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Thy Word Abideth

Lord, Thy Word abideth,
And our footsteps guideth ;
Who its truth believeth
Light and joy receiveth.

Who can tell the pleasure,
Who recount the treasure
By Thy Word imparted
To the simple-hearted ?

Word of mercy, giving
Succour to the living ;
Word of life, supplying
Comfort to the dying !

O that we discerning
Its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear Thee,
Evermore be near Thee.

—Rev. Sir H. W. Baker

The Promise First

God speaks in two ways,—in command and in promise ; but in promise first. By the assurance of His love and care He wins the hearts of men to Himself, and then lays upon them His requirements. He gives Himself to them, in all His grace and goodness, before He seeks anything at their hands. Before the Ten Commandments, with their inexorable and unyielding demand of holiness, stands the declaration, "I am the Lord thy God" ; and that great sentence, pointing, as it does, to past deliverance and present guidance, contained the great motive which should influence Israel to obey the divine law, contained, too, the pledge of needed strength.

If the promise comes first in the Old Testament, even more manifestly does it come first in the New Testament. "By grace", writes Paul, "are ye saved..unto good works."

The unstinted and unsparing love of the Father, offered to all mankind in the amazing gift of the only begotten Son, must first take possession of the heart in the fulness of its constraining power, and then, as naturally as the tree grows or the flower blooms, the newly awakened feelings and desires will work themselves out in a life of service.

"Give what Thou commandest, and then command what Thou wilt", is the famous saying of the great Augustine. Those who launch out, with the undaunted venturesomeness of real faith, on God's promises, will never lack the strength required by the sternest and most difficult of God's commands.

Love and Law

By Rev. Frank Rae, M.A.

Love and Law are words of closest kinship. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart." There it is,—*"shalt love"*, *"love..with all thy heart"*, that is, with all one's power of loving. God lays down this as the law of the heart. So the heart has its law as surely as the body in which it beats. Law is everywhere in God's universe ; the infinitely little and the infinitely great are alike under law. Human nature, too, every part of it,—soul, intellect, conscience, is under law, dwells in a region of law. "Thou shalt love",—that is the law of the heart, written in its very structure. The heart loves, must love, cannot help loving something, and in that fact lies the terror and the glory of life. "Thou shalt love."

Yes, but that is not the heart's law in its completeness. It is this : "Thou shalt love thy God" supremely. That law the heart may violate, may even repudiate, but can neither alter nor cancel, for, as the hart pants for the water brooks, so panteth the