

10774. In this case a reference that could have been added is *Divine Love and Wisdom* 301, which illustrates that there are allusions yet to be discovered and recorded.

Congratulations to the Swedenborg Society for producing this excellent and useful research volume.

Donald L. Rose

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***Be of Good Cheer: Discovering the Redeeming Quality of Struggle*** by Ethan D. McCardell (Restyn LLC, Lutherville, MD, 2005. 216 pages)

In this excellent book, Pastor McCardell brings together many of the Lord's teachings in the Sacred Scripture and the Heavenly Doctrine of the New Jerusalem in a very thoughtful and caring way.

Mr. McCardell has written *Be of Good Cheer* with two main purposes in mind, it would appear: to be instrumental, as a dedicated pastor, in the Lord's purposes of redemption and salvation, and to extend the teachings of the New Word to inquirers and interested readers. Of course, numerous treatises by other talented New Church clergy and laity have these purposes in mind. What is rather different with Mr. McCardell's approach is the textbook or workbook style in which this inspiring, gently moving book is written. Read and study a chapter a day. Put its teachings to work in your life prayerfully, thoughtfully, and with affection. Select and memorize a teaching from the Writings as an anchor for your life.

### **The Peace of Heaven Waits**

Chapter one begins with the heading: "Do not fear little flock, for it is your Father's pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Mr. McCardell notes, “Hell builds walls of fear to block our thinking and living for heaven” (p.15). He then discusses what happens when we are faced with struggles that seem larger than life. “God promises to help us every time we turn to Him with a humble heart” (p.17).

The hells fear the light of the Lord. Chapter two begins: Come into the light. “In Your light, we see light” (p.23).

### **The Challenge of Tears with God**

Perhaps the author's simplest, yet most profound statement is in Chapter four: “Love the Lord, live well, and you will be saved” (p.40). “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Rev. 21:4). “Wiping away every tear,” we are told, refers to people who have been in temptations and have fought against evil; and who afterwards are not in combats but “are in good and truth, and so celestial joy” (*Apocalypse Revealed* 385).

### **You're Worth God's Love and Attention**

But you still must be saved in order to go to heaven. Repentance is necessary. Much of the latter part of the book, including the “Bonus Chapter,” is devoted to repentance for the forgiveness of sins. There is considerable discussion of the work of John the Baptist, the Lord's Baptism, and His preaching.

Mr. McCardell brings *Be of Good Cheer* to a conclusion by reminding the reader to think about the themes of persistence and asking. “We persist in our pursuit of the truth because of what we now know it can do to change our lives, to make us true disciples for Jesus Christ. And so we humbly ask that He do it. And believe that He will” (p.206).

We have no criticism of this fine, thoughtful, sincere work of Ethan McCardell, current pastor of the Sower's Chapel of the New Church in Sarver, Pennsylvania. We would only hope that in a probable and desirable sequel, we could hear more about the heaven of today that the author is hoping to help the Lord and His angels prepare us for, and what he feels it would be like for

us there on a day-to-day basis, having overcome the spiritual and natural challenges of our life on earth with the Lord's help and our prayers to Him, "Be(ing) of Good Cheer."

Robert H. P. Cole

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