

# Expository Files 17.12 ~ December, 2010

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## **Perfect Love Casts Out Fear**

**The Front Page 17.12**

**By Jon W. Quinn**

*Scary times!*

What will the year 2011 bring? What Perhaps it will bring Jesus; return. But if not, will it be a year of anxiety, dread or despair for me? It need not be, even though the mountains should quake.

After Adam and Eve sinned against God they tried to hide from Him. Of course, such is impossible then and now. When God asked them why they were trying to hide, they said that they were afraid (Gen. 3:10). Fear was a very unpleasant new experience for them, one of many. The world would never be the same for them or for their future descendants. It would never be the secure home it had once been.

It greatly helps those who determine to live by faith to learn well the lessons about fear in the Bible. For example, if you see a Christian who is always worried and fretful, filled with anxiety and the turmoil it brings, then you see someone who has not learned to trust in the Lord as he or she ought. Jesus assures us that God knows our needs and that we ought not to be anxious about them (Matt. 6:25-34).

And further, the Scriptures affirm that “God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him” and also that “perfect love casts out fear.” (1 John 4:16-19). There is much to be said for the personal confidence and peace of mind gained by one who is walking by faith as a loyal child of the everlasting Father. This is good for the soul and involves living according to God’s word. The Bible says, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3). Perfect love does these two things: it keeps the commandments of God and it also casts out fear.

Be prepared for anything. That is the solution to living in a fallen world.

## **If Jesus Were to Pray for Me**

**Intercessor: "To confer with and to make entreaty in behalf of another"**

**John 17:11-24**

**By Jon W. Quinn**

There are many passages that speak of Jesus and me. Have you read them? Well, we're going to notice a few of them in a moment. There is so much involved in this relationship that He has with each one of His disciples - not just with me but with you too, if you belong to Him. But I would like to focus in on just one aspect of the relationship which all who are His faithful disciples need, and have, in His grace.

This aspect of our relationship is sometimes described as His being our intercessor (Romans 8:34). To intercede means "to confer with and to make entreaty in behalf of another". Jesus is "going to bat" for me, and as one who had fallen far, far short, I need that!

Another way the Scriptures describe this aspect of Jesus' relationship with all His disciples is that of being our advocate (1 John

2:1). To be our advocate means that Jesus is "standing beside us to intercede for us".

And then, there is the description of Jesus as being our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25; 9:24). Here, in addition to advocating and intercession verbally in our behalf, there is also the concept of making sacrifice for us.

So, what exactly would Jesus say to God in our behalf? What is it that He wants for us? In John 17 we have what might be the greatest intercessory prayer in the Bible, offered by Jesus, and part of it is about us!

### **He's Talking About Me!**

Certainly, a part of this prayer has to do with the apostles and not with you and me. For example, there is mention of those who accompanied Jesus during His ministry. All of them remained loyal except for the one who betrayed Him (John 17:12).

He also mentions having given the apostles God's word, and the world's reaction to this preaching (John 17:8,9; 14).

But much of this prayer, if not most is also about me, or you, or any child of God. Jesus Himself says so (John 17:20). That would be us! He's praying for us! We are the ones who have believed on Him through their (the apostles') word! Certainly the hopes of Jesus in our behalf are not

any different than what they were then. So, I know what my intercessor; my advocate, my High Priest would say, or is saying, about me. And, you can know it too! So, what is He saying about us?

### **He Is Praying For Our Security**

He desires that we who are redeemed stay saved (John 17:11). He is asking God to keep me in His name. He is not asking that I be kept arbitrarily, or against my will, but by my faith. Peter, who walked with Jesus as He prayed this prayer, elaborates on this (1 Peter 1:3-5).

God's answer is that He will provide power to protect me from losing my salvation if I will live by faith. If I choose not to continue in the faith, I will also forfeit this security (Colossians 1:22,23). So, be careful as you deal with life; things which can hurt our faith can also move us away from our secure salvation (neglect; immorality; worldliness and false teaching).

We must gain a real victory over sin and the devil (John 17:15). That is what faith does. It overcomes the world (1 John 5:4,5). God will not allow me to be overwhelmed by temptation, but life in the world will allow me many opportunities to make the choice between faith and sin. God's power and my faith will secure my salvation. A loss of faith will cost me my salvation. Jesus prays that my salvation remain secure, and it will be if I continue in the faith.

### **He Is Praying For Our Sanctification**

Our sanctification comes through the truth of God's word (John 17:17) Our lives as disciples need to be dedicated to applying the word of God to our daily living. This means that there will be differences in the way I act and react to daily situations and typical reactions that people usually have. Note how some of the Corinthians had fallen short in this aspect of their faith (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

When we get angry, we must seek to control ourselves in the spirit of God's word. Anger does not become an excuse to do and say things everyone else in the world would do or say (Ephesians 4:25-27). Our goals are to be the kind of people the Word directs us to be! Without sanctification, I may well lose my salvation (Hebrews 12:14). Jesus prays that I will continue to pursue sanctification so as not to place my salvation in jeopardy.

### **He Is Praying For Our Unity**

Our unity is to be as His is with the Father (John 17:21). Satan uses disunity among believers to persuade the world that faith, discipleship and the Lordship of Jesus Christ is less than genuine. What they fail to recognize is that Jesus is Who He is regardless of what I am! Whether I am genuine in my faith does not change the fact of His Deity or role of Redeemer; nor does a lack of love on my part mean He is unloving. It is simply Satan's "slight of hand" that leads people to such an illogical conclusion!

But, be that as it may, Jesus wants me and you to be one in Him.

#### **1. Doctrinally (1 Corinthians 1:10)**

**2. Attitudinally (Romans 12:16)**

**3. In our spiritual work and worship (Romans 15:5-7)**

Jesus prays that I will love, esteem and seek Scriptural unity with my brethren in Christ

**He Is Praying For Our Glorification**

He desires that we one day witness, and share in, His glory (John 17:24). From the beginning of time, this has been God's purpose (2 Thessalonians 2:13,14). Jesus is looking so forward to this eternal outcome. He means for His glory to be shared! Jesus prays that I will one everlasting day share with Him His glory forever (John 17:22).

Jesus intercedes:

"Father, will you permit me to share our glory with My disciples today and then one day forever?"

The Father answers: "Yes."

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## **Weekend Warriors**

### **2 Timothy 2:3,4**

**By Karl Hennecke**

On a recent trip to Jefferson City, we saw a common weekend sight for those traveling the highways. Several khaki colored vehicles in a column were cruising down the pavement, headlights ablaze. In this country we have become accustomed to this sight and realize it is a convoy of National Guard troops out on maneuvers. Sometimes we refer to these men as "weekend warriors". One weekend a month they are required to report for duty. Having fulfilled that duty they return to civilian status the rest of the month.

I wonder sometimes if that terminology, "weekend warrior" could be applied to us as members of that Spiritual Guard. We recognize that God has prescribed certain responsibilities to the Christian that can only be accomplished on the first day of the week. Eating the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7) and contributing as we have prospered (1 Cor. 16:1, 2) are by revelation reserved for Sunday. We must be careful, however, that we not become "Sunday only" Christians.

We are at war. That war is not limited to any particular day of the week. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:12,

13). We can never remove our armor if we are going to be able to withstand the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:10, 11). We cannot go home Sunday evening tired of our labor in the kingdom and discard our armor until next Sunday.

As we go into the battlefield on Monday, or any day of the week, we will need the TRUTH girding our waist. We will need our breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS to protect our vital organs. Likewise we will need the shield of FAITH, the helmet of our SALVATION and the SWORD, the word of God. And we will need to communicate with our commander through PRAYER.

As a faithful child of God, our enlistment never comes to an end, and our battle is never finished in this life. The war will not cease until that day when the last enemy is destroyed by our commander and chief, Jesus Christ. Paul encourages us as soldiers to endure hardship, and not to become entangled with the affairs of this life (2 Tim. 2:3, 4). We cannot please the Lord by being “weekend warriors” but only when we are on active duty.

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## **The Most Beautiful Woman**

### **In The Bible**

#### **1 Pet. 3:1-7**

#### **Warren E. Berkley**

Who is the most beautiful woman described in the Bible?

Young men, what if I could take you to a passage in the Bible that describes the most beautiful woman in the Bible, and therefore, provides you with a model to guide you in finding a wife?

Young women, what if I could take you to a passage in the Bible that describes just the kind of person you ought to be, to attract a godly man, but most important, to please your Creator?

Parents, what if I could take you to a passage that describes the internal values you must nourish in your little girls?

Here it is:

*Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.*

*Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

The apostle Peter wrote this letter to Christians who were suffering. These people were doing right, but suffering because of it.

Now marriage, under the best of circumstances, requires work: mutual intentional commitment to each other, communication and patience. It is

a relationship based on promises made to God and to each other ideally. And in order for marriage to work, survive and thrive, mutual commitment is essential. Under any circumstances – the work must be done.

But in the case of Christian women who received Peter’s epistle, consider two pressure points: (1) She was living in very difficult times for all Christians, and (1) Her husband is not obedient to the Word of God.

What does she do? Walk away? Act with malice and aggression against the unbelieving husband?

No. Peter’s direction to these Christian women was: **Good Behavior!** “...be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives.”

Just as Peter taught Christians to submit to every ordinance of man (2:13), and submit to superiors in work context (2:18), wives are to submit to their husbands, even though those men may not living according to the Word of God. Submission continues through difficult times, because of conscience toward God.

And there may be an additional good result, as the unbelieving husband is influenced by the “chaste conduct accompanied by fear” that he observes in his wife.

What is “chaste conduct accompanied by fear?” What does the internal side of that look like?

(1) **There is an emphasis on inner beauty.** The passages does not absolutely forbid any and all external beauty (so long as it is modest, see 1 Tim. 2:9,10). The point is one of emphasis. What takes priority over everything? The internal attitudes of heart. Women must use the Word of God to look inside, where beauty begins. “These verses do not ban grooming or beauty aids, but they do put these adornments in proper perspective. If a woman relies only on these kinds of things to make her beautiful, she will miss the greater value of inner beauty. She must not go overboard patching up the externals while ignoring the internal character. Seneca, the Roman philosopher, referred to women in this time period who wore two or three fortunes in their ears. Peter encourages Christian women not to lose their sense of value. They are to recognize the beauty of character that is far more vital and important than external beauty,” (David Wallis and Max Anders, Holman New Testament Commentary, I & II Peter, p.49).

(2) **A “gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”** The word “gentle” does not mean letting men use you, abuse you, never defending yourself or becoming the property of a domineering male. It has to do with control, patience, and not being given to panic or impulsive outburst. It is kindness that is not turned off by belligerence. She is to exhibit a calming influence. This, of course, comes from the internal strength of faith, reverence for God and love for her husband.

**(3) This manner of life was illustrated by holy women in previous times, like Sarah.** All of this taught and written by the apostle Peter is not peculiar to the New Covenant. God has always expected women to live as described here: *Chaste, respectful, meek, holy, living by hope in God, doing what is right out of conscience.* Sarah is offered as a specific illustration of this righteous conduct. She is put before the reader as a model of what is being described. She showed proper respect to Abraham, “calling him lord,” and that was not just something she said; it was how she lived before God and toward Abraham. Christian women today can become “children” or “daughters of Sarah,” when they live as God intends, with the kind of inner character so well described in this passage.

**To young unmarried men, this is what you should be looking for.**

Your goal should not be to win an external beauty, but rather find one devoted to inner beauty. Having a “trophy” wife to show off to the world for her figure and her worldly appeal is (1) alarming, and (2) contrary to the Biblical description of good women. (3) It will never become the basis for good parenting and a strong and lasting marriage. (4) God wants young men to find daughters of Sarah.

**To young women, does this passage express your purpose, your goal and interests “which is very precious in the sight of God?”** Do not let men or the world determine how you carry yourself and present yourself. If you want to know God, serve Him and reflect His glory, take passages like this (in First Peter 3), and let the discipline of this truth mold you and make you into a daughter of Sarah.

**To parents, do you foresee that your little girl will grow up to meet this description.** If not, what do you need to be doing now?

## **An Irrevocable Decree!**

### **Esther 3:12-13**

#### **George Slover**

*Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded-to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring. And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions. (Esther 3:12-13)*

During the days of Xerxes, king of Persia, a decree was issued that on an appointed day all of the Jews would be killed. This was done according to the counsel of Haman, the king's jealous, power – hungry prime minister. According to Persian custom such decrees were deemed irrevocable. No one including the emperor himself would remove it. Thus, in the early phases of this story it appears that the Jews are doomed to die. However, by the God's providence, the Jews are spared from this slaughter by another irrevocable decree (Esther 8:10-14). This second edict was heralded throughout the empire, that the Jews would be permitted to protect themselves from their adversaries. This new decree provided a way of escape for the Jews.

Like those messengers of the Persian Empire, God has employed his messengers to herald two irrevocable principles. The first was plainly stated by Ezekiel: "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the

guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. (Ezekiel 18:20) This principle not only applies to those in prisons for some heinous crime, but to every person that is accountable to God. (Romans 3:23) God, being infinitely holy, will not lower his standards! Thus, sin separates mankind from God.

Thus, God has issued another irrevocable decree. It was stated well by the author of Hebrews: "though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him..." (Hebrews 5:8-9) God is heralding to the sinner a message of reconciliation through his Son! It is offered to anyone who will obey the Lord (Acts 2:37,38).

The Jews in Esther's day recognized both a decree to destroy them and a decree to save them came from the same king! We too must believe that the King of kings is on our side. So, "be reconciled to God." (II Corinthians 5:20)

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## **The Gospel of Christ: Truth in Love or Hate Speech**

### **Topical Article**

#### **By Ed Barnes**

MUCH can change in the span of a single generation. My father also was a preacher, but I doubt if he ever preached a sermon in the mid 1960's exclusively dedicated to such subjects as abortion, homosexuality, lesbianism, same sex marriage, euthanasia, and certainly not on the

subject of cloning or the moral implications of embryonic stem-cell research. Forty-five years ago sermons on such topics would have been either ahead of their time (as in the case of cloning and stem-cell procedures) or simply considered unnecessary. Besides that, most preachers would not have been eager to suffer the discomfort and embarrassment of publicly discussing such sexual perversions if they did not consider it necessary to do so.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said today. Such topics are relevant and need to be addressed by gospel preachers both privately and from the pulpit. Most preachers today, in response to the sins of our generation, have broached these sensitive issues from the pulpit, and have probably done so on several occasions. It is daunting to contemplate the types of moral and sexual perversions that will have to be addressed and condemned from our pulpits in the next generation!

Another telling and destructive change that we have seen in our generation is the manner in which gospel preaching and teaching is now being characterized. Previous generations, even within the ranks of secularists, have generally recognized the value of gospel preaching in wielding a positive and enriching influence on our culture. Such an attitude is accurate and obviously in keeping with the teaching of Scripture itself. We see it reflected in such passages as Ephesians 4:15 where Paul refers to speaking the truth in love. What could be more beneficial to an individual or the society in which he lives which should be seeking to honestly evaluate itself and improve itself than to have the truth spoken in a spirit of love? Furthermore, in carrying out the commands of the gospel, the saints in Galatia were instructed to share in all good things and as they had opportunity, to do good to all men. Also, Paul testifies in Romans 1:16 that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes. The preaching and practicing of Christianity is both pleasing to God and beneficial to mankind as described in 2 Corinthians 2:15: For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. In Colossians chapter one, Paul describes the gospel of Christ as that which made known to the Gentiles the riches of God's

glory; which, when preached, warns every man, teaches every man in wisdom and presents every man perfect in Christ (Colossians 1:27-29). Such passages speak of the overall good which the gospel holds, not just for Christians, but for all men.

Highly regarded secular and political leaders of our country in previous generations have recognized the unparalleled influence for good that the teaching of God's word holds for our nation. George Washington said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." Sir Isaac Newton is quoted as saying, "I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatever." Thomas Jefferson said, "The Bible makes the best people in the world."

In recent years, however, this positive attitude toward the Scriptures has been undermined and replaced with an attitude of derision. Under many circumstances today the gospel message and its teaching, rather than being seen as God's truth spoken in love is disdainfully characterized as hate speech.

The incessant efforts on the part of some in this and other modern countries to legitimize and normalize homosexuality, lesbianism and same-sex marriage see the teaching of the Bible as an obstacle standing in the way of their agenda for social change. As an obstacle, the Bible must be overcome in one way or another. The way they have chosen is to criminalize the teaching of the Bible on such topics.

This is exactly what has already happened in Canada and other countries. "In June 2001, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Board of Inquiry ordered one of its residents to pay \$4,500 fine for running an ad in a local newspaper which referred to verses from the Bible that condemn homosexual practices. The verses weren't even quoted." In both Canada and Sweden, it is now a "hate crime" to criticize homosexuality in any fashion. Canadian broadcasters are forbidden to air any critical discussion of homosexuality, and are required to censor programs by Dr. James Dobson, Dr. Laura Schlessinger and the late Jerry Falwell and others deemed insensitive to homosexuals.

The same movement is taking hold in the United States as well. If you remember back in 1998 when Matthew Shepherd, a young homosexual, was beaten to death by two bar-hopping thugs in Wyoming, the San Francisco city supervisors blamed the killing on a “climate of hate” fomented by conservative Christians. Recently, in Illinois, a bill was introduced that provides heavy penalties for “conspiracy against civil rights,” including “intimidation,” defined under state law in part as “exposing any person to hatred, contempt or ridicule.” The law specifically targets offenses committed “in a church, synagogue . . . or place used for religious purposes.” That’s hitting pretty close to home, I’d say! Such laws, including the recent federal “hate crimes” bill (not yet passed into law) lays the foundation for persecution of Christians in this country. It will not only be unlawful to publicly speak out against homosexuality, but simply having the opinion or adhering to the belief that homosexuality is wrong could become a crime. Many believe that this is where all current “hate crime” bills are actually headed.

Many college campuses have installed actual codes forbidding “hate speech” – which at times can mean anything that offends a homosexual or anyone who claims to represent a minority group. Focus on the Family’s Citizen web site reports: “In one of the better known cases a few years ago, the University of Michigan’s rules against ‘harassment’ banned behavior such as ‘telling jokes about homosexuals, and laughing at jokes about someone in your class who stutters.’ In one instance a complaint was filed against a UM student who said in class that homosexuality was a disease and that he intended to develop a counseling plan to return gays to heterosexuality.” The report added that “usually such cases do not hold up when challenged in court, but the concept of “hate speech” and efforts to link it to crimes in the public mind, make for a powerful intimidation tactic that can chill free speech.”

The governments of other lands, law makers in our own country, representatives of the news media, educators and others already feel free to ostracize and demonize those of us who seek to speak the truth in love about homosexuality and other sins of the flesh. Our thoughts and

beliefs are next to be condemned. The enemies of the truth are indeed seeking to outlaw Christianity!

It has never been easy to live a Christian life. Forty-five years ago, it was at least socially acceptable to do so in this country. Now things are beginning to change. It should drive those of us who are parents to our knees in prayer on behalf of our children and grand children who will face a more hostile environment than we have faced as Christians. The gospel is still the truth and we must continue teach it in love regardless of the obstacles or consequences. The real hate speech is coming from those who speak out against God and His Word, thus leading sinners yet further away from their only hope of salvation. We, and our children must be emboldened to stand for the truth regardless of what the world says or does.

## **The Plan of Salvation**

### **By Jon W. Quinn**

#### **Plan #1 - God's Plan**

Announced by the apostles, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to new believers in Christ who asked what they must do:

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ -- this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:36-38).

#### **Plan #2 - Man's Doctrine**

On the back page of a tract, sinner were urged to pray this prayer to be saved. This prayer is not found in the Bible; nor were alien sinners commanded to pray for their forgiveness.

#### **The Sinner's Prayer:**

"O' Lord, I accept that I am a sinner and that Jesus died for my sins. I now accept Him into my heart as Lord and Savior asking for your mercy and forgiveness in His name. Amen."

The editors of Expository Files are happy with plan #1 and thankful to the God of all grace for it. We cannot recommend Plan #2 at all, but will change our minds when this prayer can be shown to us in the Bible.

Final Page

**"Going Home"**  
***The Melody & The Hope***  
*Warren E. Berkley*

I love good music. For me it is therapeutic and a pleasant mental recreation. I am intrigued by the technical talent of skilled musicians and interested in various interpretations of conductors, arrangers and performers. But there is another valuable product of music for me: *the stirring of good memories and hopeful thoughts.*

All of these benefits are shared in Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 in E minor, popularly known as "From The New World," or "The New World Symphony." I was privileged to hear this performed by The Valley Symphony Orchestra recently. Everything was there. The teamwork of talented musicians, the passionate interpretation of the conductor and the uncommon attentiveness of the audience – which became a graceful avenue for the great melodies of the composer to find their mark.

**In the case of this work, historical context enhances your appreciation for the piece.** In 1892 Dvorak moved from Prague to New York. Not long after his arrival in "the new world," he began to study the music of this young society. He was fascinated by this music and felt that "this must be the real foundation of any serious and original" attempt to teach music and composition in America. The music was already here. It was his task to study it, teach it and capture it in his work. The melodies

he heard in New York and during a summer in Iowa became the leading influence that resulted in this amazing piece, "The New World Symphony."

The most compelling melody in this composition is what we know as the song, "Going Home." Music historians are not agreed. Did Dvorak hear this and incorporate it into his symphony? Or was it original with him. Some even speculate the theme may have originated in the Czech music of his childhood.

Why does that melody so grip us emotionally? What images and thoughts are created in our minds when listening to this? "Home" is a word that touches us. It is where you go for comfort; it is familial; it is a place to relax after work. In whatever language, the concept is lofty and endearing.

The lyrics (likely written after the 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony was released):

Going home. Going home. I'm a-going home.  
Quiet-like some still day, I'm just going home.

It's not far, just close by, through an open door.  
Work all done, cares laid by, Going to fear no more;

Mother's there expecting me, Father's waiting, too.  
Lot's of folks gathered there. All the friends I knew.

**Someday, will you be going home?** Death will not be the end of your existence. You will move from this earth into the next realm. Heaven will be the perfect and final home. *Father's waiting . . . folks gathered there . . . fear no more . . . cares laid by. Are you going home?*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in

heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time,” 1 Pet. 1:3-5.