

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

(ESV)

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made **perfect** in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Under a Tree

BY RICHARD WILBUR

We know those tales of gods in hot pursuit
Who frightened wood-nymphs into taking root

And changing then into a branchy shape
Fair, but perplexing to the thought of rape:

But this, we say, is more how love is made—
Ply and reply of limbs in fire-shot shade,

Where overhead we hear tossed leaves consent
To take the wind in free dishevelment

And, **answering with supple blade and stem,**
Caress the gusts that are caressing them.

The World Is Too Much With Us

BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;
—

Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have **glimpses that would make me less
forlorn;**
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

Psalm 19:1

(ESV)

The Law of the Lord Is Perfect

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

19

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

Love Calls Us to the Things of This World

BY RICHARD WILBUR

The eyes open to a cry of pulleys,
And spirited from sleep, the astounded soul
Hangs for a moment bodiless and simple
As false dawn.

Outside the open window
The morning air is all awash with angels.

Some are in bed-sheets, some are in blouses,
Some are in smocks: but truly there they are.
Now they are rising together in calm swells
Of halcyon feeling, filling whatever they wear
With the deep joy of their impersonal breathing;

Now they are flying in place, conveying
The terrible speed of their omnipresence, moving
And staying like white water; and now of a sudden
They swoon down into so rapt a quiet
That nobody seems to be there.

The soul shrinks

From all that it is about to remember,
From the punctual rape of every blessed day,
And cries,

"Oh, let there be nothing on earth but
laundry,
Nothing but rosy hands in the rising steam
And clear dances done in the sight of heaven."

Yet, as the sun acknowledges
With a warm look the world's hunks and colors,
The soul descends once more in bitter love
To accept the waking body, saying now
In a changed voice as the man yawns and rises,
"Bring them down from their ruddy gallows;
Let there be clean linen for the backs of thieves;
Let lovers go fresh and sweet to be undone,
And the heaviest nuns walk in a pure floating
Of dark habits,
keeping their difficult balance."

Isaiah 6:1-7

(ESV)

Isaiah's Vision of the Lord

1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

*4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; **for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;** for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”*

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

Genesis 2:21-24

(ESV)

21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

*“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;*

*she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”*

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

From “Echo” by Maroon V:

[blackbear:]

Yeah, I got this heart-shaped hole inside
of me

I try to fill with anything
Like taking trips and buying things

Burn bridges that once guided me
And I hate the way I watched you leave
My ego got the best of me
I gave you insecurities, these tears fall off
my Bentley sheets
And now all I feel is depressed, all that I
taste is regret
I cannot tell what is real, only the pain
that I feel
You give me nothing but stress and this
echo (Echo, echo, echo)
You left in my chest

Hebrews 5:8-9

(ESV)

*8 Although he was a son, **he learned obedience through what he suffered.** 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,*

teleioó: to bring to an end, to complete, perfect; to consummate, reaching the end-stage, i.e. working through the entire process (stages) to reach the final phase

Hebrews 2:5-18

(ESV)

The Founder of Salvation

5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

6 It has been testified somewhere,

*“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?”*

7

You made him for a little while lower than the angels;

you have crowned him with glory and honor;

8

putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation **perfect (teleiōsai-complete)** through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

13 And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

From Iranaeus of Lyons (AD 130-200)

“...He came to save all through his own person... Therefore he passed through every stage of life... Thus he came even to death...the author of life, who goes before all and shows the way” (p.9).

Colossians 1:18 (ESV)

18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preminent.

Luke 2:52 (ESV)

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Hebrews 5:9 (ESV)

9 And being made **perfect (teleiōtheis)**, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Hebrews 2:9-11 (ESV)

9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation **perfect (teleiōsai)** through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

Hebrews 3:14 (ESV)

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the **end (telous)**.

1 Corinthians 14:20 (ESV)

20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be **mature**.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (ESV)

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature (teleion - complete) manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by

Christian Maturity

Lesson 2

Handout

human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.