

Eternal Wisdom, A Murderer in Heaven

*** There is an important note at the end of this poem. ***

While exploring an old schoolhouse,
Abandoned for years,
A faded sign in a window
Awakened my fears.

It said, "If seeking wisdom then
Look further ahead,
And be sure that you do it long
Before you are dead!"

Now, I don't know if they're joking
Or who I should thank,
But deep into my soul the words
Effectively sank,

For I was truly frightened that
My life could pass by,
And I would simply use it up
Without knowing why.

So I made a firm decision that
I'd search all around,
And begin asking everyone,
'Til wisdom was found.

So, I inquired of a doctor,
Some scholars, a king,
An extremely famous athlete, and
A star who could sing,

A man quite good in business, who
Had power and wealth,
And two who lived primarily
For fitness and health,

And each of them, they told me to
Look further ahead,
And prepare for my future, this
Is just what they said.

They made me think, 'In fifty years,
Where I'd want to be,
And how the choices made today,
They would be the key.'

But none of them would even touch
The subject of God,
And eternity, they barely
Even gave it a nod.ⁱ

Then I met a prisoner, who
Was sentenced for life,
For murdering a close friend, and
For raping his wife.

He told me he'd been evil, and
He turned to the Lord,
To ask for His forgiveness for
The sin they abhorred.

So he received God's mercy and,
Thus, with it, His rule.ⁱⁱ
He told me that without them, he
Had been such a fool.

He said that we all need this, for
We all have done wrong,
The sin passed down from Adam is
Humanity's song.ⁱⁱⁱ

And he said, "There is no one the
Lord cannot forgive,
He came to take our punishment, so
Each of us could live."^{iv}

Then he said his time on earth
Would end in this cell,
But, he was actually very free
With no fear of hell.^v

And then he said he serves the Lord
Right here in this place,
An urge he had to follow since
Receiving His grace.

So wisdom is the path which he
Had chosen to tread,
He found it when deciding to
Look further ahead.^{vi}

He made me think, 'A hundred years,
Where I'd want to be,
And how the choices made today,
They would be the key.'

Well that was many years ago,
And now that I've died,
I'm thankful for the grace of God
On which I've relied.

And now I find I'm kneeling here
Right next to the man,
Who told me of God's love for us
And merciful plan,

And now as we all bow here with
Each face to the ground,
The Lord begins to speak and it's
A beautiful sound.

Our Omnipotent Creator,
Eternal God and King,
Welcomes us to Heaven, where we'll
Dance and laugh and sing.

The One who made the cosmos, Who
Made and filled the earth,
Then stepped down into time and space
To give us second birth,^{vii}

Says to each, "Now come my love
Into eternal bliss,
A place of so much ecstasy, the
Earth you'll never miss.

And here there are no problems, no
Sickness, sorrow, death,
Here no one will ever cry or
Take a final breath."^{viii}

Then my friend, so overjoyed
That I'd looked ahead,
Smiles and said, "We missed God's wrath and
Chose His love instead.

But, now the Lord, He turns to face a
Very different crowd,
A countless mass who sinned like us,
But, were way too proud

To accept that He is just--no
Sin can He allow--^{ix}
Thus, ask Him for forgiveness and
To His lordship, bow.

They shook their tiny fists at Him,
In arrogance and pride,
As for the message of the cross
Each, they did deride.^x

And, thus, they lost the chance to be
With Him eternally,
And receive His love poured out
So abundantly.

And lives less than perfect, with
Forgiveness unapplied,
Allow only justice, so in
Hell they will reside.

And now the angels, they begin
Leading them away,
From God and us eternally
For their sin to pay.^{xi}

And now the people start to weep
Encountering the smell
And the heat from the sulphur
Rising up from Hell^{xii}

And one of them, he suddenly
Gasps and starts to scream,
When he sees he cannot wake, for
This is not a dream.

For now he knows that they are all
Entering the fire
And Hell's eternal punishment,
It will not expire.^{xiii}

And now that they've all disappeared
Completely out of sight,
Jesus, restrained by justice, to
Only do what's right,

Begins to weep so bitterly for
These He couldn't save,^{xiv}
Even though upon the cross, His
Very life He gave.

*** While writing this poem, I was thinking of using a plumber—just an ordinary guy—as the character through whom the wisdom would come. God interrupted my thoughts with the phrase, "rapist/murderer." He wanted grace and mercy to be emphasized, as well as wisdom. At the end of the poem, I was going to write that "God had tears in His eyes." God interrupted my thoughts with the phrase, "weeping bitterly."

The writer of this poem is a sinful person who justly deserves to burn in Hell. He is also one who was so swayed by this reality, and by the love of God, that he repented of his sin and turned his life over to the Lord. It is his prayer that this poem will have the same effect on those who read it.

ⁱ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. 1 Corinthians 3:19

ⁱⁱ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 / Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. Samuel 12:13

ⁱⁱⁱ Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned- Romans 5:12

^{iv} For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, 1 Peter 3:18

^v For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman 1 Corinthians 7:22

^{vi} The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10

^{vii} In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. John 1:1, 14

^{viii} He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4

^{ix} Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Revelation 15:3

^x For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, 1 Corinthians 1:18

^{xi} The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:49

^{xii} If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15

^{xiii} And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. Revelation 14:11

^{xiv} As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it . . . Luke 19:41