Messages and Reports

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## Remember and Rejoice in Hope!

Looking Back and Looking Forward

"Remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee." "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." "Rejoice in hope of the glory of God."—Deuteronomy 8:12; 1 Samuel 7:12; Romans 5:2.

The redeemed of the Lord are blessed with wonderful memories. We have strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow! At this New Year, let's pause for encouragement and behold the goodness of the Lord! Looking at current events, we might easily become discouraged, but looking unto Jesus, our joy rebounds and our hope revives!

If we just look around us we will see His loving hand extended, His Holy Spirit leading; His providential care. What a blessed hope within our hearts to assure us it is better further on! It is brighter all the way! Weary pilgrims, stop, and look back now. Look back and see the hand of God in your life. Recall the mighty miracles He has wrought on your behalf. "Remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee" (Deut. 8:2). Remember how He cared for your soul, forgave your sins and answered your prayers. Remember how He has loved you and led you all the way. Remember how He spared you from accidents, delivered you from troubles, supplied your needs, healed your body, guided you through dark places and carried you when you were weak and weary. Let us rejoice in the words of Fanny Crosby, "All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my guide? This my song through endless ages, Jesus led me all the way!"

And look at where we are now in relation to where we have been. Let's mark our progress with a memorial: an Ebenezer (a stone of help, of remembrance) saying, "hitherto hath the Lord helped us!" (1 Sam. 7:12). By loving help from heaven and by the wonderful grace of Jesus, we have come this far. Truly we've come this far by faith, trusting in the Lord. He's never failed us! Through all our pains and pleasures, sorrows and songs, sickness and health, want and wealth, through burdens and blessings "hitherto hath the Lord helped us!"

As we stand by our Ebenezer, not only do we look back at precious memories, but we look forward in hope. For we know that He who has helped us this far will help us all the way to glory! He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us and we can "Rejoice in Hope of the glory of God" (Rom. 5:2). We can face the future without fear or dread because Jesus will lead us home! Lead on, O King Eternal! The day of march has come! There are more roads to be traveled, more songs to be sung, more prayers to be prayed, more battles to be won, more trials to overcome. Yet with hope in our hearts that we may soon see the glory of God, we rejoice to

| walk on with Jesus! May we all walk with Jesus until we have finished the course and won the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. | е |
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