



THINK ON THESE THINGS..... (our contributor this morning is Tony Wilson)

**Reading:** 1 John 1:5 – 7

This is the message we have heard from Jesus Christ and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God light is never absent. If we say that we are partners with God while we are walking without light, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as God is in the light, we are partners with one another, and the blood of Jesus, Child of God, cleanses us from all sin.

Sweet are the uses of adversity; Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, Wears yet a precious jewel in his head; And this our life, exempt from public haunt, Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, Sermons in stones, and good in everything. I would not change it.

*As You Like It : Act 2: Scene 1.*

**Reflection:**

Older readers may remember the author Arthur Mee, who died in 1943. He was mainly a children's author. However, one of his best known works for adults was 'The King's England'. This was a series of volumes, published over quite a number of years, one for each English county. In each volume he described something about every place in that county, whether it be a city, town or village. Although his style of writing is, by modern standards, rather florid, I find these books are still useful and worth consulting.

One of the noteworthy things about these books is that he doesn't shirk writing about some of the run down and grim places in the country. He doesn't avoid the 'dark satanic mills' of William Blake's 'Jerusalem'. However when writing about unattractive places he always finds something good to say about them. There's a building or a street or a person of note who once lived there over which he waxes lyrical. He has this great ability to look for the best in everything.

That strikes me as a good habit for a Christian to develop. To look for the best in people, situations, places and things. The Quakers have a saying that 'there's something of God in everyone'. That can be rather challenging with some people, but it's a worthwhile thing to try to do. For wouldn't it be a much better world if everyone always tried to look for the best in everyone and everything?

**Breath - Prayer for Today:**

Almighty God, we pray that you will give us the grace always to see the best in the people we meet and the places we visit. Drive from us the tendency to look on things from our point of view, and instead to see them also as others do. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.