

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE WINDOWS

The symbols in the windows of our sanctuary all have a meaning based upon the word of God. All but five of them are historic in character, dating as far back as the first century. The theme suggested by the symbols, executed by our pastor, is theological. Each symbol or monogram is a sermon in itself concerning God and His perfect plan of salvation. This is but a brief survey.

To follow the theme, begin with the first window in the northeast corner of the sanctuary. This symbolizes the Trinity. (Begin with the shield, then left to right). The next window shows the Creator's Star, the creation of the heavens and the earth and the creation of Adam and Eve. The symbolism in the next window depicts the entrance of sin, expulsion from the garden, and the promise of the coming Redeemer (the Messianic rose).

God now begins to gather His church through the Covenant of Grace. In the north transept we notice the ship signifying the church on the stormy sea. While the child of God is in the church he is a "pilgrim and a stranger," and as a pilgrim he praises the Lord on His journey. Hence the Staff and the Harp.

While in the church, what are the means of Grace? The answer is found in the south transept. The shield shows the Word of God which is the "sword of the spirit" while in the other panels are the symbols for Communion and Baptism.

Walking to the next window directly east, our attention is focused upon the humiliation and the exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Crown of thorns teaching us that "Christ died for our sins"; the Butterfly setting forth the glorious Resurrection, and the enclosed Messianic Rose, the Ascension of the Saviour.

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is shown in the shield of the next window. You will notice that He came after the disciples were "in prayer and of one accord." The symbols of Prayer and Unity are, therefore, placed in the Pentecost window.

The last window in the sanctuary is that which tells us of Eternity. The blowing of the trumpet in the last day is taken from 1 Thess. 4:16. Open your Bibles to Revelation 4:3 and you will obtain the meaning of the complete rainbow around the throne of God. The triangles set forth the deity of Christ and His atonement symbolized by the jasper and sardine stones. The tree in the opposite panel is the "tree of life" (Rev. 22:2) superimposed upon "the Lamb's book of life."

Yet we live upon earth even though our citizenship is in heaven. We must glorify God here and enjoy Him forever. As you leave the sanctuary notice the window to the south with the monogram for the Lord Jesus Christ as He blesses the home and Christian service. The north window reminds us that when we leave the House of God we must do so taking with us "Faith, Hope, and Charity."