



***Poetry to Ponder: Good News!*** is a collection of poems reflecting the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. It offers meaning and hope to both believers and skeptics in the face of life's perplexities. Themes include creation, the nature of God, nature of man, the sin problem, salvation through Jesus and His return as King and Judge of mankind.

# **Poetry to Ponder: Good News!**

By Joy Walker

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*Poetry to Ponder*  
**GOOD NEWS!**

*Hope for the Heart*

Joy Walker

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JOY WALKER

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## MASTER DESIGNER

Planets in motion moving through space  
Keeping their course with precision and grace,  
Sunrise, sunset, clouds floating by,  
Majestic mountains that reach for the sky,  
The breath-taking vista of birds in flight,  
Moonbeams dancing on a lake at night,  
Babbling brooks and crashing waves,  
Thundering waterfalls, echoing caves,  
Powerful seas pounding rocks into sand,  
Concealing treasures not seen on dry land;

Field, forest, jungle, alive with the sounds  
Of creatures in varying species found:  
Bees busily buzzing, nightingale's song,  
Katydid chirping, frogs in a pond,  
Trumpeting elephants, screeching night-owls,  
Growling bears and mooing cows,  
Hissing snakes and purring cats,  
The flapping wings of birds and bats,  
Neighing horses and bleating lambs,  
The crown of creation—woman and man!

The silence of snowfall, the wind's noisy roar,  
Erupting volcanoes on ocean floor,  
Torrents and hailstones thunderstorms bring,  
Summer, winter, autumn and spring,  
The delicate balance of sunshine and rain,  
Seedtime and harvest, the fruit and the grain,  
Food in due season wherever life's found  
From the bald eagle to the worm in the ground,  
The interdependence of all living things  
From flora to fauna to Homo sapiens;

The beauty of butterflies, berries and birds  
Or grazing wildlife feeding in herds,

JOY WALKER

Soft breezes cooling summer's heat,  
Dew on the grass that cushions our feet,  
Fruit-laden trees their branches bent low,  
Massive trees taller than men can grow,  
A collage of fragrances, textures and hues  
From flowering bushes arranged for our view—  
God made them all with a wonderful plan,  
Displaying His glory to woman and man.

This Master Designer, Creator of all,  
Completely worthy of reverence and awe,  
Conceived and established without any help  
This whole universe He sustains by Himself.  
He alone is God and the things He has made  
His power and deity clearly display.  
As the master design we daily admire,  
The Master Designer our worship requires.  
He, Creator Almighty, deserves all the praises  
Which creation's splendor within our hearts raises.

From Him all life flows and He reigns over all;  
He knows and cares when one sparrow falls.  
He is holy, majestic, compassionate, good!  
We ought to give thanks and exalt Him as God,  
For it pleases Him not when His glory we share  
With man, beast, reptile or bird in the air.  
He who sustains us is righteous and just;  
He's our hope and salvation if in Him we trust.  
He is healer, provider, way-maker, friend,  
The Master Designer from beginning to end.

*Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 31*

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in our image... and let them rule over... all the earth...’ So God created man in His own image... male and female He created them. God saw all that He had made and it was very good.”

*Genesis 2:10, 16-17*

“...in the midst of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it, you will surely die.’”

*Romans 1:20-21*

“...since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

*Acts 17:24-27, 29-31*

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And He is not served by human hands as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man He made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us... We should not think that the divine being is like ...an image made by man’s design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

*Romans 5:19 NKJ*

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”



## THE PERFECT HOME

Adam lived in paradise, the best a home could be.  
The Almighty God, his Father, loved him perfectly.  
His Father gave him everything his heart could ever need.  
For friendship and companionship, He even gave him Eve.  
They had a bountiful supply of every kind of food.  
They played with all the animals and life was really good!  
They both had so much freedom; all of nature was their school.  
There was just one restriction, just one simple rule.

God wanted a relationship, not puppets on a string,  
Not wind-up toys or robots who couldn't choose a thing.  
He wanted them to love Him, as He Himself loved them,  
To freely choose obedience in deep respect for Him.  
He daily walked and talked with them so they could learn His ways.  
His voice was music to their ears as they close to Him stayed.  
If only they had understood His precept would protect  
From danger lurking in a form that they could not suspect.

Before long there was chaos in this perfect paradise:  
Rebellion ruined relations, peace fled from blame and strife.  
Adam and Eve were hiding from the one who loved them best.  
His Father's heart was broken when His children failed His test.  
All of us are children of Adam and of Eve,  
For through their disobedience, we were all in sin conceived.  
We've each lived in rebellion against the Father's rule and will.  
We violate His principles and dishonor his precepts still.

Our children do the same thing; our hearts are broken too.  
We watch them struggling with sin and don't know what to do.  
God, the only perfect parent, has the only perfect plan.  
He conceived the one sure way to rescue sinful man.  
To put an end to chaos, to set right what was wrong,  
To satisfy His holiness, He sent His only Son.  
Jesus left us an example of obedience complete  
Through His reverent submission, sin and death He did defeat.

POETRY TO PONDER: GOOD NEWS!

His love He is extending to any who will come  
Experience true forgiveness, restoring hearts and homes.  
Blessing or curse awaits us depending on our choice.  
Our children, too, must listen and heed the Father's voice.  
He has the power to reduce us to the level of a pig;  
He will even let us fall into the holes our egos dig.  
When from the bottom we look up, His love still reaches down  
To pull us from the mire of sin, to save us before we drown.

*Titus 3:4-5*

“...when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.”

*Romans 6:23*

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

*Deuteronomy 30:19-20*

“This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you, life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God...listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him.”

*Psalms 103:11-13*

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.”

## THE HEART OF THE HUMAN PROBLEM

The heart of the human problem  
Is the problem of the human heart;  
Its deceitfulness and wickedness  
Wreak much havoc, ripping lives apart.  
All of us like sheep have wandered  
And cannot ourselves justify  
By personal acts of righteousness  
That mask our unbelief and pride.

Malicious thoughts we hide from others,  
Those hasty words we soon regret,  
Good deeds done with motives wrong  
Or duties we so oft neglect  
Remind us that we all are guilty  
And often let our own selves down;  
Then we seek to drown our shame and guilt  
In actions that our sins compound.

A holy God cannot be indifferent  
To the tiniest of our misdeeds;  
His justice must be satisfied,  
Yet in mercy, He foresaw our need.  
We can't atone for our own sins,  
So our guilty verdict had to fall  
Upon the perfect, sinless Lamb  
Who gave His life to save us all.

The problem of the human heart, though grave,  
Was once for all resolved by God  
Through His Son, Jesus, crucified  
And resurrected for our good.  
All who repent He'll deliver  
From condemnation that was ours.  
Forgiven of all unrighteousness,  
Our hearts can now be free and pure.

POETRY TO PONDER: GOOD NEWS!

Robed in the righteousness of Christ,  
In God's presence, we, by faith, can stand,  
The Holy Spirit empowering us  
To live and love as God commands.  
Then hearts renewed by God's own power  
Can make the world a better place,  
And the heart of the human problem  
Will change as we reflect His grace.

*Proverbs 20:9*

“Who can say, ‘I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin?’”

*Ezekiel 18:30-31*

“ ‘...I will judge you, each one of you according to his ways,’ declares the Sovereign Lord. ‘Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall...Rid yourselves of the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit.’”

*Psalms 25:11*

“For the sake of your name, O Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.”



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