

Living Water

Joe Slater

A spring in the Arkansas Ozarks gushes nine million gallons of water every hour – that’s 2500 gallons every second! No wonder it’s called “Mammoth Spring”! And it seems to make little if any difference whether it’s summer or winter, drought or flood. Like the Energizer Bunny, it just keeps going and going.

Amazing as that is, the “water” Jesus offers surpasses it in every way. He told the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, *“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water . . . Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life”* (John 4:10-14). Whereas H₂O temporarily quenches physical thirst, the “water” Jesus gives (salvation, eternal life) provides permanent satisfaction.

And that living water streams forth in a veritable flood! (No supply chain issues!) *“He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him”* (Hebrews 7:25).

The Lord invites us to drink our fill of this precious commodity. *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely”* (Revelation 21:6). *“And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely”* (Revelation 22:17).

Do you thirst for a right relationship with God? Trust Jesus and obey His gospel! *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled”* (Matthew 5:6).

Where The Gates Swing Outward Never

As a very young preacher fresh out of college I was sitting near the bedside of a man who was an unbeliever. He was nearing the time of his death and I was most anxious to convert him to the Lord. Sadly, there seemed to be nothing I could do to change his thinking. He did, however, lament that in his death he would be leaving behind his wife, and this was truly a grief to him. He had no hope of ever seeing her again.

There is, though a great difference between the departure of a Christian and the death of an unbeliever. When Dorcas’ friends gathered with Peter to weep at the passing of this dear sister, they couldn’t help being comforted by the blessed hope of her glorious resurrection to eternal life. Still, to say goodbye to this beloved saint distressed even those with strong faith (Acts 9:36-42).

During World War I a father went with his soldier son as the young man prepared to board a ship for the war zone in France. Knowing that when he boarded through those swinging gates he might never see his father again, the son commented: “Dad, if I never meet you again here, I’ll meet you where the gates never swing outward.” While riding the train back to Chicago, Charles Gabriel meditated on the parting words of his son and then wrote those memorable lyrics for the song, “Where the Gates Swing Outward Never.”

To say goodbye to those we love is not so hard if we have hope that we will see them again. What balm it is to our aching hearts that “over there” the dear ones will never be leaving us, for we shall be “where the gates never swing outward!”

--Hershel Dyer (deceased) via *Old Paths*; adapted

ON SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

When the nihilistic philosophy of “Do Your Own Thing” in the 1960s replaced the ancient verities of objective morality and divine revelation, confirmed by the miraculous, it created a moral vacuum into which humanism rushed. [Editor’s note: Nihilism is the philosophy that life is meaningless and there are no moral or religious values.] A religion of self-denial was replaced with one of self-fulfillment and self-esteem as individuals set off on a quest to “find themselves.” Nothing short of moral anarchy, that emphasis on “self” has become the narcissistic worldview of much of society, including pampered children who murder their classmates.

Casting aside the objective standard of morality embodied in Biblical precepts, society has embraced a religion of human subjectivity; and education has moved from the bedrock foundation of an objective moral standard to the shifting sands of “self-esteem.” That be-all and end-all of a state-run education system has resulted in a plague of violent death to school children across our land. Immunized against life’s realities by “sensitivity training” and loosed from moral restraints by the state-sponsored dogma of Darwinian Evolution, it should come as no surprise that youngsters from “good homes” are now killing their classmates. After all, if we are nothing more than glorified apes, why should it be wrong for us to kill each other?

--Jerry Brewer, excerpt, *The Gospel Preceptor*, July, 2022

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).