

WEATHER - SUNSHINE

ENJOY THE SUNSHINE

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. (Malachi 4:2)

Sunshine is special. It is deeply appreciated in the warm months. It is dearly missed in the cold and dark months. It feels nice to be in the sunshine, doesn't it? The sun makes our weary bodies feel warm and healthy.

Jesus does the same thing for us in a spiritual way. The sun of righteousness is none other than the Righteous Son of God – Jesus Christ. Jesus is righteous – he is without flaw and fault - and as our perfect substitute he lived without a single sin and he died to bring perfect healing to our sin-sick souls. One of the most popular Christmas hymns is *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. In the last verse of that hymn, Charles Wesley put the work of Jesus this way:

Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels, sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

The angels aren't the only ones who praise the Sun of Righteousness. We do too! We know that the LORD is constantly forgiving us. When we complain about how hot it is in the summer and either directly or indirectly curse God for causing such terrible weather, the Lord Jesus forgives us. When we complain about how cold it is in the winter and either directly or indirectly curse God for causing such terrible weather, the Lord Jesus forgives us. When we commit sins of thoughts, words, and actions every day throughout the year, the Lord Jesus forgives us. What warmth to our souls that brings us!

THE PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness and the righteous Son of God, with the angels we also give you praise and honor. You willingly gave up the glories of heaven for many years in order to be born, to live, to die, and to rise again all in order to give us spiritual life here on earth and forever in heaven. You were pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! Continue to be with us and shine upon us with your love and forgiveness. In your name we pray. Amen.