

## THE STRAIN OF LIFE

P.S. 103:14

"He knoweth.....our frame"

In a certain little city in the West a man wanted his residence moved to another part of the town. In talking to the house mover the mover said that he could move it all right. The owner asked him what things should be moved out of the house before moving it. The mechanic said, "Move the china plates that hang around the wall in the dinning room that's all." It was lifted from its foundation, placed in the St. carried up a hill, a terrace and placed on the new foundation without cracking the plaster on the walls or injuring a piece of funniture. Reason? the walls and all timbers were seasoned walnut and put together conscientiously.....  
HE KNEW ITS FRAME.

Over the Des Moines River in acertain village a bridge was built. A good old lady grieved that the builders worked on Sundays. She said, "The bridge will never stand because they have dishonored God and His Sabbath day." Her philosophy of religion was this, that people who dishonored God and His day would do dishonest work. She did not believe that God would tear the bridge down but that it would fall because of dishonest work. People laughed her to scorn but in the spring when the floods swept down the river the bridge was lifted from its piers and washed away.

It is God's desire that life shall be stalwart, strong, and substantial. We have many pictures of God.

1. some think of Him as an agriculturist. We see His strange work in nature from the slender branch of the willow that sends out its buds so early in the spring that each one must be supplied with a fur overcoat, to the last bit of thistle down that travels in its parachute on the autumn winds.
2. We have called Him OUR SHEPHERD..a figure of faithfulness
3. We have called Him our King because of His splendor and majesty.
4. We have called Him our Father because of His tender love in drawing us to Him in love.

But let us think of Him as mechanician. One who has laid the foundation of character in His providence, lifted about us the girders of eternal truth, bound them together with the

cross beams of His everlasting law, and arched all life with the beautiful dome of His goodness. "He knoweth our frame." We are built to BEAR. We are fashioned for utility. We are meant for service. He does not play pranks with us to get us to do things for Him.

In a piece of fiction years ago a man took prisoner a man who was his enemy. He wanted to get from him secrets. He tortured him to obtain the secrets. He stretched his fingers till they ached..he compelled him to play checkers with him all night on a metal board with a chair so wired that when he touched the board electricity would course through his body in amount to give him great pain. He tortured him to see how much he could stand. God does not test our frame to see how much we can stand. He is not that kind of a father. He knows our frame, He knows that the devil will test us out and God has built us so that we can over come. With every temptation He gives us a way of escape.

Centrifugal force of this planet as it sweeps through its orbit around the sun is such that it would fly away and stagger into collision with some other heavenly body were it not for the centrepetal force that holds it in eternal allegiance to the sun.

On this planet the centrifugal force is such as the earth makes its daily revolutions that all houses would be swept from their foundations and fly away were it not for gravitation that holds them firm to their foundations. IF GOD HAS MADE THESE PERFECT ADJUSTMENTS REGARDING MATERIAL THINGS DON'T YOU THINK THAT IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM WHERE WE ARE MOST LIKE HIM, HE WILL MAKE SUFFICIENT PROVISIONS?

He knoweth our frame.

Because of this He has made it possible for us to bear the strain of sin. He knows that the tempter will come. He knows the nature of flesh. He sees us break laws and feel the shock of broken law. Indeed if we keep inviting sin into our lives, that something that injures and destroys God Himself can not prevent our ruin.

Sin undermines...works at the center of life. Some times a person's sin that has been hidden explodes.

Some years ago the Campanile at Venice went crashing to ruin. The work of timber worms. Edwin Markham has written these words about the incident:

IN STORIED VENICE DOWN WHOSE RIPPLING STREETS  
THE STARS GO HURRYING, AND THE WHITE MOON BEATS  
STOOD THE GREAT BELL TOWER, FRONTING SEAS AND  
SKIES

FRONTING THE AGES DRAWING ALL MENS EYES;  
ROOTED LIKE TENNERIFFE, ALOFT AND PROUD  
TAUPEING THE LIGHTENING, TEARING THE FLYING CLOUD.

IT MARKED THE HOURS FOR VENICE: ALL MEN SAID  
TIME CAN NOT REACH TO BOW THAT LOFTY HEAD:  
TIME, THAT SHALL TOUCH ALL ELSE WITH RUIN, MUST  
FORBEAR TO MAKE THIS SHAFT CONFESS ITS DUST;  
YET ALL THE WHILE, IN SECRET, WITHOUT SOUND,  
THE FAT WORMS KNAWE THE TIMBERS UNDER GROUND.

THE TWISTING WORM, WHOSE EPOCH IS AN HOUR,  
CAVERNED ITS WAY IN TO THE MIGHTY TOWER;  
AND SUDDENLY IT SHOOK, IT SWAYED, IT BROKE,  
AND FELL IN DARKENING THUNDER AT ONE STROKE.  
THE STRONG SHAFT, WITH AN AGEL ON THE CROWN  
FELL RUINING--A THOUSAND YEARS WENT DOWN.

Nothing can prevent the overthrow of a life in which sin continues to work. It destroys the noblest, the proudest, and the best. But in framing us God has given us the power of resistance.

The instinct of danger...the remorse for guilt..the sorrow for fault...the inner protest against an alliance with evil..are all a part of His attempt to recover us from wrong.

It is wonderful how He can bring us back to moral health even when we have been partly damaged by sin. God's processes are all remedial.

- a. If bark is knocked from a tree nature goes to work to repair the defect.
- b. If the body is cut the wound is healed with a supply of new tissue.

If an embankment gives way it is soon sown with grass and flowers. God is constantly working to repair the damage of broken laws and to heal the wounds of accident.

He has placed within us some of the powers of self recovery. But knowing our frame He has let a shaft of light down from a window in heaven that the wanderer seeing it it may know that he is expected back home. He has left the home itself and come down where darkness, sin, and despare are and in His Spirit touches the person in the mire of sin and says "Child come home."

SORROW LAYS ITS STRAIN ON LIFE. Some of it is the portion of every one. Through the halls and rooms of this character temple echo at times the dirge, the chant of distress, the sob of anguish, as well as the sounds of joy.

What is the blackest hour of life? It when there sweeps over us (and some times it might happen) <sup>when</sup> that God has forsaken us. Such an experience as that which Jesus had when He cried out, "My God My God why has Thou forsaken me?"

But as we stand up under the strain of sin and sorrow we help others to stand also. In a row of buildingd some that are defective and unable to stand if standing by themselves are helped to stand by those that surround them. People are like that. That is why God has placed us in groups, in families, etc. Solitary we would collapse but with neighbors and friends standing by we are able to stand too. OH FOR THE STRENGTH TO HELP ANOTHER BEAR LIFE' LOAD.



OH MASTER LET ME WALK WITH THEE  
IN LOWLY PATHS OF SERVICE FREE  
TELL ME THY SECRET; HELP ME BEAR  
THE STRAIN OF TOIL THE FRET OF CARE.