

My Loved Ones:

God says in 2 Corinthians 5:15 - "And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him Who died for them, and rose again."

Frances Ridley Havergal is often called "hymnody's sweetest voice," and "Christ's Sweet Singer." She was the youngest child of a pastor in England. She was talented in poetry, linguistics, music, and very highly educated. She always had a simple trust in the Lord, but was frail in health; so much ill health took her to be with the Lord at age 43.

As part of her education, she traveled to Germany and went to an art gallery where she saw the famous painting by Domenico Fei, "Ecce Homo," a vivid portrait of Jesus wearing His crown of thorns. At the bottom it says in Latin, "This I have suffered for you; now what will you do for Me?" Frances was profoundly moved. She gazed at the painting for a considerable time, and took out her pencil and scrap of paper and quickly drafted the stanzas of this hymn.

Loved ones, we face difficulties with the Covid-19, difficulties of finances, jobs, family, etc. But let's stop and put things in perspective. I want you to really stop and think about these words the next time we're tempted to be fearful, worry, angry, hurt or complain.

I gave My Life for thee, / My precious blood I shed
That thou might'st ransomed be, / And quickened from the dead.
I gave, I gave My life for thee: / What hast thou given for Me?

I spent long years for thee, / In weariness and woe,
That an eternity / Of joy thou mightest know.
I spent, I spent long years for thee: / What hast thou spent for Me?

My Father's home of light, / My glory circled throne,
I left, for earthly night, / For wanderings sad and lone.
I left, I left it all for thee: / Hast thou left much for Me?

I suffered much for thee; / More than thy tongue may tell
Of bitterest agony, / To rescue thee from hell.
I've borne, I've borne it all for thee: / What canst thou bear for Me?

And I have brought to thee, / Down from My home above,
Salvation full and free, / My pardon, and My love.
Great gifts, great gifts I brought to thee: / What hast thou brought to Me?

We love you and are praying for you today.