

O HOW I love Thy holy Word,
Thy gracious covenant, O Lord!
It guides me in the peaceful way,
I think upon it all the day.

- 2 Long unafflicted, undismayed,
In pleasure's path secure I strayed,
Then did I feel Thy chastening rod,
Which turned me unto Thee, my God.
- 3 Although it pierced my stubborn heart,
I'll bless the Hand that caused the smart;
It taught my tears awhile to flow,
But saved me from eternal woe.
- 4 If Thou hadst left me unchastised,
Thy precepts would be still despised;
And still the snare by Satan laid
Had my unwary soul betrayed.
- 5 I love Thee, therefore, O my God,
And look towards Thy dear abode;
Where in Thy presence fully blest,
Thy chosen saints for ever rest.

William Cowper, 1731-1800