

Amazing Grace

An Exercise in Memory and Hope



I. CHRONICLES. HYMN XLI.

Faith's review and expectation.
Chap. xvii. 16, 17.

- 1 **A**Mazing grace! (how sweet the sound)
That sav'd a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears reliev'd;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believ'd!
- 3 Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
- 4 The LORD has promis'd good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.
- 5 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease;
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.
- 6 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But GOD, who call'd me here below,
Will be for ever mine.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Memory—*Grace has led me safe thus far*

- As you look back, where have you experienced the gospel as the power of God in your own life?
- Where have you been wretched and received mercy, lost and God found you, blind and God gave you sight?
- What are some of the dangers, toils, or snares you've come through by the grace of God?
- How have you experienced God's covenant faithfulness?
- Now what about as a church? What are some of the dangers, toils, or snares we've come through?
- How has grace led us safe thus far? How, specifically, have we seen the grace of God?
- Meditate now on David's experience and the LORD's word to him in 1 Chronicles 17: 1-15, and verse 16. Can you echo David's amazement in response to God's word, to God bringing us thus far? How so?
- How do you feel as you think on these things? What can you express to God in prayer in response? Are there any resolutions you feel called to make in response?

Hope (Imagination)—*Grace will lead me home*

- On the basis of our past experience, what can we expect as we turn to face the future?
- Reflect on David's prayer in response to God's word, 1 Chronicles 17: 17-27, as he thinks about the years ahead. How might this give you hope for the future?
- Meditate on the faithfulness of God in whatever you will face in the years ahead. God's saving acts have come to climax in Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Can you pray about your concerns for the future in light of God's faithfulness?
- Ask yourself: Does God still promise good to us? Does his word still our hope secure? Will grace lead us home, come what may? Will God be enough for us? How do I feel when I affirm these things? How should I pray in response?
- Now use your imagination: If the gospel really is true and powerful to save, what are my greatest hopes for our church over the next several years? What is God already doing, and how can we join in? Are there any specific enterprises which inspire my imagination with faith, hope, and love?