

Remembering the Faithful

Isaac Watts

Resources:



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Slides and Handouts

2. Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You Richly

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness to God in your hearts.”

(Col. 3:16, ESV)

My Heart is Filled With Thankfulness, Getty Music

“My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness
And clothed me in His light
And wrote His law of righteousness
With pow'r upon my heart.”

Isaac Watts, Sr. to his children from Southampton Jail

“I charge you frequently to read the holy scriptures; and that not as a task or burden laid on you, but get your hearts to delight in them. There are the only pleasant histories which are certainly true, and greatly profitable; there are abundance of precious promises made to sinners, such as you are by nature; there are sweet invitations and counsels of God and Christ, to come in and lay hold of them; there are the choice heavenly sayings and sermons of the Son of God, the blessed prophets and apostles ... The sum of all the counsel I can give you, necessary for the regulating of your behavior towards God and man, in every station, place and condition of your lives, is contained in that blessed word of God.” (Isaac Watts, Sr. to his children while imprisoned at Southampton Jail) (Beynon, *Isaac Watts: His Life and Thought*, p.14)

3. Remember Your Leaders: Isaac's Acrostic

“I” - I am a vile, polluted lump of earth

“S” - So I've continued e'er since my birth

“A” - Although Jehovah, grace doth daily give me

“A” - As sure as this monster Satan will deceive me

“C” - Come therefore, Lord, from Satan's claws relieve me.

“W” - Wash me in Thy blood, O Christ

“A” - And grace divine impart

“T” - Then search and try the corners of my heart

“T” - That I in all things may be fit to do

“S” - Service to Thee, and Thy praises too.

Consider Their Way of Life: Ministry to All

“Madam,

When nature has vented itself a little, and poured out its first sorrows, it is proper then to apply the means of consolation. The skillful surgeon will let a fresh wound bleed a little before he binds it up, and thereby prevent inward disorders, and make a surer work in healing it up. Your griefs have had their loose, and the floods have almost overwhelmed you. It is time now, Madam, to stop the current, and raise your head above the waves. It is time to fix your thoughts on all cheerful and supporting circumstances that attend a mournful providence.” (Milner, *Watts*, p.412)

Consider Their Way of Life: Ministry to All

“Madam,

When you peruse the Sermons on Death, guard your heart from painful impressions. I would not open the wounds that have been made, but attempt to pour the balm of the gospel into them. You will find something in the eleventh discourse borrowed from the dying bed of my friend and brother. It may pain you a little, but I trust it will please you more. May all grace be with you and yours hereafter.” (Milner, Watts, p.444)

Consider Their Way of Life: Singing God's Praise - Psalm 23

V.3

“Your sure provisions, gracious God,
Attend me all my days
Oh, may Your house be my abode
And all my work be praise!
Here would I find a settled rest
While others go and come
No more a stranger, nor a guest,
But like a child at home.”

- *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Consider Their Way of Life: Singing God's Praise - Psalm 90

V.3-4

“Before the hills and in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting You are God
To endless years the same

A thousand ages in Your sight
Are like an evening gone
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.”

- *O God, Our Help In Ages Past*

Consider Their Way of Life: Singing God's Praise - Psalm 98

V.2

“Joy to the earth! The Savior Reigns!

Let men their songs employ

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, Repeat, the sounding joy!

- *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come*

5. Imitate Their Faith: Teach Children the Things of God

“I content myself with this thought: that nothing is too mean [lowly] for a servant of Christ to engage in, if he can thereby most effectually promote the kingdom of his blessed master. If the God whom I serve will bless my labours to sow the seeds of religion in the understanding and hearts of children, I shall hope there will arise a fair harvest of the fruits of holiness in the succeeding generation, and some revenue of glory to my creator and redeemer.” (Beynon, *Isaac Watts: His Life and Thought*, p.85)

Doxology

*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights. James 1:17*

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow! Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low! Praise Him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly hosts! Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!