

QUESTIONS

What lasting satisfaction comes to him
Who seeks to satisfy his troubled soul
With transitory pleasures that grow dim
And seem to mock the joy that was his goal?

What gain is there in trying to repay
A gift unmerited, as if a debt?
Can grace be found to hold our guilt at bay
Till gratitude is real, without regret?

Is there security upon this sphere,
Assurance to confirm tomorrow's break,
Or does death's swift and final blow draw near
To halt the projects we would undertake?

To answer these questions, pity the man
Who tries without God, for he never can.

— *David L. Hatton, 1965 (revised 2015)*