

Complete In Christ

Colossians 1:28-29

Colossians 1:28

28 **We proclaim Him**, public proclamation of the truth **admonishing** putting into your minds as a warning **every man and teaching every man in all wisdom**, fear or reverence of the Lord is wisdom, but note the inclusive—all—all categories of wisdom;
now why does a good **Pastor-Teacher** *proclaim, admonish and teach in all categories of wisdom?*

so that purpose clause—for the purpose that

we may present here is part of the warning:

to present is the **AORIST ACTIVE SUBJUNCTIVE** of the compound Greek verb meaning to cause **to stand near or before, to present before**.

The **AORIST TENSE** describes the function or purpose of the **Pastor-Teacher**.

The **ACTIVE VOICE** is used to emphasize the personal responsibility of every **Pastor-Teacher** to study and teach the wisdom from the Word of God.

But the **Subjunctive Mood** is used to remind the **Pastor-Teacher** that no **Pastor-Teacher** will be completely successful with his congregation.

And the reason he will never be completely successful is that believing members will peel off, leave his teaching, at various points and for various reasons. Some will be offended by his teaching of the truth of Scripture, or some will right out reject it, some will get their feelings hurt, some will leave to attract more business at a larger church or find more people of the opposite sex; some will leave because their children want a different social activity and it goes on and on.

Only a few, even in the best of teachers will be successful of presenting those believers who endured it throughout their lives.

Listening and **learning** and **applying** and **growing** in the Knowledge of God (verse 10) and in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior (2 Peter 3:18).

Next. we have an interesting phrase:

every man we have this phrase now three times in this one verse.

1. Without any discrimination
2. To any and every race or language. Both to Jews and Gentiles.
3. To every unbeliever in JESUS CHRIST and to every believer in JESUS CHRIST. The gospel is for non-Christians and for Christians.

Both need to be warned and exhorted.

The unbeliever to believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior and the believer to remain consistent and persistent in increasing the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

In this one verse, we have covered four verbs which reveal the responsibilities of the **Pastor-Teacher**.

This for every male who has the gift of **Pastor-Teacher** and for every believer to know what to look for in a **Pastor-Teacher**.

1. **To Proclaim** In this list this first word emphasizes the proclamation of the Gospel. To proclaim to all unbelievers the necessity of believing in JESUS CHRIST as Savior. And then to proclaim to believers the necessity of growing in the Word of God.

2. The second word means to warn or to admonish. So many Christians are satisfied with just going to a nice church that has nice programs for their children or a nice musical program. But the Word of God warns bells the importance of growing in the Knowledge of God and Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.
3. And the third word gets right down to the real function of a good **Pastor-Teacher...** consistently teaching the Word of God which means he has to stay seated and study the Word of God, from the original languages if possible, but not an absolute requirement.
4. And the fourth word presents the objective of every **Pastor-Teacher.** By his faithful teaching and the faithful attendance of believers results in the believer being consecrated to the Lord: Christ in you the Hope of Glory.

Why does the Pastor labor to exhaustion?

To render every man complete.

every man complete

The Greek word is **teleios** King James:

every man perfect; in Christ.

NIV:

so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ which is very close to the word definition.

New Living Translation:

We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. which is really the desired goal of the Greek word.

The Aramaic Bible in Plain English:

to confirm every person as perfected in Yeshua The Messiah;

Kenneth Wuest:

in order that we may present every man spiritually mature in Christ Jesus

So, let us note these translations of this Greek Word:

**complete • perfect • fully mature
• perfect in their relationship to Christ; • perfected;
and • spiritually mature.**

...but not mature in this world ...but confined to being

• mature in Christ; • spiritually mature in Christ.

I hope you are beginning to realize that all history
{ from the creation of the world to creation of man }
is all about the Glorification of Jesus the Christ.

Jesus the Messiah

The original creation of the world and universe,
the *Creation of Angels* and then *Creation of Mankind*,
the *Incarnation*,
the *Life & Spiritual Death of JESUS CHRIST on the Cross*,
His miraculous Resurrection and
the *Ascension and Session of JESUS CHRIST*.

And that each one of us can be a powerful representative of
JESUS CHRIST in this world. Seen by the Unseen world of
supernatural creatures—angels as well as mankind.

Now Paul gives a personal testimony that should apply to every
male who has the gift of **Pastor-Teacher**.

29 **For this purpose** this purpose is stated in
verse 28 to ***present every man spiritually
mature in Christ***

For this purpose also along with others that have the gift of
Pastor-Teacher.

I labor The Greek word means to labor until weary;
to labor to the point of exhaustion.

Now, I know that most likely you do think that studying and teaching the Word of God is tiresome labor.

No, it is not like working in the field or doing physically strenuous labor.

But you should know that sitting and studying the Word of God, especially in the original languages is wearisome labor, yes it is.

This is why many pastors have what is called 'burn out' where they simply stop studying and teaching and go into some other Christian work.

As in any field of work, some 'labor' more than others, ..often for the same pay or ..in many cases for less pay.

And the same principle applies to the **Pastor-Teacher**. Some do not labor very much at all, yet receive more than sufficient wages, like Joel Osteen.

There are many Pastors of Bible churches in the world who study and study and teach and are not paid anywhere near the production of their labor.

Then there are those Pastors who do labor but not in truth but teach a heretical Gospel like John MacArthur, with his Lordship Salvation.

Therefore, every **Pastor-Teacher** must be aware of
Psalm 127:1-2

- 1 **Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.**
- 2 **It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labors; For He gives to His beloved *even in his sleep*** be careful with your application of this verse!!!

The point is that you can labor to exhaustion and it counts for nothing in the Plan of God.

This is so readily seen in those who work –labor to be saved.
Ephesians 2:9

- 9 **not as a result of works so that no one may should boast** wait a minute, no works of labor to be saved but is Paul now teaching works in the Christian life?

He answers this accusations in 1 Corinthians 15:10

- 10 **But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored to exhaustion even more than all them, but now note what Paul says: yet not I but the **grace of God with me!****

But there is another way in which a **Pastor-Teacher** can labor to exhaustion and this one concerns the congregation.

Galatians 4:11

11 **I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored to exhaustion over you in vain.**

What is going on here?

They are not Listening to his teaching,
they are not living by Faith,

they are not Growing in the Knowledge of God and
they are not Increasing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

So, you can see there are basically three ways in which a **Pastor-Teacher** can 'labor' in vain.

1. One is that he is not studying in the power of the Holy Spirit;
2. He is not teaching the truth of the Word, but heresy and traditions of men, here he is wasting his time;
3. Then he can labor in vain if those he is teaching do not care and are not coming to hear the Word of God taught.

These are very important to the **Pastor-Teacher** in reference to his standing before JESUS CHRIST at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Philippians 2:16

16 **...holding fast to the Word of Life, so that in the day of Christ Judgment Seat of Christ after the Rapture I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.**

Again, it is up to you to find a **Pastor-Teacher** who labors... but labors in truth and then support him.

This is what Paul is teaching in 1 Corinthians 16:15-16

15 **Now I urge you-encourage you, exhort you, brethren** believers

(you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted KJ *addicted* themselves for ministry to the saints for the benefit of the saints),

16 **that you also be in subjection to such men** here is the problem with many people, they do not want to sit under any teacher, if it is all music and standing and clapping and emoting, that is fine, but they do not want to sit and listen and learn from a **Pastor-Teacher** who sits and learns and then teaches what has been revealed to him.

Do not think for one moment that I do not submit myself. I submit every day I sit down and begin with prayer and then submit to the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit... for hours. **and to everyone who helps in the work and labors.**

This is our word **to labor** to exhaustion.

Here Paul says **I labor to the point of exhaustion**

Why does Paul labor to the point of exhaustion?

Striving PRESENT MIDDLE PARTICIPLE of a verb that grew out of the public games; used of a runner *striving* to reach the finish line or contend for victory in public games.

1 Corinthians 9:25

everyone who competes this is our word
everyone who strives, or struggles in the games
exercises self-control in all things. They do it to
receive a perishable wreath, but we an
imperishable. At Judgment Seat of Christ.

You may be wondering, when and how does a **Pastor-Teacher** labor to exhaustion?

When and how does a **Pastor-Teacher** struggle until it hurts?

First of all, he, like everyone else battles his flesh nature.

One of the most predominate sin trends
of the **Pastor-Teacher** is
arrogance;

***people are flocking to hear me;
my books are selling,
I am the top dog around here, etc.***

Of course, **Pastor-Teachers** are not unlike others and have all sorts of trends.

Then, of course, there is the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**, the enemy of Satan, who cannot stand it if a man is studying and teaching the truth, especially truth about him. And Satan will attack the pastor from all directions, setting up distractions to his study and teaching.

And finally, there is **The World** as an enemy against the **Pastor-Teacher**.

He may desire the things in the world or he may listen to what the world says is politically correct and what is incorrect.

And not dominate in American history but is increasing today is attacks on what the **Pastor-Teacher** may actually teach, about marriage, morality and politics.

Colossians 1:29

29 **For this purpose also I labor to exhaustion, continually striving until it hurts according to His Power**

In the 21st century obsession with power, this is an interesting Greek word.

Energeia energy, at work, operative, power! Might, or effectual power or effectual working.

Now you have to appreciate back in ancient history, before scientist identified much about energy and power, where even today we are enlightened as to new discoveries.

But you have to appreciate words like our word, ***Energeia*** was used to describe “unknown powers”, as magical powers or powers related to the divine or supernatural workings.

Philo in his philosophical way of understanding physics often spoke of the ***“cosmic and physical powers working in man and in the world around him.”***

This working was seen as ‘mysterious’ or unknowable.

Paul, in his spiritual understanding of this ‘working power’ understood it to be the **manifestation of the working power of the Holy Spirit.**

Galatians 3:5 where he is teaching how we receive this power of the Holy Spirit by Grace. Verse 5 according to NASV

5 **Does He then who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith.**

Unfortunately, this requires a lot of redoing.

Does He referring to God the Father
then who provides better
who graciously note earned nor deserved
supplies you with the Spirit Holy Spirit
even the particle translated **and** should be translated
even ---works miracles among you

You will notice in the marginal notes of NASV, there is difficulty in translating this passage; where they insert **works of power** for **works miracles**

The word translated **works** is a present participle and is better understood as a participle **working**.

So far, we have **Does He then who graciously supplies you with the Spirit, even working** ...now the word translated **miracles** in the text is changed to **power** in the margin.

This is the Greek word ***dunamis***—power, achieving power, (English dynamite)

5 **Does He then who graciously supplies you with the Spirit, even working power do it by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith.**

Now we have one more problem, it is not **among you** but the Greek preposition correctly reads **in you**

Does He then who graciously supplies you with the Spirit even working power in you

This refers of course to the power of the Holy Spirit in us, when we access His power by Faith. Every believer is graciously given the indwelling of the Holy Spirit by JESUS CHRIST, this is what is referred to Galatians 3:2.

2 **This is the only thing I want to find out from you. Did you receive the Spirit** this is referring to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at the point of Faith in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.
by works of the Law, or by the hearing of faith?

Now in verse 5 Paul draws a beautiful analogy between how we tap into the power ministry of the Holy Spirit is parallel to how we received the initial indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

By Faith, in JESUS CHRIST, we received the Holy Spirit (*Indwelling of the Holy Spirit*) and so in keeping with God's Grace, we now access or receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit by Faith (*this time in Holy Spirit*).

not by works of the Law –but by faith—

Believing what He teaches us in His word.

Please do not listen to those who tell you, you have to do something to be saved eternally... some works of the Law, some Obedience, Repentance, Confession, making Him Lord, etc.

We are saved by Grace through Faith

And then please do not listen to those who tell you have you do something to be Filled by the Holy Spirit, some works of the Law, works of the flesh, again, like repentance, confession, some brand of obedience.

The only obedience God is looking for is **the obedience that is faith**
Romans 1:5 and Romans 16:26.

The first and last sentences of Romans lays out what the entire plan of God is –**Obedience that is Faith.**

Colossians 1:29

29 **For this purpose, also** to present everyone who listens to his teaching spiritually mature in Christ **I labor to exhaustion striving painfully according to His power which mightily works within me. Mightily works** these two words are combined to interpret the verb of the noun just used.

It is the PRESENT PARTICIPLE of ***energeo*** working or to be active so as to produce a desired effect.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to translate this with one word.

according to all His energy working powerfully in me this keeps the force of the participle or

“according to His energy working in my in power” or again

NASV **according to His power** Holy Spirit **which mightily works within me or “working of Him operating in me in power.”**

This one is very close to the original.

Ok, why are we spending all this time on this concept? Because people you have to know the power that is sitting inside you, ready to be charged to produce operating power in you.

Few believers even know this power is inside of them, and even fewer know how to turn on the switch to activate this power to perform desired effects.

1 John 4:4

4 **You are from God** start out knowing who you are **You are from God little children and have overcome them** if you are a believer in JESUS CHRIST as Savior, you have already over-come powerful Satanic demons **because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.**

Do you see it?

We are **NOT** talking about some mystical power source.

**We are talking about a person,
the Third person of the Godhead,
we are talking about the Holy Spirit,
who Indwells everyone
who has believed in JESUS CHRIST.**

**And you can tap into His power by Faith
—FAITH IN HIM—
that He will do
what He was sent by JESUS CHRIST to do
in every believer who trusts in Him.
Who Indwells everyone**

Colossians 1:28

28 **We publicly proclaim Christ admonishing every man** to pay close attention to all we have to say about JESUS CHRIST **and teaching every man with all wisdom so that we may present every man spiritually mature in Christ.**

29 **For this purpose, also I labor to point of exhaustion, striving** to the point of pain **according to His power which mightily works in me.**

Several lessons ago we noted what we have learned about Theology Proper from this one Chapter. That is, we noted all we learned about God. Now let us take a look at what we learned about Christology or about JESUS CHRIST from this chapter.

This is how you build theology. You do not read your theology into the Word of God. You gain your theology out from the Word of God

Christology from Colossians 1

1. In v1 Paul is an apostle of JESUS CHRIST—He is here to proclaim JESUS CHRIST and while we are not apostles we are ‘what we are’ in Christ.

2. In v2 'in Christ': This is the position or status of every believer you are in Christ by Faith in Christ as Savior.
3. In v3 we learn that God is the Father of JESUS CHRIST and since we are in Christ, He is also our father.
4. In v4 no one is saved outside of Faith in JESUS CHRIST.
5. In v7 every Pastor-Teacher is a servant of JESUS CHRIST.
6. In v10 we are each one to walk (live daily) in a manner worthy of JESUS CHRIST.
7. In v13 God the Father has transferred us from the Kingdom of Darkness to the Kingdom of His Beloved Son.
[1] We are in the Kingdom of JESUS CHRIST
[2] JESUS CHRIST is the beloved Son of God the Father.
8. In 14 our redemption is in or because of JESUS CHRIST.
9. In v14 JESUS CHRIST has provided the forgiveness of all our sins.
10. In v15 JESUS CHRIST is the visible image of the Invisible God.
11. In v15 JESUS CHRIST is the first born of all creation.

12. In v16 we learn that JESUS CHRIST is the creator of all things—all creatures—angelic and human and all the galaxies.
13. In v16 we learn that all creation is for JESUS CHRIST.
14. In v17 we learn that JESUS CHRIST was before all things-before all creation.
15. In v17 we learn that it is not gravity but it is JESUS CHRIST Himself who holds all things together. If Creation by JESUS CHRIST is not enough to infuriate the wisdom of man, the fact that it is the Power and Faithfulness of JESUS CHRIST that holds all things together will push them over the limit of their comprehension.
16. In v18 JESUS CHRIST is head of the Church. This will not bother the unbelievers but is vitally important to us.
17. In v18 JESUS CHRIST is the beginning. That is, He is the firstborn of the dead. We are made alive in Him, by Faith.
18. Also, in v18 according to the Plan of God JESUS CHRIST will come to have first place in everything.
19. In v19 we find that it was the Good Pleasure of God the Father for all fullness to dwell in JESUS CHRIST.
20. In v20 All things are reconciled to God through JESUS CHRIST.

21. Also, in v20 Peace between God and creation is made possible by the Spiritual death of JESUS CHRIST on the cross.
22. In v22 JESUS CHRIST reconciled all things to God the Father through His Cross-work.
23. In v22 JESUS CHRIST presents all those who believe in Him as Holy, blameless and beyond reproach. This is by the imputation of God's Perfect Righteousness. So, we have both the negative and the positive of the Gospel presented by the work of JESUS CHRIST.
In v14 the negative = forgiveness of sins; and
In v22 the positive = Imputation of God's Righteousness making us Holy.
Just the forgiveness of sins does not save.
To be saved you must have the perfect Righteousness of God.
And JESUS CHRIST has provided both of these.
24. In v24 we discover that JESUS CHRIST endured many afflictions.
25. In v27 JESUS CHRIST is the glory of the mystery.
26. Also, in v27 Christ in every believer is the Hope of Glory.
27. In v28 it is JESUS CHRIST who is to be proclaimed by those gifted of God as Pastor-Teacher.
28. In v28 our final goal is to be SPIRITUALLY MATURE IN CHRIST.

And yes, the Holy Spirit is throughout Colossians 1; so, let us develop a theology of the Holy Spirit just from Colossians 1.

Pneumatology from Colossians 1

1. In v1 it is God the Holy Spirit who bestows Spiritual Gifts to believers.
2. In v4 Spiritual Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23
3. In v5 it is God the Holy Spirit who causes us to understand the message of the gospel.
4. In v6 the spreading of the gospel is the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
5. In v7 it is the Holy Spirit who is at work through every Pastor-Teacher.
6. In v8 Paul declares that Spiritual Love is by means of Holy Spirit.
7. In v9 it is by the ministry of God the Holy Spirit that believers understand and are filled with the knowledge of the Will of God.

8. In v10 it is the Holy Spirit T who gives the believer the power and direction of walking in a manner worthy of the Lord.
9. In v10 it is the Holy Spirit that guides the believer and allows the believer to please JESUS CHRIST. You cannot please JESUS CHRIST in the flesh.
10. Also, in v10 it is the Holy Spirit who produces the fruit in the believer's life.
11. Also, in v10 it is impossible to increase in the Knowledge of God in the flesh. We must have the Filling of the Holy Spirit to increase in the Knowledge of God.
12. In v11 **strengthened with all power** is a reference to the Filling of the Holy Spirit.
13. Also, in v11 we have three virtues that are the fruit of the Holy Spirit; **steadfastness, patience and joy**
14. In v12 there is no bonified prayer, even of thanksgiving, that is given out of the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

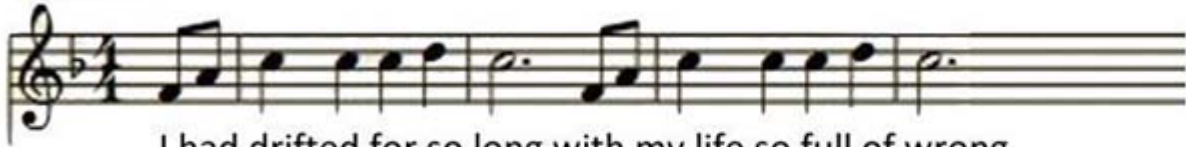
15. In the salvation of v13, all three members of the Godhead are involved in our being delivered out of the kingdom of darkness into His Glorious Kingdom.
16. In v18, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit were involved in the Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST.
17. In v23 continuing in the faith is continuing to walk and live by Faith in the HOLY SPIRIT.
18. In v24 we must understand that we can do nothing in the flesh or from the flesh—Paul’s rejoicing while suffering is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.
19. In v25 Paul and all of us are made ministers by the will of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.
20. Also, in v25 any Pastor-Teacher must have the Filling of the Holy Spirit to carry out his ministry. Anything in the power of the flesh renders no profit to the Pastor-Teacher.
21. In v26 the mystery is revealed in the Church Age by and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
22. Now, in verses 28-29, Paul pays full tribute to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

He Made Me Free

Words from a album

music by James Webb

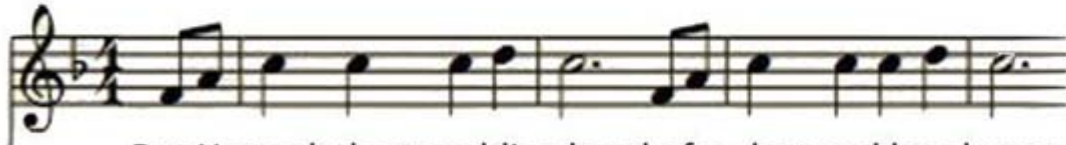
VERSE 1



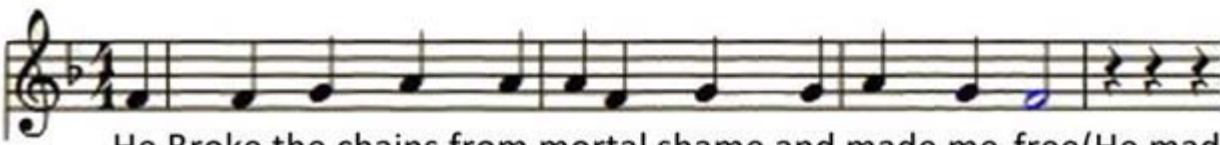
I had drifted for so long with my life so full of wrong



That the Lord should-'ve turned his back on me



But He took the trembling hand of a lost and lonely man

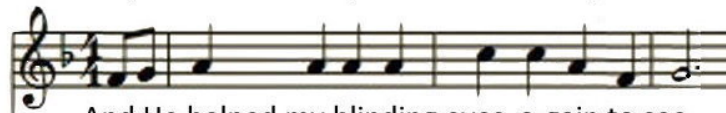


He Broke the chains from mortal shame and made me free(He made me free)

CHORUS 1



Yes, He took away the sin from my soul where it had been



And He helped my blinding eyes a-gain to see



Oh-yes-and now I un-der-stand the-beau-ty of sal-va-tion's plan



Christ on the cross He paid the cost and made me free. (He Made Me Free

{ Christ on
the cross }

{ He paid
the cost }

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JAMES WEBB

VERSE 2



I had sunk so deep in shame ne-ver calling on His name



All the joys of life had turned to mi - ser - y

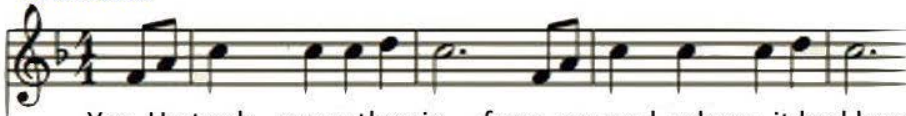


But then He gave me back con-trol of my lost and wandering soul



Re-moved the fears, and dried my tears and made me free (He Made Me Free)

CHORUS 2



Yes, He took away the sin from my soul where it had been



And He gave me back the faith that I might see



Now, I'm so glad I un - der - stand the pro-mise of sal - va - tions plan



Christ on the cross He bore the loss and made me free. (He Made Me Free)

{ Christ on
the cross }

{ He bore
the loss }

**I had drifted for so long with my life so full of wrong
That the Lord should-have turned his back on me
But He took the trembling hand of a lost and lonely man
He Broke the chains from mortal shame and made me free** (He made me free.)

Yes, He took away the sin from my soul where it had been
And He helped my blinding eyes again to see
Oh yes, and now I understand the beauty of salvation's plan
Christ on the cross He paid the cost and made me free. (He made me free.)

(REPEAT)

(REPEAT)

**I had sunk so deep in shame never calling on His name
All the joys of life had turned to misery
But then He gave me back control of my lost and wandering soul
Re-moved the fears, and dried my tears and made me free.** (He made me free.)

Yes, He took away the sin that had stained me deep within
And He gave me back the faith that I might see
Now, I'm so glad I understand the promise of salvations plan
Christ on the cross (the cross) He bore the loss (the lose) And made me free.
(He made me free...) (REPEAT) (REPEAT)

That Silver Haired Daddy of Mine

In a vine-covered shack in the mountains
Bravely fighting the battle of Time
There's a dear one who's weathered life's sorrow
It's that silver haired Daddy of mine

If I could recall all the heartaches
Dear old Daddy, I've caused you to bear
If I could erase those lines from your face
And bring back the gold to your hair

If God would but grant me the power
Just to turn back the pages of Time
I'd give all I own if I could but atone
To that silver haired Daddy of mine.

I know it's too late, dear old Daddy
To repay for the heartaches and care
But dear Mother is waiting in Heaven
Just to comfort and solace you there

If I could recall all the heartaches
Dear old Daddy, I've caused you to bear
If I could erase those lines from your face
And bring back the gold to your hair

If God would but grant me the power
Just to turn back the pages of Time
I'd give all I own if I could but atone
To that silver haired Daddy of mine