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RELIGIOUS POEMS By Cleanard R. Price

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Digital Edition 09/29/2003 By Holiness Data Ministry

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01 -- I ONLY ASK

I do not ask for pleasant scenes Along my path to lie, I only ask that every step Shall lead to God on High.

I do not ask that sunshine bright May flood my path each day, I only ask that I may have His comfort on the way.

I do not ask a place of ease With nothing hard to do, I only ask that in the test That God will keep me true.

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02 -- I WOULD NOT DRIFT

I would not leave the path That leads to realms above, I would not drift beyond His call The shelter of His love.

I see the golden butterfly On flower gently sway; I feel the guardian angel near To guide me, lest I stray.

The bridge that spans the chasm, The river's chilling tide, The nasty shoal, n'er daunts the soul, With Jesus as a guide.

The undergrowth of forest green,

The climb for sunlit glade, I would not shun, but follow, in The path my Saviour made.

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03 -- LIFE IS A MESSAGE

This paper bears a message It is not bonded grand, But stands for worth and service A friend to any man.

So may my life be A true unfolding thought, Always remembered, For the message it has brought.

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04 -- DO IT NOW

If you have a job to do
Do it now,
If its worth the doing
Do it now;
There's a joy in knowing
You are through,
Do it now.

Be a worker, not a drone, Do it now, Laziness you should bemoan, Do it now; It's a pleasure just to find You have finished up in time, Do it now.

First impressions are the best,
Do it now,
Face the thing, then you can rest,
Do it now;
Putting off of things to do,
May incline to fret and stew,
Do it now.

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05 -- THE WHEAT AND THE TARES -- Matt. 15:24-31

The seed that was sown among the tare Sprang up with a joyful air, You would have thought to behold it A bountiful harvest there.

But low from the soil was springing Satan's tare to choke the grain, Which crowded the wheat for footing That God given place, to gain.

I thought when I saw the struggle I'd stoop and remove the tare; But I found to my amazement, That the roots were tangled there.

So I prayed to the God of harvest That He might strengthen the seed, Imparting His life within it, Giving strength to throw off the weed.

And my Lord so sweetly answered 'Till I saw the wheat grow strong, For it stood by faith in Jesus, And overcame the wrong.

All hail to the one who conquers, Who's heart is strong and true, Who yields an abundant harvest, As in life he passes through.

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06 -- THANKS FOR THE GUARDIAN ANGEL, LORD

Thanks for the guardian angel To me this day you sent, Thanks for the help he gave me, And the courage that he lent.

I should have met with sorrow, As I journeyed today, Had he, not been with me, To hold all hell at bay.

The devil tried to trip me, But soon such help drew near, I walked right down the pathway Without a doubt or fear.

Thanks for the guardian angel, Thanks for his tender care, Thanks for the love that sent him, Thanks for the lesson rare.

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07 -- WHEN HE IS NEAR

I love to have the Saviour near, It brings such comfort, hope and cheer; Dispelling doubt, its gloom and fear, 'Tis great, to have the Saviour near.

I'm happy with my Saviour near, The path all Sunlit through the years Seems strewn with flowers, despite my tears; When I can have my Saviour near.

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08 -- THE DOUBTER

His faith he could not ground Nor did there fruit abound, Though not fettered, still bound, He lived in unbelief.

His life was in despair, All burdened down with care; Real Joy! it wasn't there, Because of unbelief.

Driven, and tossed by sin, All dark and hard within, Seeking pity to win, The woe of unbelief.

Oh, Christian friend of mine,

If heights sublime you'd climb You must leave doubt behind, Be done with unbelief.

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09 -- THE FEARFUL

I met one day a fearful soul
Though seeking for God's face,
They feared lest they had sinned to much
He would not give them grace.
But I assured them by His Word,
Christ died for such as they,
And when by faith we trust in Him
He rolls our guilt away.

One said I have no feeling great How can I then be saved? I answered trust not in the flesh But in the Christ God gave. Our feelings like the changing tide Will often rise and fall, But God who stands behind His Word, Will hear the Sinners call.

I can't forgive, another said,
Those deeds, they haunt me yet;
And many a time I go to bed,
Only to toss and fret.
You must forgive I cautioned then
If you would be forgiven;
If you do not, your fellow men,
Neither will God in heaven.

But relatives will cast me off,
My friends make fun and sneer,
I whispered, "Do you love them most,
Or would you have Him near?
The thoughts grew calm, the heart was bowed
In prayer, I heard them say,
I'll take the crass, t'was born for me,
And turn from sin away.

But can I in the Christian race Hold out, believe and pray;

Or must I when my friends insist, From Christ be led astray? You cannot hold -- His love must hold, 'Tis faith in Him you need; Believe Him, trust, obey His Word, He'll make you to succeed.

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10 -- CONTENTMENT

God lives above the clouds now gray, His hand of love will lead the way; Beneath His eyes let time unfold; Let neither zeal or faith grow cold, Keep nestled deep like birds in spring, And trusting God, Look Up and Sing.

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11 -- HE CARES AND... THAT'S ENOUGH

I saw a robin in the bush
A-singing in the rain,
It took the bitter with the sweet,
It sang in bliss or pain
And seemed to say to me that day,
These things will pass tho' rough,
I'll sing His praise what e'er He sends;
He cares, and that's enough.

A trout was shying up the stream
In search of food one day,
He saw a fly and quickly raised,
Then glided on his way;
He did not leave the water churned,
Nor think the going tough,
He was content with what God gave,
He cares and that's enough.

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12 -- GOOD NIGHT, JESUS

Good night dear Jesus, 'Twas so peaceful, our walk today, But my flesh is growing weary So, Good Night I will say.

You are not sleepy? Through the night you'll stay? Then I'll greet you in the morning, And we'll walk another day.

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13 -- OUR UNION HERE

Today we stand together, love, With all our dreams before us, And soon we shall united be, While God in love bends o'er us.

My heart, my love, to you I give, In spoken vows so tender, Each others trust we now hold dear And yield in full surrender.

Come loss or gain, sorrow or pain, To thee I shall be true; In want of wealth, sickness or health, I leave all else for you.

O Lord of host our union crown, May nothing come to sever; But grant us peace and happiness, A journey home together.

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14 -- NO LONGER TWO, BUT ONE

Ah love, to hold your promised hand Brings comfort, joy and cheer, And life is sweet for now we stand United from this year.

The Lord himself in love thought best Man should not live alone, From heaven he crowns our union here Thou art my very own. Until our lives so for apart, United have become, Our hearts in love together beat No longer two, but one.

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15 -- WHEREFORE DID'ST THOU DOUBT?

The multitude so late fed Was now sent home to rest, And Jesus went alone to pray Upon the mountains crest.

His toiling friends out in the boat Struggled with might and main, Although they pulled with all their power They could no headway gain.

Twas then the Master came along, They saw and feared the sight, He looked so like a ghost that walked Upon the waves that night.

"Be not afraid," His gentle voice Came floating to their ears, And Peter, when Christ bade him come, Lost every doubt and fear.

Soon he began by faith to walk Upon that swirling tide, But when he heard the cold winds blow His faith was sorely tried.

His eyes he took from off the Lord Then entered doubt and fear, He cried aloud for Christ to save, And found the Saviour near.

Wherefore, Oh Peter, did'st thou doubt? Thy trust must be in God, Believe His word and in that faith Thy soul shall firmly trod.

So doubt no more nor falter when Your chance for exploit comes;

Have faith in God for He through it Upholds His little ones.

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16 -- THE STRANGER

Once I walked beside a garden Heard a man's faint lonely cry, So full of love, and passion, That I could not pass him by. As I paused outside to listen Heard him plead for fallen men, How my heart in true devotion Wished to seek and follow him.

Then I saw a mob surround him, Saw their torches' reddish glare As they sought to take the stranger From his place of evening prayer. Cruel hands they laid upon him, Dragged him toward the judgment hall, And my heart was stirred within me As I looked upon it all.

Yet in meekness he went with them As a sheep before 'tis sheared, Stood he silent, clothed in purple, While the mob upon him sneered. On his brow a wreath, thorn-plaited, Pressed they till the blood it drew, Now, my heart was moved with pity, As I watched the lonely Jew.

Then they started toward Golgotha, But the cross was such a load, That they placed it on another Who came walking down the road. And the stranger, tired and weary, Walked unto the shameful place, And my heart was crushed in sorrow, As I thought of such disgrace

On the cross they laid and nailed him, But he murmured not a word, Still his voice was sweet and gentle Like the voice in prayer I heard. To the thief he spake forgiveness, Told how Paradise he'd share, Once again my heart was anxious, For I longed to meet him there.

In the tomb they finally placed him, But he arose before three suns, Now he lives, the conquering Saviour, Lives to save us every one. Would you meet this blessed stranger, Prove his love so kind and true Listen, friend, His name is Jesus, And He died for me and you.

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17 -- CALVARY-BOUGHT VICTORY

Oh listen to me and I'll tell you
A story so old yet 'tis true,
How a king left his fair home in glory,
All the powers of hell to subdue.
He was taken from prison and from judgment,
And his generation who shall declare,
For he went to the cross on Golgotha,
All the sins of this lost world to bear.

As I walked through this world heavy-hearted With a soul that was sin stained and sick, While I reached for the roses of pleasure, How my conscience with their thorns did prick. But I looked and behold one was standing, Smiling on me through tear stained face, His arms were outstretched to enfold me, In his touch, I found wonderful grace.

Now I realize that I am a prisoner
From the bondage of Satan set free,
That the blood which was shed on Mt. Calvary,
In mercy was given for me.
Oh my heart o'erflows with adoration
And I'm longing that others might see,
And I'm longing that others might see,
The fullness of God's great Salvation,
From sin and its bondage be free.

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18 -- THE HARVEST

Lead me gently blessed Saviour
O'er life's pathway,
In Thy footsteps keep me treading day by day
While alone with Thee my soul Thou art refreshing,
And I love to follow in this holy way.
Since you saved and sanctified me at the altar,
I have promised, "Yes, dear Lord, I'll work for Thee."
Now my heart rejoices in Thy blessed service,
True to those now lost in sin I long to be;
But the autumn breezes blowing and their sharpness,
Foretell me, that Thy coming draweth nigh,
In the harvest now white, keep me gleaning,
"Till I hear the summons from the sky.

Standing all around me now the fields are turning,
See the autumn breezes bend them to and fro,
Hark! I hear the Master calling,
"Who is willing?"
While so many faltering, hesitate to go;
Linger not my brother e'er the golden harvest,
By the storms of life be shattered to the ground,
And you mourn with deep regret your lost commission,
While you look with sadness on another's crown.
Gird you then for reaping, take the sharpened sickle,
And labor patiently tho' days be long,
When the harvest at last shall have ended,
With the sower sing the reapers song.

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19 -- JOHN THE BAPTIST

Somehow down within my heart, I have a love for the rugged John Who preached along the Jordan, Baptizing as he carried on.

For he introduced my Jesus The blessed Son of God; The living dying sacrifice, Near the path, so many trod. Why could they not accept him? Why should they scorn Him so? They saw revealed God's glory But repent and believe, Oh no!

They would rather hold to doctrine, The law, and the priests receive, Tho' he walked and lived among them, Yet they would not Him believe.

To conviction John was faithful, And he took a definite stand; Told of Christ and cried--"Repent ye" for the kingdom is at hand.

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20 -- THE BATTLE CRY

Oh Joshua how great thy faith In battle with thy sword, Commanding Sun and Moon stand still And trusting in the Lord.

God grant that I, thy courage seize, Thy faith spring up in me, 'Till that which moves not, shall move; And men from sin be free.

To Gad I look, and thus commune, Undaunted faith release, Bend heaven o'er earth, Revive thy work, Give men an inward peace.

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21 -- THE FATE OF THE IMPENITENT

Sinner scoffing at religion
In your vanity and pride,
Making light of all that's holy,
Spurning Christ the crucified;
You are walking on in pleasure,
With unrighteousness within,
Oh, beware lest at its coming,

Death will find you still in sin.

Sinner life is slipping from you, Little moments making days, You are not yet fit for heaven, You must change your sinful ways; Though God's truth is held before you, Still you will procrastinate; You can never enter heaven If you're but a moment late.

Sinner, life will soon be over, And your destiny be sealed, After death will come the judgment, When the truth shall be revealed; All your deeds will come before you; Those you thought were out of sight; With the vile you'll take the left hand, While God's children take the right.

Oh, you'll wake some day in sorrow, With a sad and bitter wail, You may pray on that tomorrow, But you'll pray to no avail; You may weep your loss forever, In your anguish and your pain, But from God forever severed, You must walk Hell's dark domain.

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22 -- REPENTANCE ROAD

Oh, how my heart in anguish bent Along repentance road The bitterness of every step, Was like a plowman's goad

I could not lift my eyes in pride, No merits could I find. I wanted only, God should speak, And cast my sins behind.

Deep in my heart there was a cry, For mercy on my soul. I wanted God to touch me, The guilt from off me roll.

Oh, depth of love, redeeming grace, Came swiftly to my soul, When I surrendered and believed, Christ came and took control.

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23 -- HE DID NOT FAIL

He did not fail; So may I trust, And let faith rest secure.

He will not fail; And I shall stand, Redeemed for evermore.

He cannot fail; He will not change, So long as time endures

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24 -- THE LONESOME BEGGAR

He was only a lonesome beggar Cast by the gate that day, When the rich man looked upon him He turned his face away. But the dogs came and licked his sores In this they tried to say, Friend Lazarus, just be patient, There will dawn a brighter day.

He was only a lonesome beggar And he longed for the crumbs that fell From the overloaded table Of the one who fared so well; But he died and the angels gathered To bear his soul away, Into faithful Abraham's bosom To be comforted for aye.

His life on earth was evil,

Starvation held its sway,
But at death it changed completely,
His faith received great pay;
I would rather live for Jesus,
No matter what the pain,
And in the final conflict
Eternal comfort gain.

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25 -- THE TRIUMPH OF STEPHEN

Oh what a wondrous beauty
In the Word of God I see,
Stephen there a-praying,
Down upon his knees.
No stone could mar his vision,
They were earthly you see,
The enemy killed his body,
But set his spirit free.

* * * * * * *

26 -- THE THREAD OF TRUTH

Deep within the Bible A thread of truth I see, Christ the coming Saviour Revealed in love to me.

Prophets proclaimed the message Angels desired to know, How faith in His blood Could set the heart aglow.

Some could scan the skyline It's secrets to unfold, Yet toward the scripture Their hearts were dull and cold.

I would see the beauty And the truth in every line, And in humble adoration Yield to Him, this heart of mine.

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27 -- CHRIST'S MINISTRY

Christ ministered to souls Who had last their way. Prayed through the night, Taught through the day.

Foes came to curse, Friends came to pity, He healed in the town, He preached in the city.

But many a soul Finds comfort in Him, Since He gave his life's blood To save from all sin.

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28 -- A VALUABLE CHOICE

Oh, I know the world offers pleasure And a host of time changing friends; But the Christ who abides for ever Will go with you to the end

If you'll come all your sins confessing, Humbly bowing at His feet, You will find this Great Salvation, Brings a joy supremely sweet.

Now, there's no need of hesitating, Just simply follow your heart; If it's spiritual light you're seeking, Christ will lead you from the dark.

Come give your all to the Saviour And trust His loving care: He'll walk with you in this life, And His future glories share.

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29 -- TOO LATE

It's too bad folks are so busy, No time to save a soul from hell, Some are so busy with T. V. They never tell their friends farewell.

The average life today is selfish. It hasn't time for God or man, But it has time for fun and pleasure, Boating, fishing and a good sun tan.

Do people think this world of fun Will finally lead to realms above? And can they enter heavens gate By mocking Christ, and shun His love?

My friend, its later than you think; Let's stop and change our sinful ways, The wrath of God lest we forget, Is soon to meet our gaze.

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30 -- KEEP IN TOUCH WITH JESUS

Keep in touch with Jesus While the moments fly, Keep his smile upon you And an open sky.
Let your faith be active, Grounded firm on high-Keep in touch with Jesus, While the years go by.

Keep in touch with Jesus
And the Spirit know,
Let your speech be Christ like
And your heart aglow;
Through a life of kindness
Grace to others show-Let Christ dwell within you
While you walk below.

Keep in touch with Jesus, 'Tis the only way, Start the day with singing, Close it as you pray.

Breath the name of Jesus Constantly in prayer--Live in faith believing God will meet you there.

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31 -- TODAY'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, I pray. Let others see Thee in me; Don't let me be just self, But myself, dear Lord, plus Thee.

The world has seen too much of me, I would it might see Thee; So help me now, that I might be, A true transparent Lord, of Thee.

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32 -- IT'S WORTH IT ALL

It's worth it all
To have a friend like Jesus,
And know that He
Will bless each day anew;
Tho' earthly friends
And loved ones may forsake us,
His loving hands
Will guide and see us through.

It's worth it all
To have our sins forgiven,
And know the presence
Of the spirit toe;
Tho' scorned on earth
To have a hope eternal,
And feel the pull
That helps to keep us true.

It's worth it all My friend, just to be faithful, For soon the time Will come to say, Adieu; The glory of Our risen, living, Saviour, With trumpet sound, Will soon break into view.

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33 -- THE CROSSING

I shall not fear the crossing Though dark the waters be, I know that Christ has gone before-That He can pilot me.

My boat in safety He will land, The raging tempest still, Till all lies peaceful at His feet, Submissive to His will

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THE END