**Daily Prayer & Encouragement - Friday 18th December**

Isaiah 1 v 18

Come now, let us reason together says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

I have a poem I love to read, usually around this time of year. It’s entitled Beautiful Snow by Major Sigourney. It begins with the snow coming down, filling the sky and the earth below, falling as gentle as love, and all the excitement of it’s arrival. The writer then describes the scene as the pure white snow slowly becomes trampled by feet, and blends with the filth in the horrible street. He then describes his own fall, like snowflakes from Heaven to hell, crying ‘Merciful God have I fallen so low? And yet I was once like the beautiful snow’. The poem continues to it wonderful conclusion and the truth, with the words…

Helpless and foul as the trampled snow,

Sinner, despair not! Christ stoopeth low

To rescue the soul that is lost in sin,

And raise it to life and enjoyment again.

Groaning – bleeding – dying for thee,

The Crucified hung on the cursed tree!

His accents of mercy fell soft on thine ear,

“Is there mercy for me? Will He heed my weak prayer?”

O God! In the stream that for sinners did flow,

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

This might seem more like an Easter thought for today, but it was on that first Christmas that Jesus was born to be our Saviour. To know and experience for ourselves God’s gift of Jesus our Deliverer makes Christmas wonderful. The carols ring true, the lights sparkle brighter, because we can truly celebrate His marvellously extravagant extraordinary gift of Jesus the Christchild.

I wonder if we’ll see snow coming down this Christmas, ‘as gentle as love’? But whether we see real snow or not, Love did come down gently that first Christmas and He came for us! That is worth celebrating!

Link song: Mary did You Know?

<https://youtu.be/F1H1-scfD1s>

Cheryl Jones

