

“Only God is Great” **Compiled by Paul R. Blake**

“Only God is great.” That was the solemn and unexpected declaration of Jean-Baptiste Massillon as he began his sermon at the funeral service of King Louis XIV. The king, who liked to be referred to as Louis the Great, had ruled France from 1643 to 1715 with absolute power and incredible splendor. His funeral was held in a magnificent cathedral that was lit by a single candle alongside the elaborately ornate coffin. When it was time for Massillon to speak, he reached out and extinguished the flame. Then he broke the silence with the words, “Only God is great.”

We recognize and admire some of our fellow humans who are considered to be great thinkers, great scientists, great inventors, or great achievers in every field of public or private endeavor. In many ways they excel beyond most people, but they still have the same needs as everyone else. They experience aches and pains. They have troubled minds, hungry hearts, weak moments, and flashes of temper. They cannot avoid illness, stave off death, nor guarantee life beyond the grave.

Only God is truly great -- great enough to meet all our needs, great enough to forgive all our sins, and great enough to carry us through the dark valley of death into eternity, to be with Him forever. So declares the psalmist: *“Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works. All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name. For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God. Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore. For great is Your mercy toward me, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.”* (Psalm 86:8-13).

A Little Thing

A candle's but a little thing;
It starts with just a bit of string,
Yet dipped and dipped with patient care,
It gathers wax upon the strand,
Until, complete and snowy white,
It gives at last a lovely light.

Life seems so like that bit of string;
Each deed we do, a simple thing.
Yet day by day if on life's strand
We work with patient heart and hand,
It gathers joy, makes dark days bright
And gives at last a lovely light.

(Author Unknown; given by Lucille Harless on 3/17/92 to Jean Blake when she taught the ladies' Bible class on patience)

A Parent's Prayer

Lord, this I ask, that I might be
True to the trust You gave to me;
That I might rear this child of mine
Each day to be a child of Thine.

That I might guide his precious feet
From each new danger he will meet,
And I might keep him in the fold,
And teach him, Lord, Thy hand to hold.

Tis when the big sheep go astray,
That oft the lambs, too, go that way,
So that is why this day I ask,
Lord, make me worthy of this task.
(Author Unknown)

Tales of Innocence

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1John 1:9).

The story is told that one day Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, visited a prison and talked with each of the inmates. There were endless tales of innocence, of misunderstood motives, and of exploitation. Finally, the king stopped at the cell of a convict who remained silent. "Well," remarked Frederick, "I suppose you are an innocent victim too?" "No, sir, I'm not," replied the man. "I'm guilty and deserve my punishment." Turning to the warden, the king said, "Here, release this rascal before he corrupts all these fine, innocent people in here!"

Proverbs 28:13 says, "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

The Posterior Application of Superior Force

My father considered himself to be the head of the family, and the rest of us were inclined to agree with him. He was not opposed to the posterior application of superior force, if necessary. He was not afraid he would frustrate Junior. He saw no conflict between love and discipline. Neither does the Bible. Our Lord said, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten" (Rev. 3:19). (Vance Havner)

Measures of Our Growth

To carry money without spending it.
To bear with an injustice without retaliating.
To do our duty when critical eyes are watching.
To keep at a job until it is finished.
To do the work even if others get the recognition.
To accept criticism without breaking.
To care for those who oppose us.
To love when hate is all around us.
To follow God when others put detour signs in our way.
To have peace of heart and mind because we have given God our all.

A Moments Wisdom

--A conceited person never gets anywhere because he thinks he has already arrived.
--When most people put in their two cents worth, they aren't overcharging the true value of their opinion.

--You cannot keep the birds of sorrow from circling over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair.

--It takes less time to do things right than it takes to explain why you did it wrong.

--The Lord never stops giving us reasons to praise Him.

--Ability brings responsibility.

--Here is the formula for failure: try to please everyone.

--Opinions founded on prejudice are always sustained with the greatest violence.

--People sensible enough to give good advice are usually sensible enough to offer none.

--People who get something for nothing often express disappointment that they didn't get more.

--Hats off for the past; sleeves up for the present; chin up for the future.

--There was a father who was criticized by his neighbors for making his sons hoe corn while the other boys were playing at the swimming hole: "Why do you make your sons work so hard? You don't need all that corn." He replied, "I am not raising corn; I am raising boys."

--The biggest disadvantage in life is to have too many advantages.

--God made us as we are in order to use us as He planned.

--Vanity is the delusion that someone may be paying attention to us; paranoia is the delusion that everyone is.

--It is better to be alone than to be in bad company.

--What we often pray to God is not that His will be done, but that He approves our will.

--Sympathy is your pain in my heart.

--America is not a Christian nation. There is only one Christian nation: God's people, the church of Jesus Christ.