

THE 2024 THANKSGIVING BLENDING CONFERENCE

GENERAL SUBJECT:

LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE AND CHURCH LIFE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD FOR THE ECONOMY OF GOD

Message Three

Life and Building in Peter's Epistles

RM Hymns: 847, 907

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 1:8; 2:1-5, 9; 2 Pet. 1:3-4

- 1 Pet 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,
- 1 Pet 2:1 Therefore putting away all malice and all guile and hypocrisies and envyings and all evil speakings,
- 1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
- 1 Pet 2:3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- 1 Pet 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious,
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- 2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,
- 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

I. The central thought of Peter's Epistles and of the entire Scripture is life and building—1 Pet. 1:23; 2:2-5; 2 Pet. 1:3-4:

- 1 Pet 1:23 Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God.
- 1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
- 1 Pet 2:3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- 1 Pet 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious,
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,
- 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
- A. Life is the Triune God embodied in Christ and realized as the Spirit dispensing Himself into us for our enjoyment, and building is the church, the Body of Christ, God's spiritual house, as the enlargement and expansion of God for the corporate expression of God—Gen. 2:8-9, 22; Matt. 16:18; Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:16.
- Gen 2:8 And Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom He had formed.
- Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the

- sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Gen 2:22 And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- B. Christ as the seed of life is the power of life within us that has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness for the building up of the church as the rich surplus of life and the expression of life through the growth and development of life—2 Pet. 1:3-4; cf. Acts 3:15; *Hymns*, #203, stanza 4.
- 2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,
- 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
- Acts 3:15 And the Author of life you killed, whom God has raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.
- Hymns*, #203, stanza 4
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| We're Thy total reproduction, | Thy dear Body and Thy Bride, |
| Thine expression and Thy fulness, | For Thee ever to abide. |
| We are Thy continuation, | Thy life-increase and Thy spread, |
| Thy full growth and Thy rich surplus, | One with Thee, our glorious Head. |

II. God's goal is to have a spiritual house built up with living stones—1 Pet. 2:5:

- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- A. As life to us, Christ is the incorruptible seed; for God's building, He is the living stone—1:23; 2:4.
- 1 Pet 1:23 Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God.
- 1 Pet 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious,
- B. At Peter's conversion the Lord gave him a new name, Peter—a stone (John 1:42); when Peter received the revelation concerning Christ, the Lord revealed further that He was the rock—a stone (Matt. 16:18); by these two incidents Peter received the impression that both Christ and His believers are living stones for God's building (1 Pet. 2:4-8; Acts 4:11; Isa. 28:16; Zech. 4:7).
- John 1:42 He led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter).
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- 1 Pet 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious,
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:6 For it is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen and precious; and he who believes on Him shall by no means be put to shame."
- 1 Pet 2:7 To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, "The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner,"
- 1 Pet 2:8 And, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; who stumble at the word, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.
- Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was considered as nothing by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.
- Isa 28:16 Therefore thus says / The Lord Jehovah: / Indeed I lay a stone in Zion as a

- foundation, / A tested stone, / A precious cornerstone as a foundation firmly established; / He who believes will not hasten away.
- Zech 4:7 Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain, and he will bring forth the topstone with shouts of Grace, grace to it.
- C. We, the believers in Christ, are living stones as the duplication of Christ through regeneration and transformation; we were created of clay (Rom. 9:21), but at regeneration we received the seed of the divine life, which by its growing in us transforms us into living stones (1 Pet. 2:5).
- Rom 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

III. Since God's building is living, it is growing; the actual building up of the church as the house of God is by the believers' growth in life—Eph. 2:21:

- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- A. In order to grow in life for God's building, we must love the Lord, take heed to our spirit, and guard our heart with all vigilance to stay on the pathway of life—1 Pet. 1:8; 2:2, 5; 3:4, 15; Prov. 4:18-23; Deut. 10:12; Mark 12:30.
- 1 Pet 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,
- 1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 3:4 But the hidden man of the heart in the incorruptible adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, which is very costly in the sight of God.
- 1 Pet 3:15 But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, being always ready for a defense to everyone who asks of you an account concerning the hope which is in you,
- Prov 4:18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, / Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.
- Prov 4:19 The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; / They do not know what they stumble over.
- Prov 4:20 My son, be attentive to my words; / Incline your ear to my sayings.
- Prov 4:21 Do not let them depart from your sight; / Keep them in the midst of your heart.
- Prov 4:22 For they are life to those who find them, / And healing to all their flesh.
- Prov 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, / For from it are the issues of life.
- Deut 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul;
- Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."
- B. If we want Christ's life to be unhindered in us, we must experience the breaking of the cross, the killing death of Christ in the all-inclusive Spirit of Christ as the Spirit of glory, so that the following obstacles within us can be dealt with and removed—1 Pet. 1:11; 4:14; Psa. 139:23-24:
- 1 Pet 1:11 Searching into what time or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ in them was making clear, testifying beforehand of the sufferings of Christ and the glories after these.
- 1 Pet 4:14 If you are reproached in the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
- Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; / Try me, and know my anxious thoughts;
- Psa 139:24 And see if there is some harmful way in me, / And lead me on the eternal way.
1. Being a Christian means not taking anything other than Christ as our aim; the obstacle to this is not knowing the pathway of life and not taking Christ as our life—Matt. 7:13-14; Phil. 3:8-14; Col. 3:4; Rom. 8:28-29.
- Matt 7:13 Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that

- leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it.
- Matt 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and constricted is the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it.
- Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.
- Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
- Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
2. The second obstacle is hypocrisy; a person's spirituality is not determined by outward appearance but by how he takes care of Christ—Matt. 6:1-6; 15:7-8; John 5:44; 12:42-43; cf. Josh. 7:21.
- Matt 6:1 But take care not to do your righteousness before men in order to be gazed at by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your Father who is in the heavens.
- Matt 6:2 Therefore when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full.
- Matt 6:3 But you, when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
- Matt 6:4 So that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.
- Matt 6:5 And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners, so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward in full.
- Matt 6:6 But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.
- Matt 15:7 Hypocrites! Well has Isaiah prophesied concerning you, saying,
- Matt 15:8 "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart stays far away from Me;
- John 5:44 How can you believe when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that is from the only God?
- John 12:42 Nevertheless even many of the rulers believed into Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;
- John 12:43 For they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God.
- Josh 7:21 When I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle of Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And now they are hidden in the earth in my tent, with the silver under it.
3. The third obstacle is rebellion; we may be very active and zealous in doing things but still imprison and disobey the living Christ within us by ignoring Him—Lev. 14:9, 14-

18; 11:1-2, 46-47; Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 15:33.

- Lev 14:9 And on the seventh day he shall shave off all his hair; he shall shave his head and his beard and his eyebrows, even all his hair. Then he shall wash his clothes and bathe his flesh in water, and he shall be clean.
- Lev 14:14 And the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put it on the lobe of the right ear of the one who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.
- Lev 14:15 And the priest shall take some of the log of oil and pour it into the palm of the priest's left hand,
- Lev 14:16 And the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that is in the palm of his left hand and sprinkle some of the oil with his finger seven times before Jehovah.
- Lev 14:17 And from the rest of the oil that is in the palm of his hand the priest shall put some on the lobe of the right ear of the one who is to be cleansed and some on the thumb of his right hand and some on the big toe of his right foot, upon the blood of the trespass offering.
- Lev 14:18 And the rest of the oil that is in the palm of the priest's hand he shall put on the head of the one who is to be cleansed. Then the priest shall make expiation for him before Jehovah.
- Lev 11:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying to them,
- Lev 11:2 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, These are the animals which you may eat among all the beasts that are on the earth.
- Lev 11:46 This is the law of the beast and of the bird, and of every living animal that moves in the waters, and of every creature that swarms upon the earth;
- Lev 11:47 To make a distinction between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.
- Rom 16:17 Now I exhort you, brothers, to mark those who make divisions and causes of stumbling contrary to the teaching which you have learned, and turn away from them.
- 1 Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.

4. The fourth obstacle is our natural capabilities; if these natural capabilities remain unbroken in us, they will become a problem to Christ's life—2:14-15; 3:12, 16-17; Jude 19; cf. Lev. 10:1-2.

- 1 Cor 2:14 But a soulish man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he is not able to know them because they are discerned spiritually.
- 1 Cor 2:15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.
- 1 Cor 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,
- 1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- 1 Cor 3:17 If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him; for the temple of God is holy, and such are you.
- Jude 19 These are those who make divisions, soulish, having no spirit.
- Lev 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer, and put fire in them and laid incense on it, and they presented strange fire before Jehovah, which He had not commanded them.
- Lev 10:2 And fire came out from before Jehovah and consumed them, and they died before Jehovah.

- C. In order to grow in life for God's building, we must put away "all malice and all guile and hypocrisies and envyings and all evil speakings"—1 Pet. 2:1.

- D. In order to grow in life for God's building, we must be nourished with the guileless milk of God's word—v. 2:

1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,

1. The guileless milk is conveyed in the word of God to nourish our inner man through the understanding of our rational mind and is assimilated by our mental faculties—Rom. 8:6; cf. Deut. 11:18.

- Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Deut 11:18 Therefore you shall lay these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them on your hand as a sign, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes;
2. Although the nourishing milk of the word is for the soul through the mind, it eventually nourishes the spirit, making us not soulish but spiritual, suitable for being built up as a spiritual house of God—cf. 1 Cor. 2:15.

1 Cor 2:15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.
 3. In order to enjoy the milk of the word, to taste God with His goodness in the word, we must receive His word by means of all prayer and muse on His word—1 Pet. 2:3; Eph. 6:17-18; Psa. 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 99, 148:

1 Pet 2:3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

Psa 119:15 I will muse upon Your precepts / And regard Your ways.

Psa 119:23 Princes as well have sat and spoken against me, / But Your servant mused upon Your statutes.

Psa 119:48 And I will lift up my hand to Your commandments, which I love; / And I will muse upon Your statutes.

Psa 119:78 Let the proud be put to shame, for they have subverted my cause with a lie; / But I will muse upon Your precepts.

Psa 119:99 I have more insight than all my teachers, / For Your testimonies are my musing.

Psa 119:148 My eyes anticipated the night watches, / That I might muse upon Your word.

 - a. To muse on the word is to taste and enjoy it through careful considering—1 Pet. 2:2-3; Psa. 119:103.

1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,

1 Pet 2:3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Psa 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste! / Sweeter than honey to my mouth!
 - b. Prayer, speaking to oneself, and praising the Lord may also be included in musing on the word; to muse on the word is to “chew the cud,” to receive the word of God through much reconsideration—Lev. 11:3.

Lev 11:3 Whatever has a divided hoof, that is, has its hoof split in two, and chews the cud among the beasts, that you may eat.
 4. By feeding on Christ as the nourishing milk in the word, we grow unto full salvation, unto maturity through transformation for glorification; salvation in 1 Peter 2:2 is a matter of transformation for God’s building.

1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
 5. We enjoy the “milk-Christ” to nourish us so that we may be transformed with Him as the “stone-Christ” and be built up as the “Body-Christ,” as God’s spiritual house into a holy priesthood—vv. 2-4; 1 Cor. 12:12-13.

1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,

1 Pet 2:3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Pet 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious,

1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

IV. The holy priesthood, the coordinated body of priests, is the built-up spiritual house; God wants a spiritual house for His dwelling and a priestly body, a corporate priesthood, for His service—1 Pet. 2:5; Exo. 19:5-6:

- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- Exo 19:5 Now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine.
- Exo 19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.
- A. We are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession” (1 Pet. 2:9)—*chosen race* denotes our descent from God; *royal priesthood*, our service to God; *holy nation*, our being a community for God; and *people acquired for a possession*, our preciousness to God.
- B. Our corporate priestly service is to tell out as the gospel the virtues of the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (v. 9) so that we may “offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (v. 5b); these spiritual sacrifices are:
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
1. Christ as the reality of all the sacrifices of the Old Testament types, such as the burnt offering, meal offering, peace offering, sin offering, and trespass offering—Lev. 1—5.
Lev 1~5 be omitted.
 2. The sinners saved by our gospel preaching, offered as members of Christ—Rom. 15:16.
Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.
 3. Our body, our praises, and the things we do for God—12:1; Heb. 13:15-16; Phil. 4:18.
Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.
Heb 13:15 Through Him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God, that is, the fruit of lips confessing His name.
Heb 13:16 But do not forget doing good and sharing with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
Phil 4:18 But I have received in full all things and abound; I have been filled, receiving from Epaphroditus the things from you, a sweet-smelling savor, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.
- C. All our priestly service to the Lord must originate from Him as “the God of measure” and not from ourselves; all our priestly service must be according to His leading and His limitation, as we allow His death to operate in us, so that His resurrection life can be imparted through us into others—2 Cor. 10:13; John 12:24; 21:15-22; 2 Sam. 7:18, 25, 27; Luke 1:37-38; *Hymns*, #907.
- 2 Cor 10:13 But we will not boast beyond our measure but according to the measure of the rule which the God of measure has apportioned to us, to reach even as far as you.
- John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.
- John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.
- John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved

that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

John 21:18 Truly, truly, I say to you, When you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go.

John 21:19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had said this, He said to him, Follow Me.

John 21:20 Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also reclined on His breast at the supper and said, Lord, who is the one betraying You?

John 21:21 Peter therefore, seeing him, said to Jesus, Lord, and what about this man?

John 21:22 Jesus said to him, If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.

2 Sam 7:18 Then King David went and sat before Jehovah; and he said, Who am I, O Lord Jehovah, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?

2 Sam 7:25 And now, O Jehovah God, confirm forever the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, and do as You have spoken.

2 Sam 7:27 For You, O Jehovah of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed to Your servant, saying, I will build you a house; therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You.

Luke 1:37 Because no word will be impossible with God.

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold, the slave of the Lord. May it happen to me according to your word. And the angel departed from her.

Hymns, #907

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| 1 | Not where we elect to go, There the living waters flow, | But where Jesus leads the way, There our darkness turns to day. |
| 2 | Not our self-appointed task But the work we did not ask, | Will the Lord's approval win, Finished humbly, just for Him. |
| 3 | Not the prayer we long to plead But the touching deeper need | When we bend before the Throne, Of the Spirit's wordless groan. |
| 4 | Not the gift we proudly lay If our hearts have said Him, "Nay," | On His altar will He heed, When He whispered, "I have need." |
| 5 | Thus we die, and dying live Thus we serve, and pray, and give, | In the heavenlies with the Lord; Christ Himself our great Reward. |