

Straight from the "Heart"

October 30, 2022



Sharing the journey
to know, love, and serve

Welcome to the Hartland United Methodist Church service script. We are glad you are reading.

Apostle's Creed

Opening Prayer Heavenly Father, we are your children, and we often hear that children are a gift from God. Knowing that each person is created uniquely, we are reminded that we, too, are your gift to others. You have given us this gift of life and our many possessions. During these giving moments, we joyfully and faithfully return this money that ultimately belongs to you. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

(Adapted from David Bell © 2007 General Board of
of Discipleship in UM Worship & Song, Leader's Edition.)

Call to Worship

Lay Reader: Come, all who desire an intimate connection with the Father and want to live with integrity. Let us come to his pure light so that we will no longer stumble in darkness. Let us own up to our sins so that our trustworthy and just God will forgive and purify us from sin's pollution. Come, that we may learn to walk in the light of God's presence as Christ did. Come, celebrate with wonderful joy the connection we have with each other because Christ cleanses us from sin.



Inspired by 1 John 1:5-9 (VOICE, CJB, TLB)

Music And in doing so, we will find happiness in Jesus, let's sing Trust – and Obey.

Trust and Obey

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;

not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey.

(Refrain)

3. But we never can prove the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey.

(Refrain)

4. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey.

(Refrain)

Theme ([...] Congregational responses)

I was watching to see if you were really looking happy while you were singing about being happy in Jesus, and most of you were doing pretty good! Good for you! These are? [Rulers] Rulers. Before computers, these were used to draw blueprints. And blueprints were used to design a home or building. Then those were given to the construction person so that they could take this is this, which is? ? [hold up high a tape measure and pull the tape out to make it easy to see] [A ruler or tape measure]. You know the rule right? Measure? [twice and cut once].

Yes, I worked in a group that measured once and cut twice and then got a new board... 😊). But everyone has to follow the rules. The architect who is designing it on the blueprints needs to know exactly what *can* be done, and then the people doing the actual building need to follow the rules on that blueprint very carefully. Otherwise, your building or your house may not function right, it may look funny,



and it may not even be safe. Right? There is a rule that we need to live by.

A lot of people like sports. Sports also have rules, right? [Yes.] They help us play fair and right and follow the design of the sport. I saw one basketball player – this was higher level, not a little kid. He was so intent of giving directions to his teammates (laying down the design for them for that play) that he forgot to dribble the ball and he just walked up the court carrying the ball in his hand. He was so intent on directing his own plans, he violated the higher plan of the sport as it is meant to be played. As a result, he lost the ball to the other team and his plans went to naught, at least for that play. The nice thing is, you still get more chances to make it right before the clock runs out.

God had a plan when he created life too. He designed us to be with him in a loving relationship, and with each other. He designed us so that he could live in our hearts and guide our lives according to what is his rule. The rules are not random lists of hard things to follow to make life miserable for us. Sometimes it feels that way, or at least, some people think it does. But like blueprints and sports rules and music rules too, they are what helps us build our lives right and safe and what is best for us. And if we wander from the plan, life often has a way of forcing up back to the rules of life and we can get another chance to live right until the clock stops

Review Over the last few weeks we've been looking at the Garden of Eden in Genesis. The garden story is important because it shows us God's blueprint of what the God-human relationship and human-human relationship is *supposed* to be like; and that it is still in our own best interest and well-being if we strive to stay within the boundaries of that relationship. We are in Paradise when we are in loving connection with God. Flowing from that connection, we find the joy of purposeful work, we trust in God's provision for that work, and we stay within the limitations that make it possible to do that work well.

The story is relevant because it is the story of every human -- it is not about some idealistic physical place on the planet that we have to find again -- but it is a life lived in deep awareness of God's presence with us and within us – and it is living in that presence that creates a form of Paradise wherever we are.

But... then we also saw how they – and we – for this is our story too -- have gotten away from his presence, moving from trust -- to doubting that his terms are best for us, and how we seek to live life on our own terms,

<p>Sin seeks to change Limitations to License Trust to Selfish Greed Purpose to Vanity</p>

severing our connection from God replacing His limitations for our license, exchanging trust in his provision for selfish possessive greed, and replacing a search for his purposeful work for a meaningless striving after the wind.

We thought we could design our own, better paradise without God the Creator. So now we find ourselves in this self-created paradise that is no paradise at all. But we are stubborn. (Anyone want to 'fess up? {raise hand} [hands raise] Yes, we're stubborn. We don't want to admit our paradise comes short of what we hoped, much less, short of God's glory. God names the results of our choice -- work becomes hard and unfulfilling, child rearing is painful because our loved ones grow up in a harsh self-involved world, partnerships are distorted from their intended balance; and good and evil are in a perpetual battle not only for our world, but for each heart.

Much of the Bible is the story of God wanting to live with and through us, and we wanting to live without him. One example is how God delivered the people from slavery in Egypt and to the promised land - to the new Paradise, if you will – as much of a paradise that can be created in a fallen world. As they traveled, they complained and argued nearly every step of the way (maybe we can relate to that too): "I'm hungry, I'm thirsty, I want meat", on and on.... They even began to feel that their life of slavery was much better than the new life God was trying to create for them. In essence, they doubted and by their disbelief, kept their distance from God through the entire journey. It made their life not only a physical wilderness, but a spiritual desert.

Intro to Responsive Bible Reading

The author of Hebrews used this history to warn readers about the same danger: to start out wanting God's freedom, only to then want to turn back in disbelief because finding freedom is difficult. They turned against God and therefore were not able to enter God's rest. In our case – the temptation is to have everything in Christ, but then think that we can more easily create something better on our own. Therefore, we begin distancing and hardening ourselves against deepening our relationship with Christ. (Summary of Hebrews 3:15-19) Hear the author's warning:

Bible Reading (L: Lay Reader, C: Pastor/Congregation)

L: Beware of your own hearts, dear brothers and sisters, lest you find they lack trust and lead you away from following the living God.

C: **Instead, keep encouraging each other every day while it is still called "today".**

L: Help each other so that none of you will be deceived and blinded by the glamor of sin and become hardened against God.

C: We have the honor of sharing in all that belongs to Christ, provided we faithfully and firmly continue to trust God just as we did when we first became Christians.

L: That's why the Spirit says, "Today, if you hear God's voice speaking to you, do not stubbornly harden your hearts against him as the people did [in the desert]. They could not enter God's promised rest because they didn't trust him.

C: Therefore, even though God's promise still stands -- that all may enter his rest -- we should be very careful that none of us fall short of receiving that promise.

L: For this wonderful news has been proclaimed to us just as it was to those who lived in the times of Moses –

C: -- that God wants to save us.

L: Even though God has been ready and waiting for them since the founding of the universe, and even though they heard the message, it did not help them because they did not accept it with trust.

C: For it is only we who believe God that can enter into his place of rest.

From Hebrews 3:12-15, 19-4:3 (ERV,CJB,TLB)

Music Let's sing this prayer, then, that God's love would come to our hearts, take away our tendency to sin, and fulfill his promise in leading us to the peaceful rest that is his presence.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

[Prayers]

Music Before God can come and dwell in our hearts, they have to be changed in order to receive his presence. We are going to sing Change my heart O God, and then while Donna plays it through again, we will have an opportunity to simply reflect on that musical prayer, or pray for those that are on our hearts, or whatever else you and God may need to talk about, and then we will sing it again.

Change My Heart, O God

Words & Music: Eddie Espinosa © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Pub.

CCLI # 2561297

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

[Instrumental Meditation]

Repeat song.

Pastor's Prayer Now God, we ask that you will continue to shape our hearts and lives according to your wisdom and majesty. You are the architect and engineer of all that is and all that ever will be. You hold the seasons and times and all of our days in your hand. We acknowledge our total dependence on you for every breath we take. In difficult times, we sometimes find it hard to trust, yet such trust is a joy, for you are good and loving, abundantly generous and always working.

Praises and Petitions Therefore, today especially we pray a praise for Charles Kirkpatrick as he recovers from surgery, and he is doing well and thanks for the prayers, cards, and phone calls. * Jerry Weaver requests prayers for Mike Price and his family, a friend who passed away Oct 21. * Jan Martin asks for two neighbors, * Charlie Meyer, who we mentioned last week with cancer, * and also Pierre – who has inoperable cancer, * and also for a friend Don McDonald who had a stroke, * and Jimmy Tidmore, who was hospitalized after having a bad reaction to a routine colonoscopy. * We pray for Kathy Novak's friend Beverly Wilkinson who has cancer that has spread to the lymph nodes, and there is nothing more they can do and it is just a matter of time, and we pray for their family as well. ** We continue to pray for * Jo Campbell, * Fran Warthman, * Beckie Wren, * Lynne, * Brantley Call, * Denise, * and there are others that are on our hearts and minds that we lift to you even as pray what Jesus taught us to pray. **Lord's Prayer**

Intro to Bible Reading

Lay Reader: At some point in that difficult journey from Egyptian slavery to the promised land, Moses called the people to unity through an absolute allegiance to a covenant with God – which he applied to many areas of what would be their life together in a new land. We are all familiar with the 10 commandments. The first two speak of our exclusive worship of God and prohibition of idols. Israel had to be properly related to God, the divine Ruler of the nation, or it would not realize her true nationhood. Therefore, as Moses begins to flesh out details of their covenant with God, he begins with directions on worship, for it is in worship that they recognized God’s sovereignty and heard his will. Hear just some of the most relevant highlights.



Bible Reading

These are the laws and rulings you must be careful to observe when you arrive in the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has given you to possess forever. You must not worship your God the way the [former nations of this place] worshipped their gods. [When you begin living] there, in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your families will feast and rejoice in everything he has done for you and in everything you set out to do, because the Lord your God has blessed you.

You will no longer do things the way you do them here today, where everyone does whatever in his own opinion seems right; (for these laws do not go into effect until you arrive in the place of rest). But when you cross the Jordan River and settle in the Promised Land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, he will give you rest from all your surrounding enemies, so that you will live in safety...

You will all rejoice before the Lord your God in everything you do... Pay attention to all these regulations I am giving you so that it may go well with you and your descendants as you do what is good and right in the eyes of the Lord. Be careful not to be ensnared by inquiring, “How did these nations serve their gods? We want to do the same.” You must not insult the Lord your God by worshiping as they did! For they have done horrible things that the Lord hates, all in the name of their religion.

From Deuteronomy 12:1,4,7-10,12,18c,28,30-31 (ERV,CJB,TLB)

Music Moses says that once they reach the promised land they will receive rest,

and they should rejoice in everything they do because they have been blessed by God. So let's sing a couple verses of thanksgiving to our God, and then because the promised land is not yet reached, we who are comfortable standing will stand and sing -- Marching to Zion...

Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

Music – piano moves directly to the musical introduction of the next song

Marching to Zion

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high.

(Refrain)

Sermon Walking in Paradise: Return to Trusting Connection

Picture a large beehive. Thousands of bees all performing their particular jobs in unity - the queen bee does hers, the scout bees, the worker bees, the nurse bees, the guard bees, and all the others – working in wonderful cooperation and coordination, and they instinctively carry out their individual tasks by God's design for the continuing health and propagation of the hive. That's how it works, right?

Now imagine that in the cool of one particular day, each bee decides that it knows better than its instinct what is better for its own life. Suddenly it is every bee for themselves. The hive would turn to anarchy, chaos, and eventually, self-destruction.

Of course, that would almost never happen because God has designed into their very existence an instinct that rails against such behavior.

What is difficult to the normal bee is simple for humanity. We were given the choice to accept or reject our spiritual design, and all of us have chosen, in one way or another, that we think we can be more fully human without God, that the creature can get along just fine without the Creator; that we can carve out our own destiny (Psalm 14:1-3). And we've been as busy as bees buzzing here and there, each going their own way trying to make it happen (Isaiah 53:6) – forgetting the blueprint, forgetting the tape measure, the dribbling of the ball, forgetting all of it....

Earlier in this series we said the garden of Paradise was the platform up here, and where the altar rail is was the loving limitation that kept us safe from all the dangers beyond paradise – out there. And what quickly became the top priority of people was to get beyond the railing, out there where it was dangerous, because they thought it would be “better”. We are always thinking that the grass is always greener... but it isn't, (except on the sod farm 😊). But it isn't Paradise out there, it isn't better out there, out there is the place of danger and stress and anxiety.

But God's grace is always drawing us back. So, in Armstrong Hall at the other end of the building -- way out there -- is the slavery of Egypt, and God has freed us from the Hall, and we are on the journey to the promised land (here on the platform). It isn't Eden anymore, but it is the promised land (as close as we can get to Eden in a broken world).

As they are coming, in what for us is a long drawn out and repetitive passage, (I tried to shorten it down as best I could, and we just did one chapter of it) Moses says: that on the platform, (in the promised land) – when you get there, it isn't going to be like it is now, everyone doing whatever they think is good in their own eyes - - the anarchy of rogue bees -- but we will be able to find the unity of the hive again. (He doesn't use those words, I'm inserting the metaphor drawn from our opening story into what he is trying to say). God is going to provide all the food and livestock they need, there will be rest from surrounding enemies, and they will live purposeful lives that finds joy in everything they work at – they are promised provision; safety and protection – things they had in Eden (peace will replace the threat of danger and stress); and that is because they will worship through which they will have again have an intimate connection with God, which is the most important part of Paradise. And it is with true worship that he begins his elaboration of their covenant relationship with God. First two commandments are what? Love

God with all you are and don't do any idol stuff. So begins by elaborating on those two commands. For them, the location of where they were to worship was very important, something that Jesus clearly saw in his time as irrelevant compared to the heartfelt sincerity of worship. I think that at least part of the concern in Moses' day was as they were just coming into a new land, a new place, he didn't want them all running off and concocting their own kind of worship, they needed to stay together as they were creating this new community, but if anyone could do it just anywhere, who knows what they might come up with. They didn't have a good track record on their way, that is for sure. He wanted to ensure what was done truly honored God. The primary concern was named directly: that they might see or hear how the predecessors of the land worshiped their gods and be tempted to want to adopt their way of worshipping their false gods – and some of the things they did were nasty and offensive to God.

In this situation, the boundary isn't a forbidden tree, it is places and ways of doing worship --

Will we trust God or ourselves?

but it really boils down to the same thing -- The question of the tree and worship and in every setting - it is this – will what we do build our relationship with God and each other, or will it be a platform for serving ourselves. Will we **trust** God's instruction? Or are we going to do what **we** think is best? To focus on the specific rule of the tree or the specific ancient rule of worship is to miss the point. The point is about maintaining a loving connection with God. This trust is what creates paradise in our life. It is not about blind trust. For them the trust was based on this miraculous deliverance from Armstrong Hall, from Egypt, from slavery. For us, it is a trust based on everything we know God has done from then on and before on all the way up through our current day, throughout the generations of history. The whole point is about God and us and us and us getting together again. So, the first step back to Paradise is beginning to trust in him again, trust in his limitations again, to begin to look at his creation through his eyes again. We can't do this on our own. We need to get God back into us, and for Christians, that happens by belief in his Son Jesus Christ and the love relationship he has declared and accomplished for us on the cross.

Ian Thomas says “you cannot achieve it [a loving relationship with God], you can only receive it...” (You can't earn it). God is waiting for you to decide whether you are going to continue to do as you see best or trust in his love. The trick, of course, is to rely on God's grace and let him reveal which is which, for it is very easy to

confuse what I see and think is best with what God sees and thinks is best. I always here that phrase in my head that some people use: “God told me...” and I sometimes have to wonder if it was really God’s voice, or is that your voice put into God’s voice put into your voice. When we hear that still small voice, whose voice is it, really? The problem with having blind spots is that we are blind to them! We must always stay open, then, to God’s leading, and in his time and way, he will show us what is right, and will move us there! Because he never gives up! He just keeps on being faithful. And he will move us to where we need to be because it is him working in and through us. *Our* focus must always be on *him*, and he’ll get us there.

In our modern western world, this is the real challenge of maintaining a relationship with God, because – it doesn’t happen overnight, and that is what we want. Overnight – everything. We like everything quick, easy, obvious, and in scientific or mathematically progressive steps to where we want to go. No variations. What works for me should work for you and vice versa, always, in everything we do. But that is not how life works, does it? But that is what we want. There is temptation and danger even in treating God’s loving limitations as an end in itself, -- isolated from God. Faith is reduced to becoming nothing more than an impersonal list of rules we must do or not do. The spirit of the law gets lost in its letter of the law. Therefore, we have to ask: Are our godly actions primarily pursued separate from God, or by trusting on Christ’s activity working through us?

Are our godly actions primarily pursued separate from God, or by trusting on Christ’s activity working through us?

This seems to be one of the errors committed by religious leaders in the New Testament -- they had a great heart for the law of stone, along with their vastly expanded interpretation of it -- and in their passion for that Law (a good thing), but their hearts turned into the same material - stone. When it benefited themselves, they even interpreted the letter of the law in a way to avoid the spirit of the law. They often lost sight of the God connection and people connection – love and compassion and relationships were sacrificed on the altar of principles designed to enhance their own personal pleasure and power and gain.

Relationships don’t work that way in the world, they are not intended to work that way. But it doesn’t stop us from pursuing them. We crave miraculous church growth in 3 easy steps (emphasis on easy). We want five simple steps to the perfect organization, ten easy actions to the perfect marriage. 7 steps to reach financial

comfort and ease. We go to the fitness center or take a magic pill and expect a perfect body in 30 short days... (and even that amount of time taxes our patience). We go to self-help sections, and we read title after title, and we see it on TV too, ad after ad that promises to instantly explain, fix, heal and improve whatever topic you want to name and in an easy, short to do numbered list. And some of the better ones can be very helpful tools, don't get me wrong. After all, there are rules to life, and following them does help us. The *spirit* of God's Law and its principles are designed to enhance our life together.

But they do have that one danger -- they tempt us to develop a mind-set of thinking in terms of steps and rules rather than in relationships. We must see to the other end of that must and that must not, the person at the other end of that action or that restraint. We see a forbidden tree instead of a loving God, because we focus on the wrong thing. We see the *form* of a worshipping action and become sentimentally attached to the repeated pattern rather than truly experiencing a heart of praise directed to God. We tend to seek all of this in our own strength and by what seems good to us, and what seems good to us is what we have experienced along the way, **rather** than by trusting in God's grace as he leads us to a "new land."

So Paul reminds us (See Ephesians 2:6-10) that we are not saved by works (by fulfilling or avoiding certain "trees", laws or worship patterns) lest we boast of our own spiritual strength; but that we are God's creation, created to *do* good works. The danger is that we start in grace but then reduce it to works again.

Thomas explains through a story which I will shorten. You are driving on the highway. You see a car on the shoulder of the road with a fellow standing near it. Out of kindness, you stop to see if you can help. He is out of gas and can't go anywhere. You get out a tow rope and you haul him into the next town's gas station. The car is filled, and the man realizes to his shame that he has no credit card or cash to pay for the gas. Again, out of the rich generosity of your heart, you pay the bill. You pay a debt you did not owe because he owes a debt he cannot pay. *That is what happened for us on the cross. When we were stranded outside of Paradise, outside of relationship with God, Jesus paid a debt we could not pay.*

The man thanks you profusely. You get into your own car. You look back to wave good-bye, and in your rear-view mirror, you see to your astonishment, the man behind his car, straining and stressing to push it. You make a U-turn and come back

to him and say something like: "Poor, thoughtless, unreflecting, senseless man! You can now move by the power of the gas within. (See Galatians 3:1-9)

We live by the resurrection power of the indwelling Christ through His Spirit. He has filled

Who drives your spiritual life?

our spiritual tank with himself, so why are we trying to push the thing in our strength? If the tank is empty, it is not time for new tires, new plugs, new dressings, new strategies -- what we need is more gas -- more of Christ. If our spiritual life is empty, we don't need to follow more steps, we need to get Christ back into the mix. Jesus did not come to earth only to get us into heaven, but to get himself into us. He gave himself *for* us to give himself *to* us so that he can be active through us and we may enjoy a wonderful, personal relationship with him and with others. So, who will drive your spiritual life – you – or Christ? Let's pray.

Prayer Majestic and mighty God, we confess that we are not the center of the universe, we are not the Creator, we are not able to save ourselves. But it is not for lack of trying! We exhaust ourselves trying to control and manipulate our circumstances. We live frenzied and harried lives trying to prove our worth. We bear the weight of believing everything is up to us alone.

Confront us with the truth. Invite us to trust you rather than ourselves. You ask us "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? [Then] Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Matthew 11:28 (MSG)) Lord, You call us to rest in your providence and goodness. You offer this through your mercy and forgiveness. Open your arms of love and invite us home. Thank you for reorienting us to the truth of who you are and to whom we belong and the promises of *your* paradise - your presence and love - that overcomes doubt and fear and enables us to return to the kingdom of restful peace in you, and it is in Jesus' name that we pray this. Amen.

Music We end as we began. We began with trusting obedience to be happy in Jesus, and we trust that will be true because we can trust that even when we are facing life's storms – in each day we can overcome because he will do what he promises...Let's stand and sing...

Standing on the Promises

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of Christ my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God.

(Refrain)

Blessing Now go in confidence, knowing that Christ is always with us, ready to lift us up and set us on solid ground. Go knowing you are not alone, but your creating, redeeming, sustaining God goes with you every step of the life's journey. Amen.

Some ideas in this sermon were gleaned from

~ *The Indwelling Life of Christ: All of Him in All of Me*, by Major W. Ian Thomas.