

There is a song that we sometimes sing that is a favorite of mine entitled “Farther Along.” This is an old familiar favorite on page 138 in our hymn book. It was written in 1911 by W. B. Stevens. The words of this song are comforting and help us to go through the difficulties of life. It’s theme is that farther along in life the more we will understand about the 1) Mysteries of Life; 2) Uncertainties of Life; 3) Inequities of Life, and the Eternal Glory of Life. This will be the theme of our discussion during the next few minutes.

1 John 3:1-3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure. There are some questions that even the faithful Christian has, like:

- a. What will it be like?
- b. Where will we go?
- c. What will we do?
- d. Will we recognize others?

In the passage just read, John frankly admits that he doesn't know what we will be like. He does, however, say that we will be like the Lord and for John this is enough. He’s satisfied to have these questions answered “Farther Along.”

MYSTERIES OF LIFE: There are certainly many mysteries in life and some of them we will never understand. Some are simply Deuteronomy 29:29. ***The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*** There are certainly many questions that will not be answered in this life. However, the Scripture provides the answer to many of them, especially in the spiritual realm.

2 Pet. 1:3, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" We have been given all things that pertain to life and godliness. Let us accept in faith the answers revealed in the Bible to our many questions. ***Heb. 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*** There are some things in life that we just don't understand, but farther along many of the mysteries in life will be revealed.

Let us consider the words of the song **Farther Along** (verse 1). *"Tempted and tried we're oft made to wonder Why it should be thus all the day long, While there are others living about us, Never molested tho in the wrong."* Life is filled with uncertainties and trials. Many of which we do not understand. One big mystery is why the unrighteous prosper when we may be struggling. Well, farther along we understand more of life's uncertainties.

II. UNCERTAINTIES OF LIFE: There are times when there are uncertainties in life and we feel like we don't know what to do or where to turn. This may be because of inexperience in an unknown. If we will but place our faith in God then He will provide us the assurance through His inspired Word to persevere.

Let us consider the uncertainties in the life of Abraham, the father of the faithful. God told Abraham that Sarah would have his son. This was beyond Abraham's experience. He had never heard of someone Sarah's age having a child. Notice his logic. ***Rom. 4:19-21, "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."***

God has promised to be with us even during times of uncertainties in our life. Let us learn from the example of Jesus' disciples when they were in the midst of a storm.

Matt. 8:26, “*And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.*” The Lord took care of those people in the storm of the sea, he will help us in the storms of life. We all face uncertainties like failing health, insecurities, family crisis, freedoms, death, ***Hebrews 13:5*** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

Farther Along we'll be better prepared and able to endure life's uncertainties.

(verse 2) “*When death has come and taken our loved ones, it leaves our home so lonely and drear; Then do we wonder why others prosper living so wicked year after year.*”

III. INEQUITIES OF LIFE: Life also has a certain amount of inequity. There is no guarantee of justice in this life. In fact, life is seldom fair. Often criminals receive little or no punishment for their crimes. Some large companies abuse the rights of their employees. But one thing is certain; justice will be served after this life. Justice and mercy is obtained by way of the cross. ***Titus 2:14***, “*Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*” “*Redeem us from all iniquity*” means there will be a time when we will be separated from the injustices of life. This redemption is because of the ransom Jesus paid for you. ***I Timothy 2:5-6***, “*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*” You see, without the cross there is no mercy or forgiveness. If one does not accept God's justice through the cross, then one must accept God's justice of eternal damnation.

Hebrews 10:30, “*For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.*”

2 Thessalonians 1:6 *Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;* Farther along God will make all wrongs right some day. (verse 3) “*Faithful till death said our loving Master, A few more days to labor and*

wait; Toils of the road will then seem as nothing, As we sweep thru the beautiful gate.”

IV. Eternal Life Is for the Faithful. No one knows when the end of time and the second coming of Christ will be. *Matt. 24:35-36, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”*

The Lord has not given a complete picture of Heaven. This is probably because we are not prepared to fully comprehend that eternal home. *2 Corinthians 12:2-4 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, ... that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.* We cannot look into the future and determine when we will die. However, we know from experience and scripture that one day we will. *Heb. 9:27, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”* But the marvelous promise is that the righteous faithful will enjoy eternal life.

Rev. 22:14, “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

(verse 4) “When we see Jesus coming in glory, When He comes from His home in the sky; Then we shall meet Him in that bright mansion, We’ll understand it all by and by.”

The chorus after each stanza:

*“Farther along we’ll know all about it, Farther along we’ll understand why;
Cheer up my brother – live in the sunshine, We’ll understand it all by and by.”*

Farther along we will understand the importance of becoming a Christian and living the Christian life. While we are on times side of eternaity, lrt us get our life right with the Lord if it is not.

(1Cor. 15:55) O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? (56) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Invitation. Victory is through our Lord Jesus Christ. Are you in Christ?