


Intro.


- A. For one who celebrates being freed from captivity to sing a song of joy & deliverance is natural & fitting.
 - 1. **When Johnny Comes Marching Home** – song about the return of soldiers in the 2nd World war.
 - 2. Our *National Anthem* = song of celebration declaring our freedom!
- B. Moses (**Ex. 15:1-2**), Deborah (**Judg. 5**) & **Isa. (12:1-5)** sang of God's mighty hand of deliverance f/ enemy
- C. When we sing in worship, ...many songs may well mean 1 thing to you, & another to someone else.
 - 1. Regardless of the particular applica. of lyrics to you or me, we all should be singing as fervantly as able.
 - 2. Song which is our focus this p.m. is just as encouraging & challenging as it was in 1918 when Wm. Golden 1st wrote it – *A Beautiful Life*, #1.

Discuss.


I. First Characteristic of a Beautiful Life: DEEDS....DO a Golden DEED(1)... lift some trav'ler's load(5)

- A. The *Golden deeds* to be performed involve helping those in need.
 - 1. Peter explained a *good deed done to the impotent man...by the name of Jesus Christ*, **Ac. 4:9** = healing
 - 2. They include doing works in obedience to the N. T. law, **Jas. 1:25**
 - 3. Good deeds are best performed when they
 - a. accompany good words, **Rom. 15:18**
 - b. are in harmony with truth, **1 Jn. 3:18**
 - c. are consistently performed, regardless of who is (or is not) watching, **Phil. 2:12; 2 Cor 5:9**
- B. The motivation for those golden deeds  is in **Mt. 7:12**
 - 1. It is always encouraging to see a gt. example -----**Christ, Ac. 10:38** (*about* = everywhere, throughout).
 - 2. Bible & Song give a united challenge: *each & every day*, be about doing good for others!!!

II. Second Characteristic of a Beautiful Life: CONSISTENCY. “Each day...My life on earth is but a span.”

- A. 1/3 of the books in the Inspired Record emphasize daily  responsibilities of God's people.
 - 1. The *Good Samaritan* of **Lk. 10** illustrates **Mk. 9:41** (give cup of water....), & it relates to extending mercy to one in need (*mercy lifted* wounded, *worked* to get him needed help, & was *lasting* (paid).
 - 2. Being Christ-like involves doing *golden deeds daily* everywhere, throughout life.
- B. The uncertainty of **TIME** should prompt me & you to *do the best [we] can*.
 - 1. The vapor of our life is for only *a little time*, **Jas. 4:14**
 - 2. Job was well aware that our days = *swifter than a runner,....like swift ships, like an eagle swooping on it's prey*, **Job 9:25f**
 - 3. Peter compares life to the flower of grass, that lives a day in the sweltering Palestinian heat, **1 Pt. 2:24**
- C. Knowing the brevity of life challenges us to use the little time we have to do whatever we can for the Lord
 - 1. **Eph. 5:14—16** **(Jn. 9:4)**
 - 2. *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night is coming, when no man can work.* \\
- D. We need to strive to always be *kind* (*one to another- **Eph. 4:32**), *good* (**Eph. 5:9**) & *pure*, **1 Tm. 5:22**.*


III. Third Characteristic of a Beautiful Life: FAITHFULNESS. “To be a child of God each day”

- A. We are privileged to be God's children by right of resignation & obedience to Father's will. **Gal. 3:26f**
 - 1. **Eph. 2:12** announces that we \gg outsiders (*strangers, aliens*) **1 Thes. 5:5**
 - 2. *Children of light....day* know what God expects of us, & that we need to stay ready to give account, \\
- B. While children, our Father expects us to mature & *stand fast* (**1 Cor. 16:13**)
 - 1. Cannot *stand fast* & be indifferent to responsibilities to our family (church), friends & neighbors (lost)
 - 2. *Our light must shine along the way--* **Mt. 5:14** (**vs. 16** – *sooo* shine = adverb stating degree of intensity)
 - 3. Wm. Golden obviously had on his mind  how our time should be used as *stewards*, **1 Cor. 4:1-2**
- C. *...only life that will endure, = one that's kind, & good & pure....I'll take my stand... & lend a helping hand*

IV. Fourth Characteristic of a Beautiful Life: WORSHIP. *“I’ll sing His praise while ages roll”*

- A. Faithful Christians busy in the Lord’s service find worship both satisfying & uplifting.
 - 1. Whenever you are actively engaged in the Lord’s work, it is difficult – maybe impossible – to sing *I Want To Be A Worker For The Lord*, or *We’ll Work ‘Til Jesus Comes*, or *Work for the Night is Coming*.
 - 2. Working & singing seem to be natural to some folks. (Deneen Padgett)
 - 3. It seemed natural in **Acts 16:25** to find Paul & Silas singing & praying when imprisoned for doing the Lord’s work..
- B. Whenever we enjoy doing the Lord’s work, it is natural to sing praises to God, **Jas. 5:13**
 - 1. Do we share in common David’s attitude about worship, **Psa. 122:1** *I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.*
 - 2. Truth is, it is unnatural for God’s faithful children **not to** want to be present & actively worship with God’s family at every opportunity possible!!!

V. Fifth Characteristic of a Beautiful Life: COURAGE. *“...And so for God I’ll take my stand”*

- A. Occasionally may feel as isolated & lonely as Elijah did in **1 Kgs. 19** when he wanted to die, believing He = the only one left who was trying to faithfully serve God..
 - 1. Courage is not easy to come by if we are trusting in our own strength.
 - 2. When trusting in God for our strength, we can endure, being content to stand 4-square on God’s truth. (**Phil. 4:13**)
- B. There seems to be a strength & courage that grows out of contentment with the things God provides.
 - 1. Read **Heb. 13:5-6**
 - 2. Solomon affirmed that complete trust in God finds Father the most capable Captain of our voyage through life, **Prov. 3:5-6**  producing courage, confidence & contentment.

Concl.

VI. Sixth Characteristic of a Beautiful Life: VISION (seeing into eternity). *Life’s evening sun.....I must go to meet the deeds that I have done where there will be no setting sun!!!*

- A. When this life is no more, and the day light has faded into darkness, there will be a time of accounting.
 - 1. Death is a promise of God – count on experiencing it (c. **Heb. 9:27**)
 - 2. After death comes the judgment, **2 Cor. 5:10**
- B. Guy N. Woods sometimes closed his sermon this way:
 - 1. *Friends, we are rapid passengers thru time into eternity.*
 - 2. *It can’t be long for anyone of us, & will be soon for some of us...*
 - 3. *A million yrs. from now it will not make any difference what we wore, what we drove or where we lived.*
 - 4. *There will loom over a vast horizon the question, **am I prepared to meet God?***
- C. **A beautiful life** will then make all the difference. in the world to us.
 - 1. If you have not been living a beautiful life before God, obey the gospel tonight while there is still time
 - 2. We will assist you in bapt. to wash your sins away, or we will pray for your forgiveness if you will come!