

It's truly amazing what a girl will do for love.

My wife, Jean, and I lived next door to each other for ten years before we were married. My sophomore interest in high school biology had sparked a live caterpillar collection. Their home was a shoe box, covered with screen wire. When I went on vacation, Jean fed them faithfully with leaves from her willow tree. She hated it.

Finally the caterpillars stopped their incessant crawling and chewing, attached their tails firmly to a stick and lay still, sheathed with a shiny leather-like case. For weeks they seemed to be dead, unmoving in their tiny gray wrappings. I removed the screen and waited.


One by one, the gray cases began to twist and turn violently, and suddenly split open. A beautiful butterfly emerged. It stood for hours gently moving its wings, pumping fluids into them to extend them fully. Then the butterfly soared gracefully away on the breezes of summer, leaving nothing behind but a broken chrysalis to indicate its former bondage.

The chrysalis and butterfly suggest the empty graveclothes of our risen Lord. When Peter and John heard the news that the Lord's body was gone from the garden tomb, they ran all the way from their lodging. Peter entered the tomb and "he saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen" (John 20:6-7, NIV). The graveclothes once wrapped continuously around the body now lay collapsed, mute testimony that the corpse they had once shrouded had now emerged in life.

The bondage of death is broken. Christ is risen! We can face tomorrow with the assurance that Jesus is in fact alive to help us, to guide us, to give us hope for the future. And since He is living, our problems are not insolvable. The broken chrysalis of His graveclothes proclaims that Christ is Victor even over death. Because He lives, nothing is impossible.

Hail to the King

A crown they made but it was thorns,
A purple robe to hide the blood
The words of hail came from their lips,
But their hearts and eyes were dark with mud
"Here is your king", the ruler said,
Their hearts were dark as dark as mud
Christ claimed to be the Son of God,
A claim He would seal with His own blood
The resurrection crown soon He would wear
The crown He'd give to all who'd hear
Then through the ages we will cheer
"Hail to the King!" we will not fear!



Glory Hallelujah!
Jesus
Set Me Free

Linden Lodge Service
March 27, 2011
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

March 27, 2011

Thought for the Week: “Begin each day anew
and forgive yourself for each yesterday.”

Key Verse: “Bring joy to your servant,
for to you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul. (Psalm 86:4)

Opening and Prayer:

Songs:

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing 10
Holy Spirit Breathe On Me 210

Scripture Reading:

Romans 9:1-12; 30-33
Psalm 1

Message: Ron Schindel
Stumbling Blocks

Closing Hymn:

All Praise to Him Who Reigns on High 119

Benediction: Hardy Friesen

Postlude: Jean Thiessen

Happy Birthday, Gwen Hanses

The Lord has been faithful through another year and we are confident that our great Shepherd will be with you in the days ahead.

Tomb thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right...
(Philip Brooks “An Easter carol”)

REMEMBERING GOD’S FORMER BENEFITS

David Wilkerson

Nothing contributes more effectively to encourage us to come to the throne of grace than the remembrance of God’s former benefits.

Our faith would succumb under adversity, and sorrow would choke our hearts, were we not taught to believe from the experiences of the past. It helps us to believe he will hear the prayers of his people and always do in the present and the future what he has done compassionately in the past. What has God done for you in the past?

What about your history with him in your walk over the past years? Did he not keep his word? Did he ever fail to keep his word?

“Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us, that thy people will rejoice in thee?” (Psalm 85:6).

This has been my prayer: “Lord, do it again! Revival? Do it again. Strength, refreshings of the Holy Spirit? Lord, do it again! Miracles in the past? Lord, do it again!”

Go all the way back to the Law and hear what is revealed of his nature: “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...” (Exodus 34:6-7).

That is what God was, and is, and will be! God has kept you so far; why would He turn from you now?

Humour: the best medicine

“Have you ever had a mental block when you’re trying to spell a word?” I asked my husband. I told him that I’d wanted to withdraw \$40 that day from our account, but I couldn’t remember if 40 was spelled fourty or forty.

“What did you do?” he asked.

“I took out \$50.”