

O, break into song also, winds and waves, all things that have voice; and sing, sweetest birds, for Jesus has lived and died and risen and now reigns; and let man rejoice in this finished way of redemption!

### By Way of Illustration.

*Verses 1, 2.* Luther sought peace in self-denial and retirement as a monk, but did not find it. He went to Rome, hoping to find relief from his burden there. He was disappointed and shocked at the wickedness which he found there. At last he turned to ascend Pilate's staircase upon his knees, thronged by the superstitious crowd. He toiled from step to step, repeating his prayers at every one, till a voice of thunder seemed to cry within him, "The just shall live by faith." Instantly he rose, and saw the folly of his hope of relief through works of merit. A new life followed his new light. Seven years later he inaugurated the Reformation.—*Foster.*

Bunyan in *Pilgrim's Progress* makes very plain the doctrine of justification by faith:

"Then was Christian glad and lightsome, and said with a merry heart, 'He has given me rest by his sorrow and life by his death.' It was very surprising to him that the sight of the cross should thus ease him of his burden. Now as he stood looking he began to weep, when behold, three shining ones came to him and saluted him with, 'Peace be to thee.' So the first said to him, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee;' the second stripped him of his rags, and clothed him with a change of raiment; the third gave him a roll with a seal on it, which he bade him look on as he ran. So they went their way."

*Verses 3-5.* "Glory in tribulations." The springs at the base of the Alpine mountains are fullest when the summer sun has dried and parched the verdure in the valleys below. The heat that has burned the arid plains has melted mountain glacier and snow, and increased the volume of the mountain streams. Thus when adversity has dried the springs of earthly comfort, the saint has the fullness of the springs of salvation.

*Verses 6-11.* The cross of Christ corresponds with that one spot lying right beneath the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, where the spectator, commanding all the grandest features of the edifice, is instructed to look around him if he would see the monument of its architect. In all the universe the cross is the spot where we obtain the fullest exhibition of the Godhead.—*Guthrie.*

Did you ever think how Christ loved to call himself the Son of man? He was the Son of God, but his favorite name for himself was Son of man. What he wanted to do was to get himself close to us. He could serve us in no other way. The whole meaning of the incarnation is God getting close to

humanity. Only mother love can, to my mind, interpret this love. I have seen a mother sit by the bedside of a sick child, and the delirious child dash its hand in the mother's face, taking the mother for a stranger, throwing the medicine from the hand which was striving to save it. Does the mother give the child up? No, she is seeking to save that which, but for her, would be lost. Do we really believe that God loves us as a mother loves a poor sick child, even though so often we be delirious.—*Margaret Bottoms.*

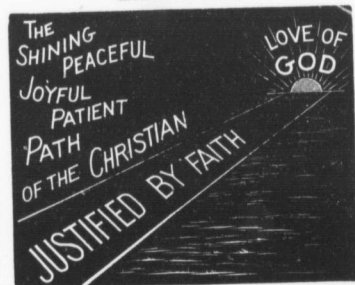
### The Teachers' Meeting.

Notice the general purpose of this epistle, to set forth and defend the plan of salvation through Christ.... Explain "justified;" "peace with God;" "access;" "tribulations;" "patience;" "experience;" "hope;" "maketh not ashamed;" "without strength;" "justified by his blood," etc.... Show what are the requisites and conditions of salvation as here set forth.... Nine privileges of a believer, as presented in this lesson.... Teachings of the lesson concerning God.... Concerning Christ.... Concerning sin.... Concerning salvation.... Duties which it requires.

### References.

FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA. Ver. 1: Prose, 10922, 4555, 4369, 3443-3450. Ver. 2: 1516, 1696, 2076, 4025. Poetical, 1858. Ver. 3: Poetical, 2464, 603. Prose, 1187, 4344, 4345, 5661, 5759-5773. Vers. 3-5: Prose, 6067. Ver. 6: Prose, 10507. Ver. 7: Prose, 1694, 2235, 2961, 2700, 7885. Vers. 10, 11: Prose, 2794, 4871-4874, 4879-4888.

### Blackboard.



The path of the one who is pardoned of sin is shown on the board. Justified by faith in Christ, the path becomes: 1. "A shining way," because of the sun of God's love shining thereon. 2. A peaceful way. Why? (See verse 1.) 3. A joyful way. (See verse 2.) 4. A patient way. (See verse 3.) Add to these such other blessings as you may find set forth in the lesson.