

The Everlasting Arms

No. 122

Introduction.

- I. **Years ago a Frenchman incurred the displeasure of Napoleon** and was put into a dungeon. It seemed to be forsaken by his friends and forgotten by everyone in the outside world. In loneliness and despair he took a stone and scratched on the wall of his cell, "Nobody cares." One day a green shoot came through the cracks in the stones on the floor of the dungeon and began to reach up toward the long window at the top of the cell. He watered it each day and it grew up to be beautiful blue flower. He then crossed out the words previously written on the wall and above them scratched, "God cares." Yes, God cares. He cares for you and He cares for me.
- II. One of the songs we love to sing contains these wonderful words about Jesus, but are equally true of God.

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS WHAT A BLESSEDNESS, WHAT A PEACE IS MINE LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS	OH HOW SWEET TO WALK IN THIS PILGRIM WAY LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS OH HOW BRIGHT THE PATH GROWS FROM DAY TO DAY LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS
LEANING ON JESUS, LEANING ON JESUS SAFE AND SECURE FROM ALL ALARMS LEANING ON JESUS, LEANING ON JESUS LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS	WHAT HAVE I TO DREAD, WHAT HAVE I TO FEAR LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS I HAVE BLESSED PEACE WITH MY LORD SO NEAR LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

- III. These comforting words are based on Moses' statement found in Deuteronomy 33:27. Quo.

- A. It is wonderful to know God is eternal! He always been and always will be.
- B. It is even more wonderful to know God is our refuge and we can always lean upon His everlasting arms.

- I. **Arms Of Salvation** - The "everlasting arms" are arms of salvation.

- A. God's arms are gracious, saving arms.
- B. All men had fallen into the filthy mire of sin and stood condemned, but God's arms reached down from heaven to earth to bring salvation to all who will accept His grace.

1. Paul exclaimed. (Rom. 6:23; Tit. 2:11).
2. Paul wrote. (Eph. 2:1-9).

EPH 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in

mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

2. Paul declared we were dead in our trespasses and sins. He further declared that we are saved by God's grace.
 3. God's grace has been manifested through the **atoning death of Jesus Christ**. On the cross Jesus shed His blood for those lost in the filthy mire of sin.
- B. If we will but put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, believe Him to be the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, and trust Him completely for salvation; if we will sincerely repent and renounce all the sins we have committed; if we will then obey our Lord's command to be baptized for the remission of sins, we shall be saved.
1. **Jesus said**. (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Mk. 16:16).
 2. The everlasting arms of God reach down and save us when we obey these simple conditions of the gospel.

II. **Arms Of Strength** -The "everlasting arms" of God are arms of strength.

A. After saving us, God gives us strength to live the Christian life.

1. Leaning on the everlasting arms of God, we can say with **the psalmist**. (Psa. 46:1; 121:1-2).
2. Leaning on the everlasting arms of God, we can say in the **triumphant words of Isaiah** the prophet.

ISA 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. 29 He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. 30 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, 31 Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

3. Leaning on the everlasting arms of God, we can also **say with Paul**. (2 Tim. 1:12).

- B. **Once a man on the top of his house** gave his small son permission to climb the ladder to the place where he was standing. The little boy started up the ladder, but when he was halfway up, he looked down to the ground. He became frightened and began to cry. The father then said, "Son, don't look down, look up at me, and keep climbing." The boy looked up to his father, the fear left him, and he climbed safely to the top.
- C. **Oh, that is what we need to do**. When troubles and trials and temptations gather around us, we need to look up to God and He will reach forth His everlasting arms and help us.

D. **God's arms are so strong**.

1. Sometimes I have watched the **strongest man in the world contest**. I have seen men , on these programs, who have arms as large as most mens legs. I have watched them lift hundreds and hundreds of pounds. I have seen them pull with their powerful arms more than 100,000 pounds. One day I saw them pull 2 18 wheelers loaded with more than 120,000 pounds about 50 feet.
2. These men are incredibly strong, but after a few seconds or minutes there arms lose all strength. These men with all of their strength do not even begin to compare with the God who is able to uphold the entire universe with His powerful arms. These men do not compare to God who has arms that never grow tired.

III. **Arms Of Love** - The “everlasting arms” of God are arms of love.

A. God is love.

1. **God**, through Jeremiah the prophet, said. (Jere. 31:3).
2. **Paul** wrote. (Rom. 5:8).
3. **John** wrote. (1 Jn. 4:10).

B. **God has always loved man.**

1. He has manifested this love to man through a multitude of blessings showered upon him.
2. The **climax of the divine love** was when God sent Jesus to the world to be our Savior. God sent His Son to die on a cruel cross to die for us transgressions. Christ was the propitiation for us sins. God can justly save us because Jesus paid the price for us.
3. God loved us by giving His only Son was us. **We can be assured, therefore, that God who loved us that much will always love us.**
4. If our faith and trust are in God, we may say in the words of Paul. (Rom. 8:37-39).

C. **We ought to love, honor, and serve God!** “We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 Jn. 4:19).

1. Because God loved us, we ought to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength is our greatest duty.
2. Because God loved us, we ought to obey God and conform to His will in every detail of our lives.

IV. **Arms Of Guidance** - The “everlasting arms” of God are arms of guidance.

- A. As the father takes his son by the hand to lead him through the darkness of night, so the everlasting arms lead us in this world.
- B. We may therefore say, in the immortal words of David. (Psa. 23:1-4).
- C. **Yes, God will lead us where we need to go.**
 1. He may lead us by the still waters and green pastures; and, at other times, in the valleys of darkness, where the shadows and danger lurk.

2. But we are assured that our Good Shepherd will always lead us in paths of righteousness, never in the paths of unrighteousness! Where He leads is where we ought to go! We should follow God's guidance in all things.

V. **Arms Of Rest** - The "everlasting arms" of God are also arms of rest.

A. **Solomon** uttered these words to Israel.

1KI 8:56 "Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant.

1KI 8:57 "May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us,

These words were spoken to fleshly Israel, but they are also true of spiritual Israel - the church. God will not break His promise, but will give us sweet rest.

1. The psalmist exhorted us to "rest in the Lord". (Psa. 37:7).

2. The **psalmist** also said,

PSA 116:5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is compassionate.

PSA 116:6 The Lord preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me.

PSA 116:7 Return to your rest, O my soul, For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

3. Jesus said. (Matt. 11:28)

4. John wrote. (Rev. 14:13).

B. Amid all the trials, sorrow, tragedies, heartaches and troubles in life, we may go to the everlasting arms of God and there find sweet rest from all our labors.

C. And we have the blessed assurance that, if faithful to God in this life, we may enter into the eternal rest with Him in heaven. There we will enjoy sweet rest and sing of His marvelous grace forever.

Conclusion.

I. **We point you to God who though Christ will save.**

A. Accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Rely upon His merit and righteousness, not your own. Confess Him as the Son of God. Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.

B. In doing this you will be saved and God's everlasting arms will always bless and keep you.

II. The invitation is extended. Will you come as we sing?