

***"Thy statutes have been my songs  
in the house of my pilgrimage."***

Psalm 119:54

Come, Christian pilgrim, and beguile your wearisome journey heavenward by "singing the Lord's song in this strange land." (Ps. cxxxvii. 4.) With *the statutes of God* in your hand and in your heart, you are furnished with a song for every step of your way--"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." (Ps. xxiii.) How delightfully does this song bring before you Him, who having laid down his life for you, engages himself as your Provider, your Keeper, your Guide, your faithful and unchangeable Friend! Such a song, therefore, will smooth your path, and reconcile you to the many inconveniences of the way; while the recollection that this is only *the house of your pilgrimage* and not your home; and that "there remaineth a rest for the people of God" (Heb. iv. 9), will support the exercise of faith and patience to the end. How striking the contrast between *the wicked that forsake the law*, and the Christian *pilgrim*, who makes it the subject of his daily song, and the source of his daily comfort! Yes, these same *statutes*, which are the yoke and burden of the ungodly, lead the true servant of the Lord from pleasure to pleasure; and, cherished by their vigorous influence, his way is made easy and prosperous. Evidently, therefore, our knowledge and delight in the Lord's statutes will furnish a decisive test of our real state before him.

But it is important to remember that our cheerful song is connected with a pilgrim-spirit. Never forget that we are not at home (2 Cor. v. 6); only happy strangers on our passage homewards. Here we have no settled habitation (Heb. xi. 10, 14-16); and as we look, we are seeking for it. Our "hearts are in the ways of it." (Ps. lxxxiv. 5.) Every day advances us nearer to it. (Rom. xiii. 11.) In this spirit *the statutes of the Lord will be our song*. Here are the deeds of conveyance--our title made sure to an estate--not small, of little account, or of uncertain interest--but "an inheritance" of incalculable value, made over to us. (1 Pet. i. 3-5.) Here we have sure direction--such as cannot mislead us (Verse 105)--for the attainment of it. Here we are stimulated by the examples of our fellow-pilgrims, who have reached their home (Heb. vi. 11, 12); and as we follow their track, many are the cordials by the way, and home brightens in the nearer prospect.

What reason have we then every moment to guard against the debasing, stupifying influence of the world, which makes us forget the proper character of a pilgrim! And what an habitual conflict must be maintained with the sloth and aversion of a reluctant heart to maintain our progress in the journey towards Zion! Reader! have you entered upon a pilgrim's life? Then what is your solace and refreshment on the road? It is dull, heavy, wearisome, to be a pilgrim without a *song*. And yet it is only the blessed experience of *the*

*Lord's statutes*, that will tune our *song*. "If therefore you have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Pet. ii. 3); if he has thus "put a new song into your mouth" (Ps. xl. 3), oh! do not suffer any carelessness or neglect to rob you of this heavenly anticipation. And that your lips be not found mute, seek to maintain a lively contemplation of the place whither you are going--of Him who as your "forerunner is for you entered" (Heb. vi. 20) thither--and of the prospect, that, having "prepared a place for you, he will come again, and take you to himself; that where he is there you may be also." (John, xiv. 2, 3.) In this spirit, and with these hopes before you, you may take up your song--"O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. I will bless the Lord at all times--his praise shall continually be in my mouth." (Ps. cviii. 1; xxxiv. 1.) Thus may you go on your *pilgrimage* "singing in the ways of the Lord" (Ps. cxxxviii. 5), and commencing a song below, which in the world of praise above, shall never, never cease. (Rev. iv. 8.)