisfaction, unceasingly shines. And that Man was my substitute upon the cross, the place of judgment and death. Well may I cease to wonder when I see Him where He is.

There are two extremes, if I may so say, to the gospel, and they are, Christ, the beloved Son, forsaken on the cross, and poor sinners accepted "in the Beloved." Extremes indeed, unknown and unintelligible to the natural man, but very wonderful and very precious to those who have, through grace, been enabled to look away from the things that are seen, to those unseen and eternal things of which that glorified Christ is now the center. And there it is that these extremes meet, in the Person of the One once forsaken as the sin-bearer, because that was the only way in which a holy God could be perfectly glorified about sin; now glorified by the very God who then hid His face from Him, and the radiancy of that glory shining in the face of the One who once cried out in the agony of being forsaken by the God whose heart He knew, and whose glory He vindicated, as none other did or could,--"obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." As I look back for a moment at that cross of shame, with its unfathomable depths of light and love, and then look up by faith and see Him, who was on it for me, the perfect delight of the God who, for the moment, had in righteousness to forsake Him; now, too, the Head of that new creation which shall never be stained with sin, or saddened with death; I may well lose sight of myself, and cease to wonder that I am "accepted in the Beloved."

P. G.

S. Alone With God

Alone With God "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust, also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."
(Psa 37:5.) Commit thy way, O weeper The cares that fret thy soul, To thine Almighty Keeper,
Who makes the worlds to roll.

Unto the Lord, who guideth The wind, and cloud, and sea;

Oh, doubt not He provideth A footpath, too, for thee.

Trust also, for 'tis useless To murmur and forebode; The Almighty arm is doubtless Full strong to
bear thy load. In Him hide all thy sorrow, And bid thy fears good-night;

He'll make a glorious morrow To crown thy head with light. And He shall bring it near thee The
good thou long hast sought;

Though now it seems to fly thee, Thou shalt, ere long, be brought. To pass from grief to gladness,
From night to clearest day, When doubts, and fears, and sadness, Shall all have passed away.

PAUL GERHARDT.

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