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GADSBY'S HYMNS

An Introductory Selection

Introduction

William Gadsby (1773-1844) was a well-known Baptist pastor, church planter, and hymn writer in his day. One of his most beloved hymns, *Immortal Honors*, is included in this booklet (667). William Gadsby compiled a collection of hymns in 1838 that was later enlarged by J.C. Philpot. The current edition contains 1,156 hymns. Still in print, it is peerless in its sheer volume and stands unique in Baptist history. Well-known writers such as Watts, Newton, and Cowper grace its pages, as well as the delightful works of Hart, Berridge, Gadsby, and others. The hymns so richly express the varied experience of God's people that numerous churches use it for public worship despite doctrinal differences with those who published it. The Gadsby Hymnal is a monument to the warmth, depth, and godly devotion of our Strict Baptist brethren. It is hoped that this introduction will inspire many to acquire and make use of this underutilized treasure. Many of Gadsby's hymns are notable for their reflections on the inner struggles of the Christian. These are precious indeed. We would note, however, that the normal state of a Christian is one of rejoicing in the Lord. This is maintained even as he mourns over his inner corruptions. To be healthy, a Christian must take responsibility to live out his faith in good conscience and be prepared to fight gloomy apprehensions with the whole armor of God.

All original numbering, brackets, meter notations, and archaic spelling have been retained. Brackets indicate sections that can be omitted without losing the theme of the hymn. Hymn meters are noted at the top of each hymn. They appear as L.M., C.M., 7s, 11s, etc. These allow the words to be matched to tunes with the same meter. As in poetry, "meter" refers to the rhythmic and syllabic structure of the words. Meter markings on hymn tunes indicate the number of syllables in each line of the hymn. Meter rating is done by simply counting the syllables in each line. A hymn tune marked 7s, for example, has seven syllables (or beats) per line. A hymn with the meter 8.6.8.6, has eight syllables in the first line, six in the second, eight in the third, six in the fourth, and so on. Some meters are used so frequently they have acquired names of their own: 8.6.8.6 is known as Common Meter (C.M.), 6.6.8.6 is known as Short Meter (S.M.), and 8.8.8.8 is known as Long Meter (L.M.).

The Hymns

9 L.M. S. Medley

The Loving-Kindness of God. Psa 36:7

- 1 Awake, my soul, in joyful lays,¹ And sing thy great Redeemer's praise; He justly claims a song from me; His loving-kindness, O how free!
- 2 He saw me ruined in the fall, Yet loved me notwithstanding all; He saved me from my lost estate; His loving-kindness, O how great!
- 3 [Though numerous hosts of mighty foes, Though earth and hell my way oppose, He safely leads my soul along; His loving-kindness, O how strong!]
- 4 [When trouble, like a gloomy cloud has gathered thick and thundered loud, He near my soul has always stood; His loving-kindness, O how good!]
- 5 Often I feel my sinful heart prone from my Saviour to depart; But though I have him oft forgot, His loving-kindness changes not!
- 6 Soon shall I pass the gloomy vale;² Soon all my mortal powers must fail; O may my last expiring breath His loving-kindness sing in death!
- 7 Then let me mount and soar away to the bright world of endless day, And sing with rapture and surprise, His loving-kindness in the skies.

¹ lays – songs. ² vale – valley or dale.

49 L.M. J. Berridge

The Law and Gospel. Rom 8:3-4; 10:5-15

- 1 The law demands a weighty debt, and not a single mite¹ will bate;² But gospel sings of Jesus' blood, and says it made the payment good.
- 2 The law provokes men oft to ill, and churlish³ hearts makes harder still; But gospel acts a kinder part, and melts a most obdurate⁴ heart.
- 3 "Run, run, and work," the law commands, yet finds me neither feet nor hands; But sweeter news the gospel brings; It bids me fly, and lends me wings.
- 4 [Such needful wings, O Lord, impart, to brace my feet and brace my heart; Good wings of faith and wings of love will make a cripple sprightly⁵ move.]
- 5 With these a lumpish⁶ soul may fly, and soar aloft, and reach the sky; Nor faint nor falter in the race, but cheerly⁷ work, and sing of grace.

¹ mite – a coin of little value. ² bate – diminish. ³ churlish – rude, lacking civility. ⁴ obdurate – stubborn, hardened. ⁵ sprightly – lively, full of energy. ⁶ lumpish – sad, gloomy. ⁷ cheerly – joyfully; heartily.

64 7s J. Ryland

God's Decrees. Ecc 3:1-8, 17; Psa 31:14-15

- 1 Sovereign Ruler of the skies, ever gracious, ever wise; All my times are in thy hand, all events at thy command.
- 2 His decree who formed the earth fixed my first and second birth; Parents, native place, and time, all appointed

were by him.

3 He that formed me in the womb, He shall guide me to the tomb: All my times shall ever be ordered by his wise decree.

4 [Times of sickness; times of health; Times of penury¹ and wealth; Times of trial and of grief; Times of triumph and relief;

5 Times the tempter's power to prove; Times to taste the Saviour's love; All must come, and last, and end, as shall please my heavenly Friend.]

6 Plagues and deaths around me fly; Till he bids, I cannot die; Not a single shaft² can hit, till the God of love sees fit.

¹ **penury** – extreme poverty. ² **shaft** – the body of an arrow or spear.

70 S.M. C. Wesley

Divine Providence. Deu 33:27; Psa 73:24

1 Thrice comfortable hope that calms my stormy breast; My Father's hand prepares the cup, and what he wills is best.

2 My fearful heart he reads; Secures my soul from harms; While underneath his mercy spreads its everlasting arms.

3 His skill infallible, His providential grace, His power and truth, that never fail, shall order all my ways.

4 [The fictious¹ power of chance and fortune I defy; My life's minutest circumstance is subject to his eye.]

5 O might I doubt no more, but in his pleasure rest; Whose wisdom, love, and truth, and power, engage to make me blest!

¹ **fictious** – imaginary.

134 C.M. Brewer

Christ the Sinner's Hiding Place. Psa 32:7

1 Hail, sovereign love, that first began the scheme¹ to rescue fallen man! Hail,² matchless, free, eternal grace, that gave my soul a hiding-place!

2 [Against the God who rules the sky I fought with hand uplifted high; Despised the mention of his grace, too proud to seek a hiding-place.

3 But thus the eternal counsel ran: "Almighty love, arrest that man!" I felt the arrows of distress, and found I had no hiding-place.

4 Indignant Justice stood in view; To Sinai's fiery mount³ I flew; But Justice cried, with frowning face, "This mountain is no hiding-place!"

5 Ere long a heavenly voice I heard, and Mercy's angel-form appeared; She led me on, with placid pace, to Jesus, as my Hiding-place.]

6 Should storms of seven-fold thunder roll, and shake the globe from pole to pole, no flaming bolt could daunt my face, for Jesus is my Hiding-place.

7 On him almighty vengeance fell, that must have sunk a world to hell; He bore it for a chosen race, and thus became their Hiding-place.

8 A few more rolling suns, at most, will land me on fair Canaan's coast,⁴ where I shall sing the song of grace, and see my glorious Hiding-place.

¹ **scheme** – plan. ² **hail** – welcome. ³ **Sinai's fiery mount** – the mountain where God gave His Law to Israel (Exo 19), which cannot save but condemn and thus incite fear (Heb 12). ⁴ **fair Canaan's coast** – the land promised to Abraham (Gen 12) pointing ultimately to heaven for those following his faith in Christ (Heb 12).

148 8.8.6. J. Berridge

Christ His People's Surety. Pro 11:15; Mat 27:29

1 For wretched strangers such as I, the Saviour left his native sky, and surety would become; He undertakes for sinners lost, and, having paid the utmost cost, returns triumphant home.

2 A judgment bond¹ against me lay, Law charges, too, which he must pay, but found a smarting² debt. The garden scene³ begins his woes, and fetches⁴ agonising throes,⁵ and draws a bloody sweat.

3 His back with hardy⁶ stripes is hewed,⁷ till flakes of gore, and streams of blood, besmear⁸ the frighted⁹ ground! A scornful and a smarting crown His holy head is thrust upon, and thorns begird¹⁰ it round.

4 He smarts with nails that pierce his feet, and smarts with hanging all his weight upon the accursèd tree! He smarts beneath a Father's rod, and roars aloud, "Why, O my God, hast thou forsaken me?"

5 [May all my Saviour's love and smart, be sweetly graven on my heart, and with me fast abide; And let me sing thy praises well, and love thee more than I can tell, and trust in none beside.]

¹ **judgment bond** – a court declared debt. ² **smarting** – painful. ³ **garden scene** – Christ's suffering in Gethsemane (Mat 26:36-45). ⁴ **fetches** – brings, causes to come. ⁵ **throes** – agony of death, hard or painful struggle. ⁶ **hardy** – vigorous, strong. ⁷ **hewed** – cut with heavy blows. ⁸ **besmear** – to cover a surface with a sticky substance. ⁹ **frighted** – penetrated with fear. ¹⁰ **begird** – encircle.

153b L.M. J. Hart

Christ's Passion. Mat 26:36-46; Mar 14:32-41

1 And why, dear Saviour, tell me why, Thou thus wouldst suffer, bleed and die; What mighty motive could thee move? The motive's plain; 'twas all for love.

2 For love of whom? Of sinners base, a hardened herd, a rebel race; That mocked and trampled on thy blood, and wanted¹ with the wounds of God.

3 [When rocks and mountains rent² with dread; And gaping graves gave up their dead; When the fair sun withdrew his light, and hid his head, to shun the sight;

4 Then stood the wretch of human race,³ and raised his head and showed his face, gazed unconcerned when nature failed, and scoffed, and sneered, and cursed, and railed.]

5 Harder than rocks and mountains are, more dull than dirt and earth by far, man viewed unmoved thy blood's rich stream, nor ever dreamed it flowed for him.

6 [Such was the race of sinful men, that gained that great salvation then; Such, and such only, still we see; Such they were all; and such are we.

7 The Jews with thorns his temples crowned, and lashed him when his hands were bound; But thorns, and knotted whips, and bands by us were furnished to their hands.

8 They nailed him to the accursèd tree; (They did, my brethren; so did we); The soldier pierced his side, 'tis true, but we have pierced him through and through.]

9 O love of unexampled kind! That leaves all thought so far behind; Where length, and breadth, and depth, and height are lost to my astonished sight.

10 For love of me, the Son of God drained every drop of vital blood. Long time I after idols ran; But now my God's a martyred Man.

¹ **wanted** – to dismiss with mockery. ² **rent** – split; tear violently.
³ **the wretch of human race** – a personification of fallen humanity (Luk 23).

172 L.M. S. Medley

Christ Is Precious. 1Pe 2:4, 7; Psa 73:25

1 Jehovah's¹ awful name revere, in humble praise, with holy fear; In glory throned, divinely bright, all worlds are nothing in his sight.

2 [The numerous proud, self-righteous host, who fondly of their something boast, will find their something nothing more than what will prove them blind and Poor.

3 O may my soul such folly shun, nor ever boast what I have done; But at God's footstool humbly fall, and Jesus be my All in All.]

4 Though of myself I nothing am, I'm dear to God and to the Lamb; Though I have nothing, I confess, all things in Jesus I possess.

5 I can do nothing, Lord, 'tis true, yet in thy strength can all things do; Nothing I merit, Lord, I own, yet shall possess a heavenly throne.

6 [Thus something, Saviour, may I be, nothing in self, but all in thee; And when in glory I appear, be something, and yet nothing, there.]

¹ **Jehovah** – an Anglicized version of a Hebrew name for God.

209 C.M. T. Greene

Trust in God's Grace. 2Co 12:9; Psa 38:9

1 Grace, like a fountain, ever flows, fresh succours¹ to renew; The Lord my wants and weakness knows, my sins and sorrows too.

2 He sees me often overcome, and pities my distress; And bids affliction drive me home, to anchor on his grace.

3 'Tis he directs my doubtful ways, when dangers line the road, here I my Ebenezer² raise, and trust the gracious God.

¹ **succour** – help, assistance. ² **Ebenezer** – the name of the memorial stone that marked where God helped Israel defeat the Philistines (1Sa 7).

212 C.M. I. Watts

Sufficiency of Pardon Isa 1:18; 1Jo 1:7

1 Why does your face, ye humble souls, those mournful colours wear? What doubts are these that try your faith, And nourish your despair?

2 [What though your numerous sins exceed the stars that fill the skies, and, aiming at the eternal throne, like pointed mountains rise?]

3 [What though your mighty guilt beyond the wide creation swell, and has its cursed foundations laid low as the deeps of hell?]

4 See, here an endless ocean flows of never-failing grace; Behold, a dying Saviour's veins the sacred flood increase!¹

5 It rises high, and drowns the hills; Has neither shore nor bound; Now if we search to find our sins, our sins can ne'er be found.

6 Awake, our hearts, adore the grace that buries all our faults; and pardoning blood that swells above our follies and our thoughts.

¹ **sacred flood** – God's grace in salvation compared to an endless ocean that Christ's precious blood makes even fuller.

222 C.M. J. Hart

"Because thou sayest, I am rich." Rev 3:17

1 What makes mistaken men afraid of sovereign grace¹ to preach! The reason is, if truth be said, because they are so rich.

2 [Why so offensive in their eyes does God's election² seem? Because they think themselves so wise that they have chosen him.]

3 [Of perseverance³ why so loath⁴ are some to speak or hear? Because, as masters over sloth, they vow to persevere.]

4 [Whence is imputed righteousness⁵ a point so little known? Because men think they all possess some righteousness their own.]

5 Not so the needy, helpless soul, prefers his humble prayer; He looks to him that works the whole, and seeks his treasure there.

6 His language is, "Let me, my God, On sovereign grace rely; And own 'tis free, because bestowed on one so vile as I.

7 "Election! 'tis a word divine; For, Lord, I plainly see, had not thy choice prevented⁶ mine, I ne'er had chosen thee.

8 ["For perseverance strength I've none, but would on this depend that Jesus, having loved his own, will love them to the end.]

9 "Empty and bare, I come to thee for righteousness divine; O may thy matchless merits be, by imputation, mine."

10 [Thus differ these; yet hoping each to make salvation sure. Now most men will approve the rich, but Christ has blessed the poor.]

¹ **sovereign grace** – truths relating to God's saving His people from sin according to His gracious will alone (Rom 9). ² **election** – God's gracious choice of sinners He will save by Christ. ³ **perseverance** – God's causing His people to continue in faith and obedience until they reach heaven. ⁴ **loath** – unwilling to do something contrary to one's way of thinking ⁵ **imputed righteousness** – Christ's complete fulfillment of the Law of God reckoned to His sinful people as the only ground of their acceptance before God. ⁶ **prevented** – acted before.

243 11s J. Stevens

Hoping on the Ground of Eternal Adoption. Gal 4:5

1 Great Father of glory, how rich is thy grace! What wonderful love is displayed in thy face! In Jesus thy image with brightness we view, and hope to be formed to that likeness anew.

2 By favour adopted, thy sons we appear, and led by thy Spirit, we boldly draw near; In Jesus beloved, and washed in his blood, with hope we adore at the footstool of God.

3 The man who is blessed with hope in the cross, is freed from the bondage of guilt and the curse; The blood of his Surety¹ by faith he reviews, while hope in that fountain his spirit renews.

4 The world knows us not; but in this we rejoice, to God we're no strangers, but objects of choice. His love from eternity gave us a home, where now we are hoping in safety to come.

5 Arrayed in obedience, all wrought by the Lamb, by Christ our Jehovah, the ancient I AM;² with boldness we journey, while Christ leads us on, and hope soon in glory to praise the Three-One.³

¹ **Surety** – of Christ as one that has accepted legal responsibility for His people's sin debt. ² **the ancient I AM** – God's name, revealed in Exo 3:14; Joh 8:58.

³ **Three-One** – the Trinity.

247 C.M. J. Ryland

Desiring to Love and Delight in God. Psa 57:4, 5

1 O Lord, I would delight in thee, and on thy care depend; To thee in every trouble flee, my best, my only Friend.

2 [When all created streams are dried, thy fulness is the same; May I with this be satisfied, and glory in thy name.]

3 [Why should the soul a drop bemoan, who has a fountain near a fountain which will ever run with waters sweet and clear?]

4 No good in creatures can be found, but may be found in thee; I must have all things, and abound, while God is God to me.

5 O that I had a stronger faith, to look within the veil;¹ to credit what my Saviour saith, whose words can never fail.

6 He that has made my heaven secure will here all good provide; While Christ is rich, I can't be poor; What can I want beside?

7 O Lord, I cast my care on thee; I triumph and adore; Henceforth my great concern shall be to love and praise thee more.

¹ veil – Heb 6:19 of God's promise of salvation depicted as a soul anchor that enters within the veil of the true Holy of Holies, that is, heaven.

250 8s Gospel Mag, 1777

All Things in Love (or Charity). Eph 4:2, 15

1 Though justly of wrongs we complain, or faithfully sinners reprove, yet still we do all things in vain, unless we do all things in love. 'Tis love makes us humble and meek! The wounds of ill usage¹ it cures, it pities the falls of the weak, the pride of the lofty² endures.

2 Has God a command to fulfil, which nature untoward³ would shun? Love brings to compliance the will, and causes the deed to be done. From Jesus the blessing must flow, to creatures beneath and above; May he his good Spirit bestow, and we shall do all things in love.

¹ ill usage – to be treated poorly. ² lofty – the arrogant. ³ untoward – unruly, adverse.

257 L.M. A. Steele

"Blessed are the poor in spirit." Mat 5:3; Jam 2:5

1 Ye humble souls, complain no more; Let faith survey your future store¹. How happy, how divinely blest, the sacred words of truth attest.

2 In vain the sons of wealth and pride despise your lot, your hope deride; In vain they boast their little stores; Trifles are theirs, a kingdom yours.

3 [A kingdom of immense delight, where health, and peace, and joy unite; Where undecaying² pleasures rise, and every wish has full supplies.]

4 [A kingdom which can ne'er decay, while time sweeps earthly thrones away; The state which power and truth sustain, unmoved for ever must remain.]

5 There shall your eyes with rapture view the glorious Friend that died for you, that died to ransom, died to raise to crowns of joy and songs of praise.

6 Jesus! to thee I breathe my prayer; Reveal, confirm my interest³ there; Whate'er my humble lot below, this, this

my soul desires to know.

¹ **store** – a person’s collective possessions, therefore, the believer’s “possessions” in heaven. ² **undeclining** – not diminishing
³ **interest** – right or title to spiritual privileges.

258 8.7. R. Burnham

Christ’s Example. Phi 2:3-5; Psa 133:1

1 Jesus, Source of our salvation, may we now thy nature know; Then more bowels of compassion¹ we to thy dear saints shall show. May the grace thou hast imparted, in relieving our complaints, make us kind and tender-hearted to the feeblest of thy saints.

2 When they are severely tempted, we their sorrows would assuage,² knowing we are not exempted from the tempter’s furious rage. If by sin they’re overtaken, we’d their faults to them declare; But in strains of much compassion, lest we drive them to despair.

3 Keep us from a proud appearance, in whate’er we do or say; Fill us with divine forbearance; Then how happy we shall be! Hand in hand we would be walking, eyeing Jesus’ new command; Of his love we’d e’er be talking, till we reach fair Canaan’s land.³

¹ **bowels of compassion** – 1Jo 3:17, as we regard the “heart” as the seat of benevolence (i.e., “I love you with all my heart.”) so the Hebrews regarded the “bowels” (see Gen 43:30, 1Ki 3:26). ² **assuage** – make less, pacify. ³ **fair Canaan’s land** – heaven as symbolized by the land that God promised to Abraham (Heb 11:8-16).

260 C.M. A. Steele

Filial¹ Resignation.² Isa 64:8; Heb 12:7

1 And can my heart aspire so high to say, “My Father, God”? Lord, at thy feet I fain³ would lie and learn to kiss the rod.

2 I would submit to all thy will, for thou art good and wise; Let every anxious thought be still, nor one faint murmur rise.

3 Thy love can cheer the darksome gloom, and bid me wait serene; Till hopes and joys immortal bloom, and brighten all the scene.

¹ **Filial** – as a child to a parent. ² **Resignation** – giving up one’s self. ³ **fain** – inclined, willing, desirous.

264 L.M. I. Watts

“I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord.” Gen 49:18

1 Far from my thoughts, vain world, begone; Let my religious hours alone; Fain would my eyes my Saviour see; I wait a visit, Lord, from thee.

2 My heart grows warm with holy fire, and kindles with a pure desire; Come, my dear Jesus, from above, and feed my soul with heavenly love.

3 [The trees of life immortal stand, in fragrant rows at thy right hand; And in sweet murmurs by thy side, rivers of bliss perpetual glide.

4 Haste, then, but with a smiling face, and spread the table of thy grace; Bring down a taste of truth divine, and cheer my heart with sacred wine.]

5 Blest Jesus! what delicious fare!¹ How sweet thy entertainments are! Never did angels taste above, redeeming grace and dying love.

6 Hail,² great Immanuel,³ all divine! In thee thy Father’s glories shine; Thou brightest, sweetest, fairest One, that eyes have seen or angels known.

265 L.M. I. Watts

“My heart rejoiceth in the Lord.” 1Sa 2:1

1 Lord, what a heaven of saving grace shines through the beauties of thy face, and lights our passions to a flame!
Lord, how we love thy charming name!

2 When I can say, “My God is mine,” when I can feel thy glories shine, I tread the world beneath my feet, and all that earth calls good or great.

3 While such a scene of sacred joys our raptured¹ eyes and soul employs, here we could sit and gaze away, a long, an everlasting day.

4 Well, we shall quickly pass the night to the fair coasts of perfect light; Then shall our joyful senses rove O'er the dear Object of our love.

5 [There shall we drink full draughts² of bliss, and pluck new life from heavenly trees; Yet now and then, dear Lord, bestow a drop of heaven on worms³ below.]

6 [Send comforts down from thy right hand, while we pass through this barren land, and in thy temple⁴ let us see a glimpse of love, a glimpse of thee.]

¹ raptured – seized and carried away with delight. ² draughts – the amount swallowed when drinking in. ³ worms – Job 25:26; Psa 22:6; Isa 41:14, description of sinful human beings. ⁴ temple – the habitation of God: depicted in the OT by the Jerusalem temple, fulfilled in the NT in Christ (Joh 2:21; Rev 21:22) includes believers joined to Christ Eph 2:19-22, thus signifies the Church: God dwelling with His people.

267 7s J. Cennick

Rejoicing in Hope. Rom 5:2; Psa 138:5

1 Children of the heavenly King, as ye journey, sweetly sing; Sing your Saviour's worthy praise, glorious in his works and ways.

2 Ye are travelling home to God in the ways the fathers trod; They are happy now, and ye soon their happiness shall see.

3 [O ye banished seed, be glad; Christ your Advocate is made; You to save, your flesh assumes;¹ Brother to your souls becomes.]

4 Shout, ye little flock, and blest; You on Jesus' throne shall rest; There your seat is now prepared, there your kingdom and reward.

5 Fear not, brethren, joyful stand on the borders of your land;² Jesus Christ, your Father's Son, bids you undismayed go on.

6 Lord, submissive make us go, gladly leaving all below; Only thou our Leader be, and we still will follow thee.

¹ your flesh assumes – the eternal Son of God taking human nature (Gal 4:4-5). ² on the borders of your land – heaven as symbolized by the land promised to Abraham (Heb 11:8-16).

271 L.M. S. Stennett

Captain of Salvation. Eph 6:11-18; Psa 27:1

1 My Captain sounds the alarm of war awake! The powers of hell are near! “To arms, to arms!” I hear him cry; “Tis yours to conquer, or to die!”

2 Roused by the animating sound, I cast my eager eyes around; Make haste to gird my armour on, and bid each trembling fear begone.

3 Hope is my helmet; Christ my shield; Thy Word, my God, the sword I wield; With sacred truth my loins are

girt, and holy zeal inspires my heart.

4 Thus armed, I venture on the fight, resolved to put my foes to flight; While Jesus kindly deigns¹ to spread His conquering banner o'er my head.

5 In him I hope; in him I trust; His bleeding cross is all my boast; Through troops of foes he'll lead me on, to victory and a victor's crown.

¹ **deigns** – humbles himself.

289 L.M. J. Fawcett

"And he led them forth by the right way." Psa 107:7

1 Thus far my God has led me on, and made his truth and mercy known; My hopes and fears alternate rise, and comforts mingle with my sighs.

2 [Through this wide wilderness I roam, far distant from my blissful home; Lord, let thy presence be my stay,¹ and guard me in this dangerous way.]

3 [Temptations everywhere annoy, and sins and snares oft make me sigh; My earthly joys are from me torn, and oft an absent God I mourn.]

4 My soul, with various tempests tossed, her hopes o'erturned, her projects crossed,² sees every day new straits³ attend, and wonders where the scene will end.

5 Is this, dear Lord, that thorny road which leads us to the mount of God? Are these the toils thy people know, while in this wilderness below?

6 'Tis even so; thy faithful love does all thy children's graces prove; 'Tis thus our pride and self must fall that Jesus may be all in all.

¹ **stay** – rope used to support a mast; therefore, Christ is the One that steadies and supports us. ² **projects crossed** – plans hindered, obstructed.

³ **straits** – distresses, difficulties, troubles.

295 L.M. J. Newton

Prayer Answered by Crosses. Psa 65:5; Act 14:22

1 I asked the Lord that I might grow in faith, and love, and every grace; Might more of his salvation know, and seek more earnestly his face.

2 [‘Twas he who taught me thus to pray, and he, I trust, has answered prayer; But it has been in such a way as almost drove me to despair.]

3 I hoped that in some favoured hour, at once he'd answer my request; And, by his love's constraining power, subdue my sins, and give me rest.

4 Instead of this, he made me feel the hidden evils of my heart, and let the angry powers of hell assault my soul in every part.

5 Yea, more, with his own hand he seemed intent to aggravate my woe; Crossed all the fair designs¹ I schemed, blasted my gourds,² and laid me low.

6 "Lord, why is this?" I trembling cried; "Wilt thou pursue thy worm³ to death?" "'Tis in this way," the Lord replied, "I answer prayer for grace and faith.

7 "These inward trials I employ, from self and pride to set thee free; and break thy schemes of earthly joy, that thou mayst seek thy all in me."

¹ **fair designs** – plans, goals. ² **blasted my gourds** – took away my comforts, see Jonah 4:6-11. ³ **worm** – Job 25:26; Psa 22:6; Isa 41:14 description of sinful man in humiliation.

526 148th W. Gadsby

"The joyful sound." Psa 89:15; Mat 18:11

1 Thrice happy are the men, who know the joyful sound; They glory in the Lamb; Their hopes upon him found; They see how justice, truth, and grace, agree and shine in Jesus' face.

2 A joyful sound indeed, to sinners in distress, who have no works to plead but what are vile and base;¹ who feel their hearts a dreadful den of every murderous, hateful sin.

3 For such to hear and know salvation is of God, that Jesus will bestow the riches of his love on sinners who have nought² to bring, will make their very souls to sing.

4 He pardons all their sins, and makes them white as wool, and the sweet Spirit sends, to fill their vessels full of faith, and love, and joy, and peace, and seal them sons and heirs of grace.

¹ base – without honor or morals. ² nought – nothing.

534 7s W. Gadsby

The Blood of Sprinkling. Heb 12:24; Isa 53:6

1 Mercy speaks by Jesus' blood; Hear and sing, ye sons of God; Justice satisfied indeed; Christ has full atonement made.

2 Jesus' blood speaks loud and sweet; Here all Deity can meet,¹ and, without a jarring voice, welcome Zion to rejoice.

3 Should the law against her roar, Jesus' blood still speaks with power, "All her debts were cast on me, and she must and shall go free."

4 Peace of conscience, peace with God, we obtain through Jesus' blood; Jesus' blood speaks solid rest; We believe, and we are blest.

¹ here all Deity can meet – the sacrifice of our Righteous Sin-Bearer is the ground of our fellowship, rejoicing, and peace with God.

548 11s W. Gadsby

Christ a Physician. Mat 9:12, 13; Mar 2:17

1 A Physician, I learn, abides in this place, profound in his wisdom, abounding in grace; His skill in all cases infallible is; Effectual¹ his medicines, nor ever did miss.

2 Poor sinners tormented with sickness or sore are heartily welcome to knock at his door; He will not deceive them, nor spurn them away, but freely will heal them by night or by day.

3 All plagues and distempers,² all sickness and pain, he cures without money; nor will he disdain the vilest of sinners, that unto him go, but surely will heal them, and perfectly too.

4 [The strong and the healthy, in vain 'tis to ask to try this Physician; they'd think it a task; They feel no disorder, no danger they see, but boast of a heart that from sickness is free.]

¹ effectual – effective. ² distempers – disorders, diseases.

575 7s W. Gadsby

"Called of God." Heb 5:4; 2Ti 1:9; 1Pe 5:10

1 Called to see God's righteous law Holy is without a flaw; Called to feel its vengeful power, and to tremble in that hour.

2 Called the cleansing blood to feel; Called to know it me can heal; Called to feel my guilt depart, through the

Saviour's bleeding heart.

3 Called, and called by grace divine, in full glory I shall shine. Called while here, to sing and tell, Jesus has done all things well.

4 Called to part with flesh and sin, and eternal life to win;¹ and, when Jesus bids me fly, sing his praise beyond the sky.

¹ **eternal life to win** – not that eternal life is earned but rather that the Christian life is like a race and our participation should be like one who intends to finish well (1Co 9:24-27).

576 7s W. Gadsby

Saved by Grace. Eph 2:5, 8; Act 15:11

1 Saved, and saved alone by grace; Saved to see my Saviour's face; Saved from Satan's iron yoke, and the law that I had broke.

2 Saved from sin, that hateful foe that has millions plunged in woe, saved from all its reigning power; Saved to serve my lusts no more.

3 Saved, nor can I be condemned; Jesus Christ, the sinner's Friend, took my place and vengeance bore, me to save for evermore.

4 Death, nor hell, nor world, nor sin, foes without, nor foes within, ever can my soul destroy; I am saved eternally.

589 8.8.6. W. Gadsby

The Beggar's Needs All in Christ. 1Sa 2:8

1 A beggar, vile and base, I come, without a friend, without a home, and knock at mercy's door; A friendless, helpless wretch indeed, nor have I one good work to plead, yet crave a living store.¹

2 My wants are great and many too; O Lamb of God, some pity show, or I must surely die; No other hand can help but thee; I've tried the rest, and plainly see they cannot me supply.

3 But though my wants are very great, in Jesus they most richly meet;² With him I've all the rest; And wilt thou give thyself to me? From sin and Satan set me free? Then I'm completely blest.

4 Source of delight! Fountain of bliss! In thee I all things do possess; My treasure is divine; With holy wonder I adore the God who thus does bless the poor, and make their faces shine.

¹ **living store** – salvation considered not merely as a provision but a Person (1Co 1:30-31). ² **meet** – satisfied.

608 148th W. Gadsby

"Walk worthy of the Lord." Col 1:10; Eph 4:1

1 Ye souls, redeemed with blood, and called by grace divine, walk worthy of your God, and let your conduct shine; Keep Christ, your living Head, in view, in all you say, in all you do.

2 Has Jesus made you free? Then you are free indeed; Ye sons of liberty, ye chosen royal seed,¹ Walk worthy of your Lord, and view your glorious Head, in all you do.

3 Shall sons of heavenly birth their dignity debase? Unite with sons of earth, and take a servant's place? The slaves to sin and Satan too? Forget to keep their Lord in view?

4 Forbid it, mighty God! Preserve us in thy fear; Uphold with staff and rod, and guard from every snare; Teach us to walk with Christ in view, and honour him in all we do.

5 Increase our faith and love, and make us watch and pray; O fix our souls above, nor let us ever stray; Dear Lord, do thou our strength renew, and lead us on with Christ in view.

644 11s W. Gadsby

“Watch and be sober.” 1Th 5:6; 1Pe 5:8

- 1 Watch, watch, and be sober, ye children of God; Your wonderful Lover has bought you with blood; Your Husband and Saviour for you gave his life; Then be your behaviour becoming his wife.
- 2 O watch against trusting to your native strength; Behold Peter boasting, but o’ercome at length;¹ Your strength will forsake you, and leave you to fall, unless the Lord make you to trust him for all.
- 3 Treat all as deceivers that lead not to Christ; As holy believers, rely on your Priest;² Watch ye against sleeping, and stand to your post, lest you should go weeping, while Canaanites³ boast.
- 4 By awful temptations attacked and distressed, though thousand vexations each moment molest, yet watch against falling, and yield not to doubt, on Christ your Lord calling, your foes you shall rout.⁴

¹ behold Peter boasting, but o’ercome at length – Mat 26. ² priest – Heb 4-5, 7-8. ³ Canaanites boast – ungodly inhabitants of the land promised to Abraham, here symbolizing unbelievers generally. ⁴ rout – to over-whelmingly defeat.

667 10s W. Gadsby

Safety in Christ. Phi 4:19; Heb 13:6

- 1 Immortal honours rest on Jesus’ head; My God, my Portion, and my Living Bread; In him I live, upon him cast my care; He saves from death, destruction, and despair.
- 2 He is my Refuge in each deep distress; The Lord my strength and glorious righteousness; Through floods and flames he leads me safely on, and daily makes his sovereign goodness known.
- 3 My every need he richly will supply; Nor will his mercy ever let me die; In him there dwells a treasure all divine, and matchless grace has made that treasure mine.
- 4 O that my soul could love and praise him more, His beauties trace,¹ his majesty adore; Live near his heart, upon his bosom lean;² Obey his voice, and all his will esteem.

¹ trace – discover by searching. ² bosom lean – Joh 13:23.

742 7s J. Berridge

“He that trusts in his own heart is a fool.” Pro 28:26

- 1 He that trusts in his own heart, acts a raw¹ and foolish part; Base² it is, and full of guile, brooding mischief in a smile.
- 2 Does it boast of love within? So it may, and yet may sin; Peter loved his Master well, yet a loving Peter fell.
- 5 Every prop³ will, first or last, sink or fail, but Jesus Christ; On this sure foundation stone let me build and rest alone. ❧

¹ raw – immature. ² base – without honor or morals. ³ prop – support.

