

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:18, 24-25

HYMN: When Morning Gilds the Skies

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:

May Jesus Christ be praised

Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Hope in What We Cannot See



Right now, where we live, we are in the middle of winter. Trees are bare; snow is on the ground, but some muddy ground is showing through, and other parts are filled with dirt from the roads. On cloudy days, everything seems gray. Only a few birds are singing; on special days we may hear the gentle “honks” of geese flying overhead. Mostly, there isn’t much life. We often get the “blues” in the winter, when we aren’t getting much fresh air and sunshine. Some days, we almost feel like Spring will never come, like it will always be like this.

But year after year, Spring [eventually] *does* come! Snow melts completely away; trees begin to show buds; flowers bloom and birds sing again! The air feels light and fresh; we, ourselves feel light again, because we don’t need such heavy clothes to stay warm. Children are seen playing outside again; it feels like the world is brimming with life again. What a miracle we experience in Spring! Life-what we could not see before- seems to come out of nowhere!



Hard times in life can be like this, too. When we go through hard times, we are tempted to feel like things will never change or be like they used to be. If we do begin to think this way, we begin to grow discouraged and lose heart. During these times, we need to stay in God’s Word- to read of His promises, experience His encouragement and let Him minister hope to our souls.

It also helps so much when others who have been through hard times like ours offer understanding and stories of how the Lord delivered them through their troubles. It makes us feel encouraged that the Lord will help us, too. Such people are gifts from the Lord.

Whenever you are going through a hard time in life, remember the picture of Spring. We all have experienced hard times; remember how each one came to an end. Or, if the Lord does not choose to end your suffering on earth, He has permanent healing in heaven! Paul said in Romans 8:18, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

And, remember that hope is called “hope” because we cannot yet see what we hope for! We must not expect to see it with our eyes: “For in hope we have been saved, but hope

that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.” Romans 8:24-25

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