

Songs and Thoughts of Life
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Thoughts of the Savior

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1. My Savior, My Friend

“Ye are my friends,” the Savior said to His apostles at the last supper. He gave them a commandment to love one another as He had loved them. He also invites us to be His friends as He said, “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.” He is our truest friend, our Savior, our Redeemer. He invites us to come unto Him with our burdens that they may be made light. He invites us to behold the wounds in His hands and in His feet. He invites us to be faithful and keep His commandments, that we shall see His face and dwell with Him in the kingdom of our Father in Heaven. **May we be a friend of the Savior as we accept His great atoning sacrifice and follow Him faithfully as a true disciple.** This song reflects my feelings for, “My Savior, My Friend.”

My Savior, My Friend

There was a man from Galilee, the Son of God was He.
He healed the sick, the dead He raised, the sinner He set free.
Oh, my Lord and my Savior, help me follow thee.

Though the road was long He did not shirk His mission to fulfill.
His greatest sacrifice He made for us on Calvary's hill.
Oh, I thank Thee my Savior, Thou who loves me still.

His atoning sacrifice He made that death would not be our end,
But light and life eternally through He who is our friend.
Hear the words of the Savior, He, who endured to the end.

Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart
And ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
Behold the wounds which pierced my side, and the prints of the nails in my hands and feet;
Be faithful, keep my commandments and ye shall inherit the kingdom of heaven.

(Matt. 11:28-30, D&C 6:37). RTS

2. Finding Peace Through the Savior

As we look for peace in our lives we need to look no further than the Prince of Peace, our Savior Jesus the Christ. He left peace with His apostles and His peace with us as we come unto Him. The Savior grants us peace through the comforter, even the Holy Ghost, as we qualify for the spirit in our lives. He also grants us peace as we come to Him and receive His great atoning sacrifice, even as the people at the time of King Benjamin's powerful invitation to his beloved people. He grants us peace through His great love and unconditional love for each of us that satisfied the demands of justice and brings us back to the presence of the Father.

He grants us peace through understanding the plan of salvation, and the peace that comes through keeping the commandments. He taught that in this world we would experience tribulation, but would also experience peace, for He has overcome the world. He grants us peace through light, the light that shines in darkness and fills our hearts with warmth and understanding. Paul spoke of the peace of God that passes all understanding in Colossians 3:15, “Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.” What is that which rules in our hearts? Hopefully peace and love will carry us on to eternal life as we follow the light, example and love of our Savior that will lead us safely home.

3. Through His Gift I Live

Through His Gift I Live

I am a disciple of Jesus, the Christ, answering His call: "Come all ye that thirst."
I hear His voice, I read His word, I learn of Him and call Him Lord.
And come to see His will for me, and through His suffering I am free.

I'll follow Him, I'll choose Him. All that He asks I'll give.
He is the way, He is the Light, and through His gift, I live.

Though I am yet weak through His grace I'll be strong;
And through the darkness He'll lead me along.
I'll honor Him, I'll serve Him, His every word I will obey
Through covenants I'll follow Him and come to see His face someday.

I'll follow Him, I'll choose Him. All that He asks I'll give.
He is the way, He is the Light, and through His gift, I live.

I thank Thee dear Lord for Thy great love shown unto me
Though I once was blind, my eyes now see.
I love Thee Lord with all my heart, I need to choose the better part.
I need to give as Thou hast giv'n, that I may enter into Heav'n.

I'll follow Him, I'll choose Him. All that He asks I'll give,
He is the way, He is the Light, and through His gift, I live.
Oh---, and all He asks, I'll give. He is the way,
He is the light, and through His gift, I live.
Tom Sutton.

Mormon, an ancient prophet declared: "**Behold, I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.** I have been called of him to declare his word among the people, that they might have everlasting life." (3rd Nephi 5:13). In the last verse of the same chapter he declares: "And then shall they know their redeemer, who is Jesus Christ, the Son of God"; (3rd Nephi 5:26). Much of that knowledge of discipleship will come through diligently searching and pondering the message of the Book of Mormon along with study of the New Testament with its many accounts of the Savior and His ministry. After His resurrection, as the Savior descended among the Nephites, His other sheep in the Americas, He declared: "Behold, I am Jesus Christ whom the prophets testified shall come into the world. And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning." (3rd Nephi 11:10-11). **We have the invitation to come to know Jesus Christ** and to be a true follower **through the pathway of discipleship** which will lead us to accept His great atoning sacrifice and gain the greatest gift of Eternal Life.

4. Come Unto Christ

The invitation of the Book of Mormon is to “come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness... and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God. And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy, without spot.” (Moroni 10:32-33). The title page of the Book of Mormon teaches that its purpose is unto the “convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the ETERNAL GOD, manifesting himself unto all nations.” **The Savior’s invitation to “Come, follow me” is that sacred invitation to come unto Him and receive His great atoning sacrifice; that where He is, we may be also.** Once we have come to know Christ, our life’s work should be to assist as many souls as we can to also come unto Him and be perfected in Him.

5. Majesty, Love, and Honor

Are there any words to describe the majesty, power, and love of our Father in Heaven and our Savior Jesus Christ? Words fall far short in any effort to convey the depth of what we feel for all that we have been given. These few verses express in a small way the feelings of the heart in recognizing the great power, love, and kindness shown to us by our Maker. May He always be praised and honored for all that we have received at His merciful hand.

Majesty, Love, and Honor

Glory be to the Father, blessed be ever His name.
For His loving kindness, ever His love we’ll proclaim.
Truly the greatest gift He gave, that of His precious Son.
Who prayed in His atoning hour, that we become as one.

Never was shown a greater love, than in Gethsemane.
There the gate was opened, that through His blood we’ll be free.
May we accept His gift of love, from the royal courts above.
May we be now filled with that love, that gift from God above.

Chorus:

Majesty, love, and honor unto Christ the King.
May we ever serve Him and to Him praises sing.
Glory be to God on high for all that He has giv’n.
May we here obey His law, then enter into heav’n.

Then may our eyes look upward, up to the light of the world.
May we live the gospel and see its banner unfurled.
May we have the strength to love and serve as He would have us do.
May we always remember Him and all our lives be true. RTS.

6. He Went About Doing Good

The Savior throughout His life went about doing good. He who was the Master took upon himself the form of a servant. He listened and then He responded with the thing that was the very best for the individual He was interacting with. He was so in tune with the spirit that He knew men's needs before they even asked him. Through His faith and priesthood power He healed the sick, made the lame to walk, the blind to see and the dead to return to life again.

Although we will not accomplish all the miraculous things the Savior did, we can still go about doing good. We can give a kindly word to the downtrodden and lift up the hands that hang down. We can strengthen those with the feeble knees of discouragement. We can provide a meal to those who are hungry and stand beside those bowed down with grief. We can strive to do what the Savior would do, to say the things He would say, and try to be like Him in all that we do. We can open our spiritual eyes to the needs of those around us. **May we go about doing good as He went about doing good.**

7. Peace, Good Will Toward Men

As the angelic hosts proclaimed the birth of the Messiah they praised God in exultation saying: **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."** (Luke 2:14). Centuries earlier the prophet Isaiah had referred to the Savior as the "Prince of Peace." To His beloved disciples at the Last Supper he offered peace: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." (John 14:27). In the storms of life, let us remember that as the disciples were on the boisterous sea the Lord declared, "Peace, be still" and there was a great calm. That blessing is offered to each of us as we turn to Him in our desperate hour of need, and He will indeed succor us. Peace and good will were the gifts offered to a troubled world. He came to heal our wounds and our hearts and offer His light which brings eternal hope and eternal life through His atonement. May His peace be with and abide in each of us now and always, as we sojourn here upon the earth.

8. Our Savior's Love

The apostle Paul declared: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor power, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39). The love of our Savior was manifest to us in all that He did; extending from the creation, to Humble birth, perfect life, infinite atonement and glorious resurrection points us toward the great pathway leading to eternal life. Truly His love exceeds any emotion which we have ever felt or will ever feel until we return someday back to His presence. **Never was shown a greater love than in Gethsemane and on the cross of Calvary.** Through the Savior's life we come to see true charity, or the pure love of Christ, for each and every one of God's children as He trod the winepress alone on our behalf. May we accept His great gift of love that we may return to heaven above should be our deepest desire.

9. Receive the Gift

Receive the Gift

Receive the gift of the Savior,
Receive the gift of His love.
Receive the gift of the Spirit,
Receive His light from above.
Receive the joy of the gospel,
Receive the strength to overcome.

Receive His servants and message,
Receive His covenants so dear.
Receive the power of His priesthood,
Receive revelation through prayer.
Receive all that life has to offer,
Receive as you walk now by faith.

Receive truth and life everlasting,
Receive God through His gracious Son.
Receive of His mercy and goodness,
Receive Him that we may be one.
Receive now His plan laid before us,
Receive Christ, the anointed one. RTS.

There are many priceless gifts that we are invited to receive during our sojourn here upon the earth. As we accept the Savior and are baptized we are invited to receive the precious gift of the Holy Ghost. As we return to the table of grace and receive the sacrament we are invited to be cleansed through the infinite atonement of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. That remarkable gift of forgiveness is a well of water that we must drink deeply from again and again, for that is the way we are born again unto life eternal. **As we receive the gift of the atonement and come to know the Savior we also come to know the Father, even God, our Heavenly Father.** “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3). May we receive all the gifts that our loving Father has offered to us: The gift of the Holy Ghost, the gift of the atonement of Jesus Christ, and the ultimate gift of coming to know God and dwelling eternally with Him and our beloved Savior in Their royal courts above.

10. Give My Heart

There is a marvelous thought expressed by Christina Georgina Rosetti which goes as follows:

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what can I give Him?
Give Him my heart. Christina Georgina Rosetti

How can we give Him our heart? First remember that He gave us His heart by suffering the infinite atonement for us in the Garden of Gethsemane, and He literally died of a broken heart on the cross at Calvary. But how do we give Him our heart? We do it by living, not by dying. We give Him our heart by obeying, by serving and by loving. And before you know it there is a change. We then give Him our heart by loving, and loving and loving. How does that change come? It becomes as we change our heart; we have no more desire to do evil and our obedience becomes more automatic. We change our heart when serving becomes not a duty but a privilege. We change our heart when loving changes from love to true charity, seeing each of our brothers and sisters here upon the earth through the eyes of Christ. That is how we give Him our heart; that is how we do our part, and then we proclaim, My God, How Great Thou Art!

11. Thy Will Be Done

In the premortal realms we first hear the voice of the Savior as He said, **“Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.” (Moses 4:2).** We were also in that grand council in heaven and committed that we would also do the will of the Father. We again hear the voice of the Savior as He taught in the Sermon on the Mount: **“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”** (Matt 6:10). We also in our prayers often pray that we will be able to do the Father's will as we follow our Savior, Jesus Christ. We finally hear the voice of the Savior once again in the Garden of Gethsemane: **“Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.”** (Mark 14:36). There are times in each of our lives when we choose to be not entirely obedient as the Savior was. In that moment or hour of trial, take a moment to consider the Savior's response in the Garden of Gethsemane. **Think for a moment of the millions or billions of murders that He atoned for, the atrocities of genocide, the betrayals, the sorrows, the loneliness, the abuses that have occurred throughout the history of the world. Then consider this thought: Do I want to add anything more to the Savior's load than He has already paid for me?** May we become more like the Savior, to be able to say, “Father, thy will be done,” whatever the trial or temptation, or suffering may be. You will find that He is there, in that time of need, to succor and carry you through triumphant, whatever your challenge may be.

12. Keep My Heart

Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. Within our hearts we carry our emotions, our desires, our dreams, and our treasures. **Our hearts are the very center and the lifeblood of our being here upon the earth.** Remember always to guard your heart and keep it centered on the things of God, for if you do it will be well with you. This song invites us to keep our focus on the Savior.

Keep My Heart

Keep my heart, oh my Lord, in the straight and narrow way.
Help me follow in Thy footsteps, as did those of yesterday.
Help me find the greatest treasure, that of life eternally.
Keep my heart turned unto Thee, filled with love and charity.

As thy life spread thy love, from the royal courts above,
Help me truly love my neighbor, as I come to know thy love.
Help my heart to feel more keenly, train my eyes each need to see.
Keep my heart turned unto Thee, filled with love and charity.

Thanks I give unto Thee, for thy mercy shown to all,
For Thy light shines through all, giving life to great and small.
May Thy glory shine forever, throughout all eternity.
Keep my heart turned unto Thee, help me come dear Lord to Thee.

Chorus:

Keep my heart, my Lord, my Savior, keep my eyes turned unto Thee.
Help me see life's greatest beauty, feel Thy love and majesty.
Cast me not away my Savior; help me draw now nigh to Thee.
Help me follow in Thy footsteps, on the path that leads to Thee. RTS 2000

13. The Lord Is My Shepherd, 23rd Psalm

One of the great passages of scripture is the 23rd psalm. It is recognized across many religions as a manifestation of the Savior's guidance in our lives. Reflect on the wonderful message that it contains.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (23rd Psalm)

14. Do You Know the Shepherd?

Our great quest in life is to come to know our Savior, Jesus the Christ. That quest is worth whatever price we have to pay and opens the pathway for us to receive eternal life. Our Savior stands with outstretched arms, pleading on our behalf. He is our Advocate, our Redeemer, our Lord, and our God. May we come to know Him, to kneel before Him with tears of gratitude for His great sacrifice and infinite love for us.

Do You Know the Shepherd?

Do you know the Shepherd? Have you heard His voice?
Have you felt His presence standing near your side?
Have you searched in tears for the meaning of His life?
Have you knelt in a quiet place, your cares to Him confide?

He gave the atonement to bring us home to God.
He wants us to travel the path that He once trod.
Come and follow Me is the invitation clear,
That's the one sure way to go to find our Shepherd dear.

First chorus:

All our lives have trials and we oftentimes fall,
Searching for His lost ones He's had to find us all.
Once His blood was shed for us on Calvary's lonely tree,
Now He asks a broken heart that we, His lambs may be.

I now give my all that I may come to Thee.
One small gift I give Thee, help me to know Thee.
May I kneel before Thee, My Lord, My God, My King!
Take my hand to walk with Thee, then how my heart shall sing!

Second Chorus:

All our lives have trials and we oftentimes fall,
Searching for His lost ones He's had to find us all.
May we ever hear His voice and strive His lambs to be
That He may our Shepherd be through all eternity. RTS.

15. God So Love the World

One of the most beautiful passages in all of scripture is found in John 3:16-17: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." What a glorious and powerful message! Because of God's great love for us, His children, He provided a way through our Savior to obtain eternal life and return back to His presence. That is the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That wonderful plan all came about through love. The first great commandment is that we should love God, but the first great truth of the gospel is that God first loved us. **He loved us so much that He allowed His Only Begotten Son to suffer and bleed from every pore, ultimately giving His life on the cross to die for us, and open the door to resurrection and eternal life.** Truly: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). Although perfect, the Savior, even the Anointed One, the Christ, voluntarily laid down His life as a sacrifice for each and everyone of us, that the stains of our sins could be cleansed and we could become clean to once again return to the presence of God and our Loving Savior. Should we not shout praises forever to His name? God be thanked for the matchless gift of His Beloved Son.

16. The Reach of Divine Love

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said, "However late you think you are, however many chances you think you may have missed, however many mistakes you feel you have made; or however far from home and family and God you feel you have traveled, I testify that you have not traveled beyond the reach of divine love. It is not possible for you to sink lower than the infinite light of Christ's Atonement shines." Although we may feel downtrodden, discouraged or defeated, never give up hope. Hope springs eternal when we realize that we have an Elder Brother, even Jesus Christ, who reached beyond depths unimaginable to rescue us from the grasp of Satan. He alone made it possible for us to be redeemed and cleansed from sin to help us return to the presence of the Father; He trod the winepress alone so we would not have to. As long as we have any spark of desire to repent and do better He will reach down, however far is needed, to extend the hand of mercy, love, and compassion to lift us from the depths of despair to the encircling arms of His love.

17. How Great Thou Art

Truly, one of the greatest songs ever written is the beloved hymn “How Great Thou Art.” It was written in different countries and diverse languages over the course of seventy years with the input of several translators who never met. The first intimations of this great song began in 1886. The reverend Carl Boberg was strolling over the grounds of a coastal estate when he was caught in a sudden thunderstorm. Witnessing this awesome display of power he penned the words to a poem “Oh Great God.” Years later Stuart Hine was serving a mission in the Ukraine when he became aware of the song and translated it into English, and later added the fourth verse of the hymn as we know it today. **This wonderful hymn begins on earth and ends in heaven. It carries us from the creation through mortality and back home to the Creator in all His majesty.** When you sing this hymn, reflect on its powerful message and the power of our great God.

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

When thru the woods and forest glade I wander, And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze,

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin,

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, And take me home,
what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim,
My God, how great thou art!

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art! (Stuart K. Hine)

18. Ye Have Done it Unto Me

The Savior taught His disciples: "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and give his life a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:27-28). Just as the Savior was the servant of all, so we should strive to serve in every way that we can to build the kingdom of God here upon the earth. The words to this song serve as an invitation to do good unto others and in so doing, become the hands of the Savior in any way that we can.

Ye Have Done it Unto Me

There's a truth we must know on our journey, that no one stands alone.
There are others who've walked in our footsteps with trials as our own.
Yes, others who share our burdens, that they may be found light.
Yes, others who stand beside us to help us choose the right.

We are children of God that is certain, of Father up above.
He has sent us to help one another, to share His gift of love.
To lift up the sick and weary, to help each soul in need.
He wants us to light a candle, His lambs for us to feed.

There is much to be done on our journey, to show all that we care.
There are brothers and sisters to carry, their load for us to share.
Remember the Savior's message, give unto those in need.
That He may say unto you, "Ye have done it unto me."

Chorus:

Yes, brothers and sisters surround us, yes, brothers and sisters dear.
With hearts knit together we'll journey in faith and not in fear.
Our lives, they grow together, as woven by our love.
As children of the Father, go share His love from above. RTS

19. Do You See the Savior's Face?

Do you see the Savior's face in every person you meet? **Do you see each person as a son or daughter of God? When we see each person as the Savior sees him/her, then we will have true charity.** John Bytheway taught that there are several components to charity: First, our Savior's love for each of us, second, our love for Him and third, the true love of the Savior that the Father bestows on us as a gift. It is easy to see some individuals as the Savior sees them, such as family members and closest associates; it is when we reach beyond those relationships and love our enemies that true charity is developed. The Savior taught us to love our enemies on the cross when He pleaded with the Father, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Do you look for the good in each person you meet and do you ponder on the great potential that each person has as a son or daughter of God? May we look deep within ourselves and "pray to the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye (we) may be filled with this love (charity) which He hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of His Son, Jesus Christ." (Moroni 7:48)

20. Martin the Cobbler

In a masterful story Leo Tolstoy relates the experience of Martin the cobbler. Martin had a dream one night that the Savior would come and visit him the next day. Early in the morning he prepared everything for the coming of his special visitor. Three times he was visited but only by those who stood in need. To one he gave a warm meal, to another he gave a fine pair of shoes and to the last, his warm blanket to keep a young girl from freezing. At the end of day he was heartbroken that the Savior had not come to see him, but then his eyes were opened. He saw the mother in need, and the one in need of shoes. He saw the young freezing girl that he had saved from freezing. He then heard these tender words of the scriptures: "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; naked and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, thy brethren ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:35-40). May we see the face of the Savior in every person we meet, in every person we serve, in every person who stands in need.

21. The Beatitudes

Have you ever heard the Beatitudes set to music? One of the greatest discourses ever recorded is found in the teachings of the Savior in the Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes He outlined a pattern of living that would teach us to follow Him and one day return to the presence of our Father in Heaven. The Beatitudes teach us an ascending pattern to become more Christlike. It begins when we recognize that we are poor in spirit and need the Savior's help. It culminates when we are fully converted and are willing to be persecuted for righteousness sake. Listen to these words and hear the Lord speaking to you.

The Beatitudes

And He open His mouth and taught them saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

As He said once to them, He says now unto you:

Blessed are ye poor in spirit for yours is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye that mourn for ye shall be comforted.

Blessed are ye meek for ye shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are ye which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for ye shall be filled.

Blessed are ye merciful for ye shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are ye which are pure in heart for ye shall see God.

Blessed are ye peacemakers for ye shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are ye which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for yours is the kingdom,

Yours is the kingdom, yours is the kingdom of heaven. Adapted by RTS (Matt. 5:2-10).

22. Other Sheep I Have

As the Savior ministered among the Jews during His mortal ministry He referred to His “other sheep” who would hear His voice. As John records, during the Savior’s discourse on being the Good Shepherd, the Savior said, “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” (John 10:16). Who were these other sheep that were to hear His voice? The answer is found in the Lord’s visit to the American continent after His resurrection. An account of the Savior’s visit to His disciples on the American continent is recorded in the Book of Mormon in the Book of 3rd Nephi chapters 11-26. As the Savior ministered He taught: “And verily I say unto you, that ye are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also must I bring, they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.” (3rd Nephi 15:21). The Savior taught that those at Jerusalem had mistakenly thought that He was talking about the Gentiles, but He told them that the Gentiles would not hear His voice but the Gentiles would be taught through the teaching of the Apostles. The Savior concluded His teaching with these words: “But behold, ye have both heard my voice, and seen me; and ye are my sheep, and ye are numbered among those whom the Father hath given me.” (3rd Nephi 15:24). **We are all numbered as His sheep as we accept the covenant of His gospel.** The Book of Mormon stands as Another Testament of Jesus Christ to bear witness of His name and His divine mission, atonement, and resurrection opening the door for us to attain eternal life.

23. Behold Your Little Ones

As the Savior ministered to the Nephites after His resurrection He was getting ready to leave for the evening. He invited them to go to their homes and ponder upon the things He had told them and to prepare their minds for the morrow, when He would come again. The multitude was in tears and they longed for Him to stay longer at which point He healed the lame, the blind, the maimed, the withered and the deaf. Tenderly, as many as were able, kissed His feet with their tears. Then He commanded, “That their little children should be brought.” So they brought their little children and set them down on the ground round about him...and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them... And he spake unto the multitude, and said unto them: Behold your little ones. And as they looked to behold they cast their eyes toward heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about, and they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them. “ (3 Nephi 17: 11,12,21,24). Later as the Savior again ministered among the Nephites, “He did loose their tongues, and they did speak unto their fathers great and marvelous things, even greater than he had revealed unto the people, and he loosed their tongues that they could utter.” (3 Nephi 26:14). What a wonderful experience! **Those tender, sweet spirits of the young children had only recently left their heavenly home to dwell here upon the earth. There truly was a glimpse into heaven as the multitude did indeed, “Behold (Their) Little Ones.”**

24. The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles

At the turn of the century on Jan 1, 2000, The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles issued the declaration, "The Living Christ." The declaration reiterated that He was the Jehovah of the Old Testament and the Messiah of the New Testament. It referred to Him as the creator of the earth, and of His bringing a gospel of love, peace and goodwill. He healed the sick, raised the dead, instituted the sacrament and suffered the atonement as a great vicarious gift on behalf of all who would ever live upon the earth. He was the Firstborn, the Only Begotten in the flesh, the Redeemer of the world. He rose from the grave to become the firstfruits of them that slept. He ministered to His other sheep in the modern world. He and His Father appeared to Joseph Smith, ushering in the fullness of times. The testimony of the prophet Joseph Smith along with living apostles and prophets have been recorded. They declared in words of solemnity that His priesthood and His church have been restored to the earth. They bore witness that He will someday return to the earth to rule as King of Kings and reign as Lord of Lords. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son. We have been invited to commit to memory this wonderful declaration. But even more important, is to have that message written in our hearts; that burning conviction that Jesus is indeed the Christ, Our Elder Brother, Our Redeemer, Our Savior. **May we search, ponder, pray and meditate on the perfect life and atoning sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, that we too, may bear humble and powerful witness of the Living Christ by our words, our actions and our lives as we dwell among our fellow man and prepare for the glorious Second Coming of our resurrected Lord.**

25. Can Others See the Savior Through You?

A wonderful question to ask ourselves when faced with a decision is, "What would Jesus Do?" If we consider that question we will always know what the right answer is. It has been said that if you were the only Christian that someone knew what would they think of Christ? In the Sermon on the Mount the Savior invited us to be a light unto the world. Indeed, He is the light that we should hold up, that others may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. It is our opportunity and obligation to develop those Christlike attributes of the Savior; those attributes of faith, hope, charity, kindness, gentleness, meekness and love unfeigned, of patience, obedience and diligence, of virtue and humility and holiness. Our life's mission is to develop all of those infinite virtues that the Savior possesses. A wonderful children's song helps us, "I'm trying to be like Jesus, I'm following in His ways. I'm trying to love as He did, in all that I do and say. At times I am tempted to make a wrong choice, but I try to listen as the still small voice whispers Love one another as Jesus loves you. Try to show kindness in all that you do. Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought, for these are the things Jesus taught." **May we so live that others who see us will indeed know what the Savior is like.**

26. Yoked With the Savior

The Savior invites us to yoke our efforts with His. What a wonderful invitation! As He said: “Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matt. 11:28-30). There are three significant ways that we can yoke our efforts with the Savior: First is to have faith and to come unto Him. Faith is the action portion of belief as we put forth our efforts to be joined with the Savior. Second is to live righteously, to build upon the rock and to do His sayings. Third is to enter into a covenant with Him through ordinances of baptism, priesthood and the temple. And what is the result of this? We are all heavy laden at some point in our lives, and He gives us rest and strength through His perfect example, life, and atonement. How could His burden be light; He who bore the burden of carrying the weight of all the murders, atrocities of war, the tragedies of abuse, loss of loved ones, failed marriages, addictions, unfulfilled dreams, and an infinite toll of so many other difficulties. His burden is light because He is the light of the world and has carried off triumphant the atonement, brought to pass the resurrection, and guides His church today through living apostles and prophets. Yet, in all His majesty, He cares for us individually as a beloved brother or sister and will yoke His great power with our feeble efforts to help us to accomplish whatever we need to do to return to His presence.

27. You Will Present Yourself Before the Savior

President Nelson shared a powerful insight into a future day when we shall individually present ourselves before the Savior. He taught: “In a coming day, you will present yourself before the Savior. You will be overwhelmed to the point of tears to be in His holy presence. You will struggle to find words to thank Him for paying for your sins, for forgiving you of any unkindness toward others, for healing you from the injuries and injustices of this life. You will thank Him for strengthening you to do the impossible, for turning your weaknesses into strengths, and for making it possible for you to live with Him and your family forever. His identity, His Atonement, and His attributes will become personal and real to you.” May we use each day to prepare for that glorious event in our lives and may we make the atonement a daily occurrence as we strive to walk on a higher plane each and every day of our lives.

28. And This is Life Eternal

“And this is life eternal that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”(John 17:3). What a powerful and ennobling thought! When we consider our purpose here upon the earth it comes down to one simple and basic concept. We knew our Heavenly Father and our Savior Jesus Christ in the premortal realms. We loved them and worshiped them. Our invitation is to come to know them once again in this life through accepting and living worthy to receive the atonement and learning to obey the commandments of our Father in Heaven, walking by faith and not by sight. In D&C 14:7 we learn, “And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God.” And what is that great gift? It is to dwell in the presence of our Father and Eternal mother, to feel their great love, glory, light and knowledge and to dwell as eternal families forever. This mortal existence is but a small few moments when compared to eternity, but our eternal destiny depends on how we choose to live during this brief time of mortality. It is truly worth whatever sacrifice we must make to achieve that eternal goal. May we do all that we can to come to know God through prayer, through obedience and through love, and may we come to know the Savior by accepting and living worthily to receive the blessings of His infinite atoning sacrifice for us.

29. Behold the Man!

Behold the man! These words were spoken by Pontius Pilate before the frenzied crowd at Jerusalem as the Savior of the world was condemned to be crucified on a cross. Pilate acknowledged that he had found no fault in the Savior but was swayed by the demonic demands of the chief priests and officers who demanded that he be crucified. Pilate desired to let the Savior go but he gave in to popular uproar. Many in the crowd believed in Jesus but their voices were drowned out by the tumultuous mob. As President Uchtdorf stated in a talk in April 2018: “They could see Jesus, but they did not truly behold Him. They did not have eyes to see.” He continued, “We too are invited to behold the man... It is significant and important that we each come to know for ourselves. So when you ponder the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, what do you see? So, when you are encompassed by sorrows and grief, behold the Man. When you feel lost or forgotten, behold the Man. When you are despairing, deserted, doubting, damaged, or defeated, behold the Man. He will comfort you. He will heal you and give meaning to your journey. He will pour out His Spirit and fill your heart with exceeding joy... When we truly behold the Man, we learn of Him and seek to align our lives with Him... We show our love for Him by keeping His commandments and by living up to our sacred covenants.” (Dieter Uchtdorf April 2018). **May we learn of Him and truly behold Him as our Savior, our Redeemer and our God.**

30. In a Coming Day

On April 6, 1985 Bruce R. McConkie gave his final conference address thirteen days before his death. It was entitled "The Purifying Power of Gethsemane" and he bore a powerful witness of our Savior and of His great atoning sacrifice. He recounted the events in Gethsemane, the trial and crucifixion, and glorious resurrection. He spoke of the Garden of Eden, The Garden of Gethsemane, and the Garden of the Empty Tomb. In conclusion he spoke these words: "I testify that He is the Son of the Living God and was crucified for the sins of the world. He is our Lord, our God, and our King. This I know of myself independent of any other person. I am one of his witnesses, and **in a coming day I shall feel the nail marks in his hands and in his feet and shall wet his feet with my tears. But I shall not know any better then than I know now that he is God's Almighty Son, that he is our Savior and Redeemer, and that salvation comes in and through His atoning blood and in no other way.** God grant that all of us may walk in the light as God our Father is in the light so that, according to the promises, the blood of Jesus Christ His Son will cleanse us from all sin. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen." (April Conference 1985). I would encourage each of you to read and ponder the message of this talk and gain your own unshakable testimony of our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ, and His great atoning sacrifice on our behalf

31. I Believe in Christ

Bruce R. McConkie was a noted author, scholar, apostle and disciple of the Lord, Jesus Christ. He had a strong, deep timbred voice that penetrated to the depths of the soul when he spoke. He also carried a wonderful spirit about him and was able to eloquently express the feelings of his heart. He wrote a song that has become a beloved hymn. It expresses his belief in Christ, and serves as an example of the testimony and feelings about the Savior that we should each develop. Enjoy the words to this beautiful hymn and consider your own depth of feeling about the Savior.

I Believe in Christ

I believe in Christ; he is my King! With all my heart to him I'll sing;
I'll raise my voice in praise and joy, In grand amens my tongue employ.
I believe in Christ; he is God's Son. On earth to dwell his soul did come.
He healed the sick; the dead he raised. Good works were his; his name be praised.

I believe in Christ; oh blessed name! As Mary's Son he came to reign
'Mid mortal men, his earthly kin. To save them from the woes of sin.
I believe in Christ, who marked the path, Who did gain all his Father hath,
Who said to men, "Come, follow me, That ye, my friends, with God may be.

I believe in Christ- my Lord, my God! My feet he plants on gospel sod.
I'll worship him with all my might; He is the source of truth and light.
I believe in Christ; he ransoms me. From Satan's grasp he sets me free,
And I shall live with joy and love In his eternal courts above.

I believe in Christ; he stands supreme! From him I'll gain my fondest dream;
And while I strive through grief and pain, His voice is heard: "Ye shall obtain."
I believe in Christ; so come what may, With him I'll stand in that great day
When on this earth he comes again To rule among the sons of men. (Bruce R. McConkie)

32. A Carol to My King

As we contemplate the wondrous birth of the Savior into the world our hearts are filled with gratitude for that sacred event. No greater gift has ever been given or will be given, and it is a gift to each of us. He has indeed given us everything, so we must ask, "What can I give in return?" As we contemplate the gift that we can give to our beloved Savior the answer becomes clear. We can give Him a broken heart and a contrite spirit. We can accept His invitation to "Come unto Him." We can become His hands to minister and serve our fellowman. The Savior's gift was truly a gift of love. May we give back to Him those gifts of everlasting value: our hearts, our obedience, our service, and our love. May we desire to someday return home to His arms of love, our one small gift we can give to our precious Lord and Savior.

A Carol to My King

A carol to my King, it makes my heart now sing,
In praise and joy and adoration.
It fills my heart with love, for His great gift of love
Descending from His home of glory, of glory, of glory.

His birth had been foretold by prophets, those of old,
Declaring Him the promised Savior.
A vision comes to me, my eyes they now can see,
A Babe who left His throne of glory, of glory, of glory.

A gift may now be giv'n, a gift to He who's ris'n,
To give to Christ, the Holy Shepherd.
A gift from you and I, as one of the Magi,
That gift we choose to give the Savior, Our gift to the Savior.

Chorus:

Give glory to the Lord, sing praises to the Lord,
Give glory to the Lord now forever.
Give Glory now and forever. RTS

33. Five Marks of the Divinity of Jesus Christ

In a message presented at a fireside in December of 1979, President Ezra Taft Benson taught of the "Five Marks of the Divinity of Jesus Christ." He taught "**I gratefully bear testimony of the marks which bear witness to His divinity: His divine birth, His ministry, His atoning sacrifice, His Resurrection, His promised (second) coming.**" When one considers these five pillars of the Savior's divine mission it is remarkable how they are seamlessly woven together. His birth had been prophesied for centuries and the mighty angel Gabriel announced His pending birth to the virgin Mary: "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest." The Savior's ministry was a powerful message of His divine mission through the miracles, the charity and perfect life of service and obedience to His Father's will. His life exhibited the compassion of a loving God and He showed us the way to live and find true happiness and fulfillment. His infinite atonement opened the gate for us to be forgiven and cleansed from our sins to enable us to return home to the presence of God. His glorious resurrection ensured that we will overcome the grave and have the hope of immortality and eternal life. He will come again and we look forward to that day with joyful anticipation thanks to the divine mission of our loving Lord and Savior.

34. I Stand at the Door

In the Book of Revelation the apostle John speaks of the wonderful invitation of the Savior in these words: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20). What a wonderful invitation! In a well known painting it shows the Savior knocking on the door. The interesting point is that there is not a doorknob on the side of the door, meaning that it is up to us to open the door. In a sense the Savior is saying to us "I have already paid for your sins through my own precious blood, please accept that atoning sacrifice on your behalf." See D&C 19:16-18. **The Savior stands before us knocking on the door, in a sense with arms outstretched unto us even as He gave His life upon the cross. He has not forsaken us and never will. Let us accept His invitation and open the door, allowing us to sup with Him and partake of His goodness and His atoning sacrifice.** As we do we will receive the promise found in Revelation 3:21: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." May we all accept that invitation through the great and atoning sacrifice of our beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

35. An Embrace By the Savior

Elder Melvin J. Ballard recorded an experience where he felt the sweet companionship of the Savior in a dream. He related that experience as follows: "I found myself one evening in the dreams of the night in that sacred building, the temple. After a season of prayer and rejoicing I was informed that I should have the privilege of entering into one of those rooms to meet a glorious personage, and as I entered the door, I saw, seated on a raised platform, the most glorious being my eyes have ever beheld or that I ever conceived existed in all the eternal worlds. As I approached to be introduced, He arose and stepped toward me with extended arms, and He smiled as He softly spoke my name. If I live to be a million years old, I shall never forget that smile. He took me in His arms and kissed me, pressed me to His bosom and blessed me until the marrow of my bones seemed to melt. When He had finished I fell at His feet, and, as I bathed them with my tears and kisses, I saw the prints of the nails in the feet of the Redeemer of the world. **The feeling that I had in the presence of Him who hath all things in His hands, to have His love, His affection and His blessing was such that if I ever can receive that of which I had but a foretaste, I would give all that I am, all that I ever hope to be, to feel what I then felt.**" May we so live that when we meet the Savior we will be able to receive that sweet embrace and feel that eternal joy in our hearts through worthiness to dwell in His presence.

36. Come to See His Face

As we strive to come to know the Savior, there is some marvelous counsel contained in the Doctrine and Covenants: "Verily, thus saith the Lord: It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am; (D&C 93:1). Here is a wonderful pattern to come to know and see the Savior, and to eventually feel comfortable in His presence. It starts by 1. Forsaking our sins, 2. Coming unto Him, 3. Calling on His name, 4. Obeying His voice and 5. Keeping His commandments. That process is available to all of God's children here upon the earth, and He invites to enter and then follow the covenant path that leads back to His presence. We must desire to follow Him and then exercise faith to repent of our sins. We then enter into a covenant with Him in the waters of baptism whereby our sins are washed away and we become born again into His kingdom. He then bestows a marvelous gift, even the Holy Ghost to guide us into all truth, to be a protector, and to bear witness of the Savior. As we strive to come to know Him we will experience that unspeakable joy when we return back to His presence, humbly and tearfully kneeling at His feet, expressing our love and our gratitude with all of our hearts for cleansing us through His infinite atonement, that we return to live eternally with our Heavenly Father and Savior and Redeemer, even the Lord Jesus Christ.

37. O Divine Redeemer

As he spoke in the October 2009 general conference after the Tabernacle Choir had just sung the hymn, “O Divine Redeemer,” Elder Jeffrey R. Holland spoke these words: “To this choir: may they accept the thanks of everyone in this audience and all who heard them sing this choral prayer, which is surely the ultimate sermon of this or any conference of this Church and the cry of every human heart.” The composer, Charles Gounod composed several hundred sacred songs. He composed this hymn in April 1893, six months before his death. It contains a pleading to the Lord for forgiveness, mercy and help. Listen, feel and understand the message of this powerful song.

O Divine Redeemer

Ah! Turn me not away, Receive me tho' unworthy;
Hear Thou my cry, Behold, Lord, my distress!
Answer me from thy throne, Haste Thee, Lord to mine aid,
Thy pity shew me in deep anguish! Let not the sword of vengeance smite me.
Though righteous thine anger, O Lord! Shield me in danger, O regard me!
On Thee, Lord, alone will I call. O divine Redeemer!
I pray Thee, grant me pardon, And remember not, remember not my sins!
Forgive me, O Divine Redeemer! Night gathers round my soul;
Fearful, I cry to Thee; Come to mine aid, O Lord!
Haste Thee, Lord, Haste to help me!
Hear my cry! Save me Lord in Thy mercy; Come and save me O Lord
Save, in the day of retribution, From Death shield Thou me, O my God!
O Divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Saviour! (Charles Francois Gounod)

38. The Miracles of the Savior

When we speak of the miracles of the Savior where do we begin? Remember the words of the apostle John: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God...All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. (John 1:1,3). As we reflect on the Savior’s miracles during the Savior’s mortal ministry we come to truly understand that He possessed power over the elements. He turned the water to wine at the request of His mother. He healed the sick, caused the blind to see, raised the dead, calmed the storms, healed the lepers and many, many more miracles.

Even greater than these miracles are found in His living a perfect life and carrying out the infinite atonement of each and every one of His spirit brothers and sisters here upon the earth. At the conclusion of His mortal ministry He voluntarily gave His life as a ransom for each of us. Equally magnificent along with the atonement was His glorious resurrection, post mortal ministry in both the old and new worlds and endowment of His power upon His disciples. He strengthened Peter so that the Peter that denied three times knowing the Christ later was transformed into the bold and courageous Peter that even those who passed under his shadow were healed.

One of the miracles is that miracles continue today here upon the earth to those of a strong faith and discipleship in our Lord and Savior. As we truly reflect on the Savior, His miracles, His mission and His triumph over death and sin we may say as did John in concluding his gospel: “And there are also many things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.” (John 21:25)

39. Hosanna

As the Savior entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday he was greeted by the multitude with the words: "Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest." (Matt. 21:9). The word Hosannah is of Hebrew origin, meaning save now or save we beseech thee. As the Savior entered the Holy City the chant was one of joy and exultation. As we reflect on that utterance we must realize that our joy comes only as a result of our Savior's suffering in carrying out the incomprehensible atonement. Therefore our joy must also be tempered with humility and the recognition that we must offer a broken heart and contrite spirit symbolic of the price the Savior paid for each and every one of us. Alma the younger describes the feelings of being on both sides of this life changing experience. He declared: "And now for three days and for three nights was I racked, even with the pains of a damned soul. And it came to pass that as I was thus racked with torment, while I was harrowed up the memory of my many sins, behold, I remembered also to have heard my father prophesy unto the people concerning the coming of one Jesus Christ, a Son of God, to atone for the sins of the world. Now, as my mind caught hold upon this thought, I cried within my heart: O Jesus, thou Son of God, have mercy on me, who am in the gall of bitterness, and am circled about by the everlasting chains of death. And now, behold, when I thought this, I could remember my pain no more; yea, I was harrowed up by the memory of my sins no more. And oh, what joy, and what marvelous light I did behold; yea, my soul was filled with joy as exceeding as was my pain! (Alma 36:16-21). **Alma understood the true meaning of the word, "Hosanna," Lord, Save (me) now. May we also gain that true joy that comes by experiencing the sacred cleansing and healing power of the atonement is my inmost desire for each one of us in our own time and in our own way, according to the will of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.**

40. What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Who is your truest and most faithful friend? Hopefully you have several true friends but there is one that is always there and will always be there and that is our loving Elder Brother, Jesus Christ. **Even if you feel that you are friendless, know that there is one who gave his life for you and for me and for each and every one of us.** In the 1800s Joseph Scriven wrote a poem about our Savior that I think has a wonderful message. It goes like this:

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and grief to bear!
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in pray'r!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; Take it to the Lord in pray'r
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrow share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in pray'r.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour still our refuge! Take it to the Lord in pray'r.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in pray'r.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.
(Joseph M Scriven) 1820-1886

41. The Passover

The passover represents the deepest religious significance to Jews and Christians. To the children of Israel it represents the “passing over” by the angel of death at the time the firstborn of Egypt were slain as the final plague of Egypt. A lamb without blemish was to be killed without a bone broken and the blood sprinkled on the side posts and over the head of the door. This event was commemorated by the Jews looking back to the time of their deliverance. Our Savior became the sacrificial lamb at the time of the passover as His blood was shed to save us all. The most significant passover meal was at the Last Supper when the Savior instituted the sacrament, converting the symbols of the original passover to represent His own atonement through the water and wine representing His blood shed for us and body sacrificed for us. As Peter taught: “We are redeemed by the blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish.” (1 Pet. 1:18-19). It was prophesied that not a bone of His body would be broken symbolic of the sacrificial lambs being killed without a bone of their bodies being broken. We can gain greater understanding by looking back to the institution of the passover at the time the children of Israel were delivered by slaying a lamb and marking the doorposts, then focus our minds forward from that point to the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, our Savior, on the cross at Calvary. As Amulek taught: “For it is expedient that an atonement should be made; for according to the great plan of the Eternal God there must be an atonement made or else all mankind must unavoidably perish...this is the whole meaning of the law, every whit pointing to that great and last sacrifice; and that great and last sacrifice will be the Son of God, yea, infinite and eternal. (Alma 34: 9,14). May God be thanked for the matchless gift of His Beloved Son.

42. Christmas

Christmas! What a wonderful and special time of the year. It truly is a time of joy, of love, of healing and of service. We give because the Savior first gave to us. He gave us the atonement and a perfect life of love, service and obedience. The wise men came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. As we think of the Savior we think of His many titles: Jehovah, The Anointed One, The Lamb of God, Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, The Redeemer, The Creator, Our Advocate, The Firstborn, The Messiah, and so many more.

The question may be posed to us as it was at the time of the Savior, What Think Ye of Christ? **If we love Him with all our hearts as our Elder Brother who gave His life for us, we realize that it is impossible to ever fully repay Him. But, we can give Him one gift: our heart.** We can give him our love with all of our heart, might, mind and strength. We can try to be His hands to do what He would do, and try to say what He would say. At this Christmas time and always may we strive to be true disciples of our Lord, Savior and Redeemer, even Jesus the Christ. That will bring the true meaning and joy and love of Christmas, not only on Christmas day but each and every day of our lives.

43. Our Savior's Atonement

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). The Savior, speaking of His own role as the Advocate declared, "Listen to him who is the advocate with the Father, who is pleading your cause before Him saying, Father behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin, in whom thou wast well pleased; behold the blood of thy Son which was shed, the blood of him whom thou gavest that thyself may be glorified; Wherefore Father, spare these my brethren that believe on my name, that they may come unto me and have everlasting life." (D&C 45:3-5). And as Alma declared, "And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people. And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities." (Alma 7:11-12). **Great joy and thanksgiving should be ours, that our Elder Brother, Jesus the Christ, wrought the perfect atonement that we may experience the great gifts of immortality and Eternal Life as we accept and live worthy of His infinite atoning sacrifice for you and for me!**

44. A Night in the Garden

The greatest event in the history of the world is the great atoning sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In some way incomprehensible to us our Savior took upon Himself the combined weight of all our sins. Can we ever thank the Savior enough for all that He has done for us? "A Night in the Garden" reflects my thoughts on our Savior and His great infinite and atoning sacrifice for you and me and all mankind.

A Night in the Garden

There was a night in the garden there, where Christ, our dear Lord prayed.

The Word He was, the world He made but the world knew Him not.

He bowed His head and knelt alone, His heart grew heavy there.

The foreordained one met His hour in a garden called Gethsemane.

Three times He prayed, oh so earnestly in awesome agony.

The three disciples He left near, and asked, would ye watch with Me!

Three times He came as they slept on and He was left alone.

The burden of a world in sin there He suffered and for us atoned.

Gethsemane He overcame, then on to Calvary.

The mockery of a trial He bore, then they nailed Him to a tree.

Again He bore the weight of sin, the sins of you and me.

No greater love was ever shown as the Savior gave His life for me.

Conclusion.

Great drops of blood fell from every pore, the world's sins He meekly bore.

Dear Father please remove this cup, yet if Thou wilt, I'll drink it up.

He trembled 'neath the awful load that He alone could bear.

Two thousand years have come to pass, His grand return is near.

The Living Christ has overcome that we not slaves but heirs may be.

May we remember evermore His sacrifice divine

That to His presence we'll return; to Father's light and love divine. RTS

45. The Savior's Utterances on the Cross

As the Savior's mortal life came to close on the cross at Calvary there were seven known utterances made by Him that can bring understanding and comfort to us regardless of what our circumstances may be. His first utterance was: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34). Even in the midst of incomprehensible suffering He is still our intercessor and advocate before the Father. He will forgive us as we repent and also as we forgive others. His second utterance was to the thief on the cross, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43). The Savior knew that he would break the bands of death and the gospel would be taught to each son and daughter of God either in this life or in the spirit world. His was a message of comfort and hope to all. His third utterance was to His mother and to the beloved Apostle, John: "Woman, behold thy son!" And to John, "Behold thy mother!" (John 19:26-27). One of His final tasks in mortality was to see that His mother was taken care of. Such an example of love and tenderness is a reminder that we should be thoughtful and tender with those we care for.

His fourth utterance was one of agony: "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34). In nearly His final moment, the agonies of Gethsemane recurred and the Father withdrew His spirit so that the Savior alone could gain the complete victory over sin and death. In our trying hours when we may feel so alone, know that the Savior knows our pain and suffering and will be there to succor us in our hour of need as we turn to Him. His fifth utterance was: "I thirst" (John 19:30) In that trying hour, racked with pain and suffering, His lips parched with dehydration, the Savior revealed that He was, as we are, subject to pain of body and suffering. The fact that He overcame all the trials of mortality should give us hope that we too can overcome our trials, whatever they may be, through His strength and grace. His sixth statement was one of accomplishment: "It is finished." (John 19:30).

The Savior, in that moment, realized that He had gained the victory over death and evil and completed His mortal mission here upon the earth. We too, must endure to the end of our lives knowing that even though there will be hard times, we can gain strength through knowing that when we can go no further, He will carry us, as long as we keep our faith and trust in Him. The seventh and final utterance was: "Father, into thy hands, I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46). **The Savior had been foreordained in the foundations of the world to carry out the incomprehensible atonement and open the gate for us to be redeemed from death and gain Eternal Life in the presence of the Father. This great act culminated His perfect life and an atonement wrought with His atoning blood to be able to cleanse us from our sins, weaknesses and infirmities to enable us to some day walk back to the presence of the Father.**

46. What Has Jesus Christ Done For Me?

A question to ponder is to ask, "What has Jesus Christ Done for you and for me?" One needs only to look back to the premortal realms to see the beginning of His role when the Father asked, "Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Son of Man: Here am I, send me." (Abr. 3:27). On that occasion he declared: Father thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever." (Moses 4:2). In those premortal realms the Savior was appointed to come and rescue us from sin and to open the doorway to the resurrection. Our Savior, Jesus Christ created this earth on which we dwell. He was the Only Begotten of the Father, having the power to lay down his life for us through the atonement, but also had the power to take up His life by breaking the bands of death and opening the door to Eternal life. The Savior also declared: "I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I am the life and the light of the world...As many as receive me, to them will I give power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on my name." (D&C 11:28-30). He lived a perfect life and therefore was not subject to death. He set the example for us living in humility and obedience. He organized His church and gave His priesthood power to the twelve apostles to bear witness of Him throughout the world. He was the Master teacher, always saying those things the Father would have Him say. He taught of the mission of the Holy Ghost which would come after He had passed on from mortality.

He carried out the infinite atonement, taking upon Himself not only the sins, but also the pains and sicknesses of every human being who has ever lived or who will live upon the earth. He suffered the mockery of a trial and willingly gave His life for us on the lonely cross at Calvary. As His body lay in the tomb he organized the preaching of the gospel to the dead in the spirit world and then on that glorious Sunday morning arose from the dead, breaking the bands of death and pointing us toward the path of eternal life. Following a period of apostasy from His teachings He appeared along with the Father in our day to usher in the restoration of the gospel through the prophet Joseph Smith. He later appeared in the Kirtland temple and presided over the restoration of priesthood keys to carry the work forth in this dispensation. He guides the restored church this day through ongoing revelation as the work of the restoration continues to unfold. He continues to guide the church as we prepare for His glorious second coming and He becomes a personal Savior to each of us, pleading our cause before the Father saying: **"Listen to him who is the advocate with the Father, who is pleading your cause before him- Saying: Father, behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin, in whom thou wast well pleased; behold the blood of thy Son which was shed, the blood of him whom thou gavest that thyself might be glorified; Wherefore, Father, spare these my brethren that believe on my name, that they may come unto me and have everlasting life."** (D&C 45:3-5). What has Jesus Christ done for me? Everything!!

47. Centered on the Savior

We live in a day of sophistication, of self-centeredness, and reliance on the things of the world. There are so many voices calling for our attention and advocating that we follow their voice. **The one sure path of safety is centering and focusing our lives on the Savior, Jesus Christ.** He is the rock upon which we must build our foundation; for when the floods and storms of life come, if we are not centered on Him our house will surely fall. (See Matthew 7:24-29). Becoming a true disciple of the Savior, coming to know Him and learning to do His will should be our highest priority. Truly as He said: "No man cometh to the Father but be me." We must accept and receive His great and infinite atoning sacrifice and strive to become obedient to His law and commandments. Just as the Savior said to the Father: "Not my will, but thine be done." so should our lives become a process of doing to the will of the Father and the Son and not our own. That is the path of safety, that is the path of peace, and that is the path that will lead us safely home after we conclude this life of mortal probation.

48. He Will Come Again

As the Savior was taken up into heaven after his resurrection the disciples were filled with wonderment and amazement. "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:10-11). After the Savior appeared to the Nephites He likewise told them that He would come back at a future time. We are still waiting today for His triumphant return. There are many prophecies that have been fulfilled, with some yet to be fulfilled, as we await the return of the Savior. Prophets once again speak the words of heaven; the missionaries are proclaiming the gospel throughout the world. Temples dot the earth where sacred ordinances are sealing families together forever in fulfillment of the prophecy of Malachi, that Elijah would come to turn the hearts of the children to the fathers and the fathers to the children. The Book of Mormon has become a second witness of the Savior and His mission. Unfortunately, the love of men is waxing cold and there are wars and rumors of wars in many places. We live in a time of pollutions and a time of great iniquity. Fortunately, even as evil is increasing in the world, righteousness is also increasing in the world as we live in the dispensation of the fullness of times. **He will come again! Will we be ready and prepared to greet Him as He comes or will we be as the foolish virgins, scrambling to prepare when the time is far spent?**