

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Augustus M. Toplady (1776)

Verse 1

Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, from Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Verse 2

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy laws demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone

Verse 3

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior or I die.

Verse 4

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.



Credits

Cover Art: "Jesus Restores a Blind Man's Sight" Engraving by Swiss artist
Mattaeus Merian the Elder (c. 1630).

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Old Orchard Church

— July 24, 2011 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Jesus Restores a Blind Man's Sight

*Jesus went throughout Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues,
preaching the good news of the kingdom, and
healing every disease and sickness
among the people.*

— Matthew 4:23 —

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Healer of Our Bodies and Hearts

Sin not only breaks a law
but it also tears the fragile fabric
of our humanness and puts us in pain—
pain of broken bodies and broken spirits.
But thanks be to God for sending his Son
into the world to mend what is broken!

The Lord restores us to himself,
to ourselves, and to one another,
and so begins to heal us—body and soul.

Tasting the Lord's goodness,
and knowing him as salve for our wounds,
we long for everything injured in us to be put right—
partially now,
fully in the life of the world to come.
Alleluia!



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 53:1-6

Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:14-17

Disciplines of Disciples Series

“Hanging On Every Word of the King’s Speech”

Deuteronomy 8

Ron Lutjens, pastor, preaching

God as Doctor

It is the sole prerogative of God to remove spiritual disease. Natural disease may be instrumentally healed by men, but even then the honor is to be given to God who gives virtue to medicine, and bestows power to the human frame to cast off disease. As for spiritual sicknesses, these remain with the great Physician alone; He claims it as His prerogative, **I kill and I make alive, I wound and I heal;** (Deut. 32:39) and one of the Lord’s choice titles is Jehovah-Rophi, “the Lord that heals you.” **I will heal you of your wounds,** (Jeremiah 30:17) is a promise which could not come from the lip of man, but only from the mouth of the eternal God. On this account the psalmist cried to the Lord, **O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony,** (Psalm 6:2) and again, **Heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.** (Psalm 41:4) For this, also, the godly praise the name of the Lord, saying, **He heals all our diseases.** (Psalm 103:3) He who made man can restore man; He who was at first the creator of our nature can create it new. What a transcendent comfort it is that in the person of Jesus **dwells all the fulness of the godhead bodily!** (Colossians 2:9) My soul, whatever your disease may be, this great Physician can heal you. If He be God, there can be no limit to His power. Come then with the blind eye of darkened understanding, come with the limping foot of wasted energy, come with the maimed hand of weak faith, the fever of an angry temper, or the chills of shivering despondency, come just as you are, for He who is God can certainly restore you from your sickness. None shall restrain the healing virtue which proceeds from Jesus our Lord. Legions of devils have been made to own the power of the beloved Physician, and never once has He been baffled. All His patients have been cured in the past and shall be in the future, and you shall be one among them, my friend, if you will but rest yourself in Him today.

—Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)



We celebrate the Lord’s Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

For Meditation

[The Lord] humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. --Deuteronomy 8:3

Here is a text teaching us that: *while we do need perishable food to stay alive, even more crucial to any human being is being and staying alive spiritually. And the food that sustains that life is everything which God speaks to us. But we must “eat” it: receive, trust, obey and enjoy it.*

1. Read it—Read the passage out loud at least three times this week, and try to memorize it, or part of it, if you can.

2. Think it—Mull the text over through your week, and try to carve out some time to sit alone with your Bible open to it. *The core exercise in meditating on God’s Word is simply to get quiet with the text in front of you—or in your head—as you try to discern the Lord speaking to you in it.*

3. Pray it—As you ponder this passage, ask God to show you **a.)** the depths of the soul-hunger you have as a man or woman made in God’s image; and **b.)** those ways in which you *in particular* are tempted to put more stock in physical bread and material provisions than in the Word of God which feeds our hungry souls. Try to discern what you need most and *then ask for it*. Read Luke 4:1-4 and consider how Jesus, your Master, applied this text to his own struggles.

4. Live it—Choose one specific thing you can do to move toward the spiritual food you need, which is Christ, the living Word of God, and one thing you can do to lessen your dependence on food in the fridge or closet. Then actually do those two things this week.

7/24/11