

Take, for example, the first Lesson for the present Quarter—The Two Great Commandments: the Daily Readings for Monday and Tuesday embrace the Lesson itself. That for Wednesday is the splendid passage in Deuteronomy about writing God's law on the posts of our doors; that for Thursday, some quaint commands from Leviticus about old-world ways of being good to one's neighbors. On Friday comes Samuel's rebuke to King Saul; on Saturday, our Lord's woe on the Pharisees—in each case a rebuke of heart disloyalty coupled with outward obedience; and on Sunday, Paul's commendation of the cheerful giver. One can safely guarantee a good understanding of the Lesson passage to anyone who has intelligently followed these Daily Readings throughout the week.

The Palace Beautiful

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D.

The Palace Beautiful—that is John Bunyan's name for the church, in The Pilgrim's Progress. And the Supplemental Hymn for the present Quarter tells us about this palace.

The name does not mean that the church must be a large and splendid building: it may, indeed, be very plain and simple, and yet be more full of loveliness than many a grander structure. Why, the very first verse of the hymn tells us that the "God of grace" is to be found in the church. Love, kindness, pity, pardon—these are so many rays of light from grace, the central sun.

Each verse has its own charm. The second pictures the dove sent forth from the ark, and finding it only when it returned. So it is, that, when we come to our loving Father, we find peace for our souls. God's people marching across the wilderness and fed with manna from heaven—like this, the third verse teaches us, our heavenly Father will feed His children.

But there is a place more lovely than even the church on earth. It is the heavenly home. And the last verse points us to this home prepared and kept for us. We must sing this hymn for very joy, when we think of all God is to us now and will be to us forever.

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