

## A Christadelphian's "If"

If we can trust when everyone about us  
Is doubting Christ, proclaiming him untrue,  
If we can hope in him though all forsake us  
And say "'tis not the thing to do";  
If we can wait on God nor wish to hurry,  
Or being greatly used keep humble still,  
Or if we're tested, still refuse to worry  
And so remain within His sovereign will:

If we can say "'tis well" when sorrows greet us  
And death hath taken those we hold most dear,  
If we can smile when adverse trials meet us  
And be content e'en though our lot be drear,  
If we can be reviled and never murmur,  
Or being tempted, not give way to sin,  
If we can fight for right and stand the firmer,  
Nor lose the battle when we ought to win:

If we can really long for Christ's appearing  
And therefore set our hearts on things above,  
If we can speak for him in spite of sneering,  
Or to the most unlovely one show love;  
If we can hear the call of God to labour  
And answer yes in yield'ness and in trust,  
And go to tell the story of the Saviour  
To souls in darkness o'er the desert's dust:

If we can pray when Satan's darts are strongest  
And take the road of faith instead of sight,  
Or walk with God although His way be longest  
And swerve not to the left, nor to the right;  
If we desire Himself alone to fill us,  
For Him alone we care to live and be,  
Then 'tis not us, but Christ which dwelleth in us,  
And that, Children of God, is Victory!

*N. P. Holt (with apologies to Rudyard Kipling)*

*Brother Holt was Devotional editor of the Testimony for some years in the 1970s before falling asleep through cancer. His thoughtful articles on the Psalms were particularly appreciated.—T.B.*