

## Preacher's Pen points

# Blessing from Adversity



Probably none of us would know who Jennie Wilson is. She lived many years ago (1853-1913). But many of us who have been members of the church have sung the words of two poems she wrote and that were put to music for congregational worship.

### Light at the River

The first is the song, "There will be light at the river". Though not appearing now in many modern song books, this encouraging song about heaven has been sung frequently by Christians in days gone by. The song reminds the worshiper of the light that will radiate from the Father in the heavenly city, giving light to all who enter it (Rev. 22:23). Here are the verses:

After the life-paths we're treading  
end upon time's solemn shore,  
there will be light at the river  
while the redeemed ones pass o'er."

There will be light for the spirits  
who true deep shadows have come,  
fadeless light shining glad welcome  
out from the windows of home."

There will be light for the weary  
who thru sore trials have passed,  
radiant light as they enter,  
peace that forever shall last."

There will be light for the faithful  
whate'er the way they have trod,  
glorious light sent to guide them  
safe to the city of God".

In addition, Wilson also wrote another familiar song about the unchanging hand of God.

### Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

Time is filled with swift transition,  
naught of earth unmoved can stand.  
Build your hopes on things eternal,  
Hold to God's unchanging hand"

Trust in Him who will not leave you,  
whatsoever years may bring.  
If by earthly friends forsaken,  
still more closely to him cling."

Covet not this world's vain riches,  
that so rapidly decay.  
Seek to gain the heav'nly treasures;  
They will never pass away."

When your journey is completed,  
if to God you have been true,  
fair and the bright the home in glory,  
your enraptured soul will view."

### The Author

Each of these songs has lifted our hearts up to God and reminded us of what is in store for those who trust in God, follow His guidance, and endure whatever difficulties life may present. Such promises must have been especially precious to Jennie. Often she made her way from place to place holding to the hand of someone who led her. Every day was a day of darkness for her; for you see, Jennie Wilson was blind. Yet through her adversity she gained a deeper longing for the glorious light of heaven and the loving guidance of the Father's unchanging hand. Her faithful acceptance of her adversity has been a source of blessing for countless others. Let her example encourage you to turn adversity into a blessing.—Johnny