



LOOKING UPON CHRIST

I. ON MY HEART IMPRINT THINE IMAGE

Luther:

“So then, gaze at the heavenly picture of Christ, who descended into hell [1 Pet. 3:19] for your sake and was forsaken by God as one eternally damned when he spoke the words on the cross, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!”—“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” [Matt. 27:46].”

On My Heart Imprint Thine Image
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Skriv dig, Jesu, paa mit Hjerte
T. H. Kingo, 1634-1703
Tr. P. O. Strømme, 1856-1921, alt.

*On my heart imprint Thine image,
Blessed Jesus, King of Grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Have no pow'r Thee to efface.
This the superscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my Life, my hope's Foundation,
And my Glory and Salvation.*

Looking away from Christ, One Will Flee Their Enemies – Leviticus 26

¹⁴But if you will not listen to me...I in turn will do this to you: I will inflict upon you panic, wasting disease, and fever, which will cause your eyes to fail and your vitality to slip away. You will sow your seed but get no return, for your enemies will eat it. ¹⁷**I will set my face against you.** You will be beaten by your enemies, and those who hate you will rule over you. You will flee, even though nobody is pursuing you...They will flee as though fleeing from a sword, and they will fall though no one is pursuing them. ³⁷Each of them will stumble over his brother, as if from a sword, even though no one is pursuing him. You will have no power to stand against your enemies, ³⁸and you will perish among the nations.

Looking at Christ, Your Enemies Will Flee You - Judges 7

²The Lord said to Gideon, "There are too many people with you for me to give Midian into your hands. If I did that, Israel would glorify itself at my expense and say, 'My own hand has delivered me.'"

...[32,000 men are whittled down to the weakest and foolish 300 men]...

²²When the Israelites blew the three hundred ram's horns, the Lord turned the sword of each Midianite against the person next to him throughout the whole camp.

The Midianite army fled up to Beth Shittah, toward Zererah, up to the border of Abel Meholah, as far as Tabbath.

That I May Die Unfearing

"That I may die unfearing" is a prayer of Christians.
We pray it because we need to pray it.

Gerhard:

"Without a doubt, it is a weakness of our flesh and a peculiarity of our corrupt nature that we are more desirous of this momentary life than the everlasting one to come."²⁹

Romans 8:38-39

³⁸Neither life nor death, nor any creature can separate or tear us from the love of God which is Christ Jesus" (Gerhard's translation)³⁰

Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart | 406

Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, o Herr
M. M. Schalling, 1532-1608
Tr. C. Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

3. Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abram's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing:
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
My Savior and my Fount of grace,
Lord Jesus Christ,
My prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost | 33

Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist
German Hymn, c. 13th century, st. 1
M. Luther, 1483-1546, st. 2-4
Tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941

4. Thou highest Comfort in ev'ry need,
Grant that neither shame nor death we heed,
That e'en then our courage may never fail us
When the foe shall accuse and assail us.
Lord, have mercy!

²⁹ Gerhard, pg. 60

³⁰ Gerhard, Ibid.

II. WHAT IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH MAN IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD

How To Get Into Heaven - Matthew 19

¹⁶There was a man who came to him and said, "Teacher, what good thing should I do that I may have eternal life?"

¹⁷Jesus said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? Only one is good. But if you want to enter life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸"Which ones?" the man asked him.

Jesus said, " 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. ¹⁹Honor your father and mother.' And, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "

²⁰The young man said to him, "I have kept all these. What am I still lacking?"

²¹Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²²But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had many possessions. ²³Jesus said to his disciples, "Amen I tell you: It will be very hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Again I tell you: It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁵When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁶Jesus looked at them and said, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Luther:

"Such preparation and readiness for this journey are accomplished first of all by providing ourselves with a sincere confession (of at least the greatest sins and those which by diligent search can be recalled by our memory), with the holy Christian sacrament of the holy and true body of Christ, and with the unction. If these can be had, one should devoutly desire them and receive them with great confidence. If they cannot be had, our longing and yearning for them should nevertheless be a comfort and we should not be too dismayed by this circumstance."

Luther also adds, "Without...faith they serve no purpose."

Dearest Jesus, Draw Thou Near Me | 13

Søde Jesus, kom at røre

T. H. Kingo, 1634-1703

Tr. C. K. Solberg, 1908, alt.

2. *Underneath Thy wings abiding,
In Thy church, O Savior dear,
Let me dwell, in Thee confiding,
Hold me in Thy faith and fear;
Take away from me each thought
That with wickedness is fraught,
Tempting me to disobey Thee,
Root it out, O Lord, I pray Thee.*

3. *Thou earth's greatest joy and gladness,
And salvation, full and free,
Let Thy presence cheer my sadness,
And prepare my soul for Thee!
In the hour when I depart,
Touch my spirit, lips and heart.
With Thy word assure, uphold me
Till the heav'nly gates enfold me.*

Objective Means

Spangenberg lists five things to do to prepare to die:

1. Live a Christian life: live with Christ's death in view.
2. Die to the world: die to what is created, cling to the Creator.

"But is this not impossible for human nature? That is true. But when a person grasps the articles of faith regarding **the forgiveness of sin, resurrection of the dead, and everlasting life** with a firm faith and continually keeps them in mind, then it is not impossible."³¹

3. Impress...the gospel on your memory.
4. Recall your baptism and how you bound yourself through it to God.
5. Think about the power of the Sacrament of the body and blood of Christ that you have received.

Johann Spangenberg's Prayer to God to Deliver from an Evil Death:³²

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Heavenly Father, our Redeemer, Deliverer, and Savior, we entreat You, deliver this dying person from all dreadful, terrifying machinations and assaults of the devil, of sin, and of hell. Deliver him, as you graciously redeemed Noah from the billows of the flood,³³ Lot from the corruption of Sodom,³⁴ Abraham from the fire of the Chalideans,³⁵ the children of Israel from the power of Pharaoh,³⁶ David from the hand of Goliath,³⁷ the three men from the fiery furnace of Babylon,³⁸ Daniel from the lion's den,³⁹ Jonah from the belly of the whale,⁴⁰ Peter from Herod's prison.⁴¹ Deliver, O Lord God, the soul of this dying person from all dangers. Open to him this very day the gates of Paradise,⁴² the portals of heaven, and the entrance to eternal life.⁴³ O Lord Jesus Christ, pardon him all his sins and lead him with joy into the realm of Your heavenly Father, into Abraham's bosom,⁴⁴ to eternal rest, so that he may rejoice unceasingly with You and all the chosen children of God in eternal life. Amen.

³¹ Spangenberg, *Ibid.*, pg., 61

³² Spangenberg, *Ibid.*, pg. 82-83

³³ Genesis 6:9-9:17

³⁴ Genesis 18:16-19:29

³⁵ "Based on a misreading of Genesis 15:7; In Genesis 15:7, God is cited as saying to Abraham, 'I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans....' The Hebrew word for 'fire,' 'Or,' was substituted for 'Ur' in the text by rabbinic sources based upon the first-century Targum of Jonathon ben-Uzziel, a disciple of Hillel. The midrash on the text conveyed a story of Abraham's deliverance to Christian medieval biblical comment." (83)

³⁶ Exodus 5:1-15:27

³⁷ 1 Samuel 17:1-58

³⁸ Daniel 3:1-30

³⁹ Daniel 6:1-28

⁴⁰ Jonah 1:1-2:10

⁴¹ Acts 12:1-19

⁴² Luke 23:43

⁴³ Genesis 28:17

⁴⁴ Luke 16:22