

FOR HIS GLORY

Volume 16, Issue 3

March, 2013

I have been nearly 40 years, now, trying to preach. I cannot get at it yet. Oh, that I knew how to put this so as to move every soul to come to God and sue for peace! How willing must God be to be at peace with men when He provides a Mediator between Himself and them! How readily ought you to come when Christ's honor and Glory depend upon men's trusting their cases in His hands! I ask again, what is a mediator if no case is trusted to him? A king without a crown, a shepherd without a flock, a farmer without land, a physician without sick people—these are all in a poor plight! And Christ without sinners, where is He? His name is an empty thing and His Glory gone! Come, then, you chief of sinners, come to Christ and leave your case with Him! —CHS, 1890



DOES THE LORD HEAR THE PRAYERS OF THE UN CONVERTED?

By Charles Haddon Spurgeon

*“Lo this, we have searched it, so it is; hear it, and know you it for your good.”
Job 5:27.*

We beg to bear our witness to the fact that *prayer is heard of God*. If it were possible for me to tell you the many instances in which God has heard my prayers, you would, in your kindness, follow me a considerable way. But I should have to draw so largely upon your faith that before I came to the end, you would feel compelled to doubt. Nor should I blame you. Truth is stranger than fiction, and if you are not familiar with prayer, you will think me a mad fanatic!

In matters in reference to the Stockwell Orphanage I have seen the Lord's hand very conspicuously in times of need. When money has run short, and there have been hundreds of children to be fed, faith and prayer have filled our coffers! Well, Sirs, men of the world may say it is all fancy and laugh at it as a spiritual dream—but fancies do not load tables and feed children and supply thousands of pounds!

Will one of you make the attempt? Will you provide for our 500 orphans for a month by dreams and fancies? We have known times

of close pinching and have waited upon God—and in a short time He has sent us abundant relief and there are Brethren on this platform who would willingly bear witness. If there is no prayer-hearing God, we have played the fool!

And yet no other sort of foolery has ever produced such surprising results! We *know* that God hears prayer! We are personally sure of it because we have tried it for ourselves. I wish that anybody here who is in doubt about it would try the power of prayer. Go to God in prayer—yes, even you that are unconverted—and see whether the Lord will not hear you! Somebody says, “Surely that is unsound advice! How can the unconverted pray?”

Let me tell you a story. I was preaching, years ago, to the Sunday school children of a certain country town where the people were Calvinistic and a point or two more. They received 16 ounces to the pound of the Gospel and they liked an ounce or two above full weight.

I made the observation to the children that before I had been renewed by Divine Grace, I, as a child, was in trouble and I went to God in supplication and He helped

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HELP SOUGHT

By A. W. Pink

“When my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the Rock that is higher than I” (Psa 61:2). Yes, Lord! I would make this my morning, noon and evening petition, that the great Glorifier of Jesus would gently lead me to Him who is the Rock, and whose work is perfect. I know, Lord, in theory, and can even reason upon it in seasons of coolness, that Your strength and Your security never fail; the failure is in me and my unbelief. And it is only when I lose sight of You and Your promises that I am tossed about with doubts and misgivings.

If Christ is out of sight, and thwarting dispensations arise, oh, how soon is my poor forgetful heart ready to exclaim with the Church of old, “I said My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord.” Then come on the reasoning of flesh and blood; and then arises the question whether my interest in the Lord Jesus and His salvation is sure.

And then my poor heart goes forth like the dove of Noah from the Ark, having lost sight of Christ, and can find no resting-place for the sole of my feet. Oh, Lord the Spirit, in all such seasons, do You “lead me to the

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READ IT SLOWLY—BY GOD’S GRACE, UNDERSTAND IT—AND REJOICE!

By C. H. Spurgeon

*“This also comes forth from the Lord of Hosts, Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working.”
Isaiah 28:29.*

The wondrous planning of the excellent Worker is plainly seen in *the great economy of Redemption*. Well may angels desire to look into the scheme by which God ordained that fallen man should rise by his fall, and should rise by a means similar to that by which he fell; while God should be glorified even more than if sin had never entered.

Redemption is the most Divine of God’s thoughts. It is marvelous that He should give His own Son to be Incarnate for the sake of His creatures; that God the mighty Maker should appear in human flesh and become a Man, so that fallen, sinful, and miserable man might be lifted up, and become the son of God.

What a dream was that of Jacob when he saw the ladder, the foot of which rested upon the earth, and the top reached up to the seventh Heaven! That dream is more than realized when I see the foot of the ladder in the Humanity of Christ, fixed in Bethlehem’s manger, or if you will, at Calvary’s Cross, and then behold the top of that ladder reaching up to the Eternal Throne, where He reigns as “God over all, blessed forever,” who was also “the Son of Man.”

When I look at each of the rungs of that ladder, and see the proofs of Divine Love in the Savior’s sighs and tears, and bloody sweat, and Passion, and death, I am lost in wonder! Truly it is a matchless scheme

by which Justice has its due, and Mercy has its sway, by which Vengeance is satisfied, Holiness is gratified, and yet Love and Mercy, uncontrolled and unlimited, sway their silver scepter among the sons of men. When I see this great sight, those words of Isaiah’s ring with a bell-like music in my ears, “He is wonderful in counsel.”

But, Beloved, when you see Redemption worked out, and when you think that God really gave His only Son and that this Son actually did come to Bethlehem, really lived among the sons of men, bowed His neck to the yoke of obedience, and gave His hands to the nails, and His side to the spear—that His death was no fiction, but a grand reality—when you see that Redemption completed by the Resurrection of the Master, and hear the angelic shouts as He ascends on high, leading captivity captive, and see Heaven lit up with a supernal splendor as He mounts to His well-earned Throne, you then find that He is as wonderful in the carrying out of Redemption as He is in the proposing of it, that He is wonderful in counsel, and that He is also excellent in working.—(Adapted from Sermon #711, Volume 12—A FEAST FOR FAITH—read/download, by God’s Grace, all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons, and over 495 Spanish translations free of charge at www.spurgeongems.org.)

Daniel Chamberlin here for Covenant Baptist Church, Broken Arrow, OK inviting you to our

Annual Bible Conference, March first through third.

This Conference is a special time of fellowship, food and especially preaching. We have four guest speakers, coming from three states and one foreign country, to preach on the subject of **Biblical Evangelism**. They will approach this vital subject from various perspectives—theological, practical and historical.

Christians today need to rediscover the wonder of God’s saving grace in such a way that we simply cannot keep quiet about it.

We invite you to come, meet some new friends, and be challenged by the Word of God.

The dates again are **March first, second and third, that’s Friday through Sunday**. More information is on our website, <http://covenantbc.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Conference-Info-2013.pdf>

Or feel free to call 918-251-5525. Covenant Baptist Church. We preach Christ and Him crucified.

**Pray daily for Pastor Curt Daniel of Faith Bible Church
in Springfield, IL. You can visit his site at
<http://faithbibleonline.net/index.html>**

HEAVENLY MATH

By Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.”
Ephesians 3:16-19.

Brothers and Sisters, it will be to small profit that we shall talk to you about the breadth, and length, and depth, and height of the Love of Christ unless there is in your soul a devout longing ambition to set the Lord Jesus always before you, as the frequent, if not, the constant Subject of your meditation. No progress to any extent is to be made in the School of the Cross unless you separate yourself, and give yourself wholly to this. It must be the one great business of your life, to know Him and the power of His Resurrection. I would to God that we were all entered as diligent scholars in Jesus’ College, students of Corpus Christi, or the Body of Christ, resolved to attain unto a good degree in the learning of the Cross, a learning which angels desire to understand; but to do this the heart must be full of Jesus, welling up with His Love, flaming with it, overrunning with it; and therefore the Apostle prays, “that Christ may dwell in your hearts.”

Observe the words, “that He may dwell”—not that He may call upon you sometimes, as a casual visitor enters into a house and tarries for a night, but that He may dwell, that Christ may take up His abode in your hearts, that the Lord Jesus may become the Lord and Tenant of your inmost being, never more to go out, but to dwell there world without end. Observe, too, the words—that He may dwell in *your hearts*, that best room of the house of manhood; not in your thoughts alone, but in your affections; not merely have Him in your *minds*, but have Him in your loves.

Paul wants you to have a love to Christ of a most abiding character, not a love that flames up under an earnest sermon, and then dies out into the darkness of a few embers, but a constant flame, the abiding of Jesus’ Love in your hearts, both day and night, like the flame upon the altar which never went out. This cannot be accomplished except by faith. Faith must be strong, or love will not be fervent; the root of the flower must be healthy, or we cannot expect the bloom to be sweet. Faith is the lily’s root, and love is the lily’s bloom. Now Jesus cannot be in your heart’s love except you have a firm hold of Him by your heart’s faith; and, therefore, Paul prays that you may always trust Christ, that you may always love Him. Thus, Brothers and Sisters, the Lord Jesus, being constantly brought under your heart’s attention, you are likely to be able to comprehend the measurement of His Love which would otherwise be impossible for you to do.

The Apostle prays further *that you may have practical exercise in the art of holy love*—“that *you*, being rooted and grounded in love.” Every experienced tutor knows that it is greatly helpful to the student to exercise him in his chosen pursuit upon some lower and inferior branch of it, so as to lead him gradually to the higher points of it. If for instance, he means him to understand the surveying of estates, he bids him measure a field containing an acre or two. If he means him to map out a country, he sets him first to make a plan of a neighboring field or a farm. The Apostle acts upon the same method. “That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend the breadth and length of the love of Christ.” Having the Love of Jesus in you, possessed with love to Christ, you will be practiced in the exercise of love, and so will under-

stand the Love which fills the Savior. You will learn to do business upon the greater waters of the Redeemer’s Infinite Love to His people as you sail upon the stream of your love to Him.

Two expressions are used—“rooted,” like a living tree which lays hold upon the soil, twists itself round the rocks, and cannot be upturned—“grounded,” like a building which has been settled, as a whole, and will never show any cracks or flaws in the future through failures in the foundation. The Apostle wishes us to be rooted and

(See *Heavenly Math* on page 4)

GOD DOES HEAR PRAYER!

(Continued from page 1)

me. I need not repeat the circumstances but it seemed to me that the Lord heard my childish pleading and helped me. This experience led me to feel that there was a reality in prayer, for God had heard me.

When I came out from the Chapel where I had mentioned this circumstance, a number of grave persons who were both sound and sour in the faith, beset me round about like bees. They began asking, “How can a *natural* man pray a *spiritual* prayer? How can God accept a prayer which is merely natural, since He is a Spirit? If prayer is not worked by the Holy Spirit it is an idle form” and so on, and so on. It is difficult to conceive how many quibbles can be made upon one point.

I was about 20 years of age but I did my best to defend myself, for I had stated a fact, and a fact is a stubborn thing. At any rate, I held my own, but I do not know that I should have won the victory if I had been left alone. A grand old woman in a red cloak pressed forward into the middle of the ring and addressed the doubly-sound Brethren whom she knew better than I did.

With an almost prophetic air she looked on them and said, “O fools and slow of heart to come here and quibble with this young servant of the Lord! Listen to me and be convinced, and go home in silence. Does not the Lord hear the young ravens when they cry? Do they pray *spiritual* prayers? Does the Holy Spirit work prayer in them? If God hears the natural prayers of crying ravens, will He not hear the cries of children?”

This was fine. The adversaries vanished out of my sight. There was no overcoming a statement so Scriptural. God does hear prayer! We bear our witness to that fact with all our strength and therefore we say about it—“Lo this, we have searched it, so it is; hear it, and know you it for your good.”—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #2175, Volume 36—“*So It Is*”—Read/download entire sermon on www.spurgeongems.org.

Letters to Mike Gendron Of Proclaiming the Gospel:

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PO Box 940871, Plano, TX 75904

M. and L., internet write—Dear Mike, Although we appreciate your love for our Lord, we don't appreciate you sending us anti-Catholic literature as our Catholic faith is strong and the number one important factor in our marriage and life. Please take us off your mailing list.

Brother Mike replies—Dear M. and L., The biblical Gospel and the Catholic plan of salvation are diametrically opposed to one another. Perhaps this is why you find my newsletter “anti-Catholic.” If I warned people with cancer that the drug they were taking had been diluted and had no power to heal them, would you call me anti-drugs? Please know that we can be wrong about a lot of things in this life and still survive, but if we are wrong about whom we are trusting for eternal life we will pay for that mistake throughout all eternity. We have removed you from our list.

D.P., Internet, writes—I heard you on the radio and wonder if you could explain the differences between the Evangelical Catholic movement and traditional Roman Catholicism. We have a Catholic Priest in our community who my pastor is convinced is saved because he claims salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. What concerns me is that our church's small Christian school (in which my children attend) is going to have this Priest teach. When I brought my concerns to our pastor, using your article, *Roman Catholic: Apostolic or Apostate?*, he told me there is a new movement sweeping Catholicism that is Evangelical in which this Priest is a part. Thanks,

Brother Mike's answer—Dear D.P., I am familiar with those who claim to be *Evangelical Catholics* but it is impossible to be both because Roman Catholicism is the anti-thesis of evangelical Christianity. It perverts the Gospel of Grace by adding requirements for salvation such as good works, sacraments and law keeping (CCC, para. 2068, 1129 and 2010). This priest encourages idolatry by the worship of a wafer as the physical presence of the Lord Jesus (CCC, 1378). Jesus warned us, “if anyone says, here is the Christ!...do not believe it” (Mat 24:23). The Eucharist is a false Christ. The only way a Catholic, or anyone else can be saved is when God extends His Sovereign Grace to a repenting sinner who trusts the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Those who are sanctified by the truth are called to walk in truth. This is not possible for those who remain in a false religion (John 4:24). The Spirit of Truth will lead the priest out of spiritual darkness if he repents of the false and fatal gospel of Rome, and believes the Gospel of God. I pray your pastor will call the priest to repentance, and if he refuses, not allow him to teach at your Christian school.

K. M., Sparta, TN, writes—Dear Mike, What a joy to hear your testimony on our Christian radio station WOOG in Sparta TN. As a former Catholic Nun of 11 years, I so related as you shared what God has done in your life and continues to do through His precious Word!! I, like you, have a burden for Catholics, and love sharing the gospel of salvation with them. What a joy to realize that the tremendous void I had as a small child could only be filled by my Savior, Jesus Christ. Oh, I had the head knowledge, but what a change when my spiritual eyes were opened and the Holy Spirit made His residence within me. May we earnestly seek souls for Christ until He takes us Home!

HEAVENLY MATH

(Continued from page 3)

grounded in love, a vital union being established between our souls and Jesus, so that we love Him because He first loved us; and also a union of trust by which we rest upon Jesus as the stones of a wall are settled upon the foundation. He would have us thus by love and by faith to be knit to Christ, and to be firm, and fast, and fixed, and immovable in our loving attachment to Him.

My dear Brothers and Sisters, you cannot know Christ's Love to you, to any great extent, except you thus love Him. You must love, or you cannot comprehend love. A man who has never felt benevolence towards his fellow creatures—and there are some such monsters—sneers and laughs at those who can give their money to the poor or to the sick. He thinks such persons fools at least, if not absolutely mad. “Ah,” said one, “I know how to make money,” and then he added significantly, clenching his fist, “and I know what some people do not know; I know how to take care of it, too.”

There are some benevolent people who do not know how to take care of it in that sense, but they know how to do good with it, and such people will never be understood by the mean money-grubbing wretch who pollutes the earth he lives upon. As though he were a very Solomon, and benevolent men were idiots, he mutters conceitedly, “Well, I cannot understand it; it is stupidity to give away your hard-earned money.” Of course it is to him; he cannot comprehend it, and so the Love of Jesus Christ cannot be comprehended by a man who does not love. If you have no love to souls, you will not understand why Jesus wept over Jerusalem; it will puzzle you mightily; you will look to Matthew Henry, and Scott, and Gill, and be more puzzled still; but if you love the souls of men, you will find no difficulty in the passage at all, for you will weep over sinners, too.

If you do not love the saints, you will wonder how Jesus can love them; but when you have once felt an unselfish Christ-like love to your fellow men, the riddle will be answered. He who circumnavigated the world began by sailing upon brooks and mill ponds, and he who would measure the breadths and lengths of Jesus' Love must feel his own soul filled with affection for his Lord.—(Adapted from Sermon #707, Volume 12—HEAVENLY GEOMETRY—read/download, by God's Grace, all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons, and over 495 Spanish translations free of charge at www.spurgeongems.org.)

HAVE YOU PRAYED
FOR YOUR
CHAPLAIN/PASTOR TODAY?

PRAY FOR
GRACE
TO BE HOLY

YOU ARE INVITED!

**Katy Baptist Church
Bible Conference**

Fairmont, West Virginia

March 29-31~ 2013

Marvin Stalnaker, Pastor
(church) 304-825-1116
(home) 304-825-6059
Marvins49@frontier.com

Schedule of services:

Friday March 29 7:00 PM

Pastor Bruce Crabtree—Scripture reading
and devotional
Pastor Don Fortner—Message

Saturday March 30 10:00 AM

Pastor Don Fortner—Scripture reading
and devotional
Pastor Bruce Crabtree—Message

Sunday March 31

10:00 AM Pastor Bruce Crabtree
11:00 AM Pastor Don Fortner

**Jesus Christ is the ONLY
way to God the Father!
Not Mary. Not Mohammed.
Not a future Messiah.
JESUS CHRIST
is the ONLY way.
(John 14:6).**

Salvation by self is man's darling hope—salvation by doings, feelings, or something or other of their own, is the favorite delusion of sinners. We may bless God that He has rolled a great stone at the mouth of the grave of legal hope. He has dashed in pieces as with a rod of iron the earthen vessel which held the treasures of our conceit. "By the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified."—CHS

**PRAY FOR YOUR SPOUSE.
PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN.**

**Young Preacher, Preach
Christ Crucified and
His Doctrines of Grace!**

I have many things to say, but our hours fly like the cherubim—each one has six wings. We beg to say that *the old-fashioned Gospel is able to save men and to awaken enthusiasm in their souls.* Here—here is the best proof! Look around upon this vast assembly! Have we any music, any candles, any millinery? Have we anything here to attract people but simply the preaching of the old, old Gospel?

Our service is so severely simple as to be called bare! Have I varied from the old way and the old faith—by even an eighth part of a hair's breadth? Have I not kept to the Gospel and set it forth in simple language? Lo, here I come to the end of 37 years and before me are the same multitudes of people as at the first!

Young preacher, you will not need anything but Christ Jesus should you be spared to preach as long as I have done. When everybody seems to say that orthodoxy is spun out, God will send us a revival and the despised Doctrines of Grace will be at the front again, and Christ shall make them His chariot in which He will ride forth conquering and to conquer!

Behold, even at this day a company of the poorest of the people proclaim the Gospel in its roughest form and preach it in our streets and lanes—and the crowd is stirred as it never is by any other theme! Notwithstanding all the infidelity of the times, faith is still lifting the standard! Hold to the faith and to the Cross! Preach sin down—preach Christ up! Preach the Atoning Sacrifice! Preach in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Such preaching is sufficient for the purposes of salvation! "Lo this, we have searched it, so it is; hear it, and know you it for your good." (Job 5:27).—CHS—1890

**CHRIST IS GLORIOUS—
LET US MAKE HIM KNOWN!**

**JOHN 3:18...
READ IT, AND THEN
READ JOHN 3:16...**

Pray for Brother Alan Roman of Mexico City who is translating, by God's Grace, Brother Spurgeon's sermons. Praise our Master's Holy Spirit for keeping him faithful in this work. Pray our heavenly Father will use the sermons to draw hundreds of millions of Spanish-speaking Roman Catholics to His Son, Jesus Christ.

A Study of Ephesians 4:23-24a

PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN – PART 4

Man was originally created “according to God.” This is what the Bible means when it says man was created in God’s image. In Genesis 1:26-27 we read: “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Man and woman, as they were originally created, were like the new man of which Paul is speaking. They had the spirit of the mind which was able to think of God and delight in God, and which wanted to please God. Man had both a natural and spiritual dimension which was unique. None of the other creatures could think and relate to God as man could. And in order to further demonstrate this, God put man in charge of the earth. He told the man and woman to be fruitful and multiply, and to subdue the earth and to have dominion over it. In other words, man was made like God in that he was given a sphere in which he was to rule, just as God rules over everything.

But Genesis goes on to tell us of the catastrophe of the fall of man into sin. It was truly a catastrophe in that it did to the image of God in man what smashing a sheet of glass with a sledge hammer would do. The image of God is still in man, but it is so ruined that man has lost much of what he originally was. Man can still think and has self-consciousness, but all of the qualities of holiness and righteousness were destroyed. One need only look around at the world as it is today to see the proof of that.

What putting on the new man is all about is God’s restoring His image in His people. Next time we will look at the rest of verse 24, which tells

us that God is restoring the image in Believers “in true righteousness and holiness.”

What we should observe as we conclude is that nothing is more necessary or more wonderful than this. God in His grace has not left mankind hopeless about his fallen condition. He has once again sovereignly intervened in the human race to reverse the mess that man has made. But what is so critical for us to realize is that it only comes in one way. God must once again create man. He must renew the spirit of our minds and put a new man within.

And that is what is so wonderful and so refreshing about being with true Believers in the body of Christ. The church is comprised of those who are being changed from the inside out. They are the ones in whom the image of God is being restored. The preacher does not have to tell those with the new man to stop this or to start doing that. Oh yes, he will preach the portions of the Word which give such commands, But the really exciting thing about being among new creatures in Christ is that they are changing because almighty God is at work in their souls. They live in a new way! They talk in a new way! Their whole outlook is different from the world’s.

And this is why we long for and pray for revival. We want new people and not simply new behavior. We long for people to be renewed in the spirit of their minds, for then they will want to think as God wants them to think, and live as God wants them to live. They will be new creatures created according to the image of God.—PF

THE DEATH OF CHRIST FOR HIS ELECT

By A. W. Pink

When Adam, the federal head as well as the father of the human race, apostatized, the Elect equally with the non-elect fell in him and thus they are “by nature the children of wrath even as others” (Eph 2:3). From that dreadful and direful state they are recovered by the mediation of Christ, and the operation of the Spirit, the latter being a fruit of the former.

We would point out that what we are about to advance can have little weight with Arminians who erroneously suppose that the mediatory work of Christ was general or universal in its character and design. But to those who have learned from Holy Writ that the Redemption of Christ is definite and *particular*, a specific ransom for a specific people, there will be found here a sufficient answer to every accusation of Satan, and an assurance which none of the tribulations of life can shake.

“Who is he who condemns?” the Apostle asks. “It is Christ who died” is his triumphant reply (Rom 8:34). The force of that reply turns upon the fact that Christ’s death is a Substitutionary and Atoning one. “For the trans-gression of My people was He stricken,” says God the Father (Isa 53:8). “For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the

**PRAY FOR OUR BRETHREN IN NORTH DAKOTA.
PRAY THEY WILL BE USED BY OUR
FATHER FOR HIS HONOR AND GLORY.**

chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed” (Isa 53:5).

Jehovah laid upon Christ the iniquities of His people (Isa 53:6) and then cried, “Awake O sword against My Shepherd and against the Man that is My Fellow, says the LORD of Hosts, smite the Shepherd” (Zech 13:7). On the Cross Christ rendered to God a full satisfaction for the sins of all those whom the Father gave to Him. He was a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God “to make propitiation (Greek) for the sins of the people” (Heb 2:17). Because Christ was made a curse for sin (Gal 3:13) nothing but blessing is now our portion.

All for whom Christ died shall most certainly be saved because He paid the full price of their Redemption. As a surety stands in the place of the person he represents, the latter reaps the benefit of what the surety has done in his name, so that if his debt has been paid by the surety, the creditor can no more demand payment from him.

Since Christ made full reparation to God’s Law—making complete Atonement for the sins of His people—then it would be a flagrant violation of Divine Justice if even one of them should be punished for the same. Christ has purchased His people by His precious

(See *Christ’s Elect* on page 8)

THE “I AM”S OF JESUS CHRIST—PART 2

“I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE”

By Daniel E. Parks, Pastor
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Bread is a staff of life, a necessity for good health. It is so important that Jesus Christ taught His disciples to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Mat 6:11).

We need bread. And since we are comprised of both body and soul, we need bread for each. The bread for our body is the physical bread prepared by a baker in a bakery. But the bread for our soul is the *spiritual*/bread prepared by God in Heaven.

The spiritual bread for our soul is far more important than the physical bread for our body. Physical bread is worthless after our soul has departed its body at death. And if we have not nourished our soul with spiritual bread before we die, our soul will suffer *eternal* death, a dying that never ends, in the lake of fire, the “second death” (Rev 21:8). But if we have done so, our soul will live forever in Heaven (Rev 21:1-4). God, therefore, instructs us, “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life” (John 6:27).

We therefore are very aware of our need of spiritual bread.

Jesus Christ is the bread we need. He has declared so in John chapter 6. He said in verses 35 and 48, “I am the bread of life.” And He said in verse 51, “I am the living bread which came down from Heaven.” He therefore identified Himself in verse 32 as the “true bread from Heaven.” And in verse 33 as the “bread of God...who comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world.” Let us here observe—Jesus Christ is the “bread of God” (v 33). Jesus Christ is here presented as the bread which God Himself has prepared. And God has done so in a manner like that of earthly bakers.

Earthly bakers prepare their bread from physical ingredients, especially grain. God also has done so, having sent His Son into the world in human flesh, in a physical body like our own (Gal 4:4; Rom 8:3).

The ingredients prepared by earthly bakers are thrashed and ground and kneaded. Likewise, the body of Jesus Christ, because it assumed the sin of sinners, was “stricken, smitten by God and afflict-

ed”; those for whom He was thus treated are told He was “wounded for our transgressions...bruised for our iniquities” (Isa 53:4f).

The ingredients prepared by an earthly baker are then baked in an oven until their preparation is finished. God likewise subjected Jesus Christ to the heat of His wrath on the Cross of Calvary until He cried in victory, “It is finished!” (John 19:30).

The finished product of an earthly baker is brought forth from the oven for consumption by his customers. Likewise, God at last resurrected His Son from the grave for consumption by Believers (Rom 4:25; John 6:35).

Jesus Christ is the “true bread” (John 6:32). The man-made gods of earthly religions are but worthless counterfeits of the true God and therefore bring no contentment to the soul (Psa 115:2-8). None but Jesus Christ can satisfy spiritual hunger.

Jesus Christ is the “living bread” (John 6:51). Earthly religions offer lifeless gods (e.g. those of ancient mythology, Islam, idols), or lifeless ceremonies and ordinances (baptism, Sabbath-keeping, church membership, etc.). Jesus Christ declares “I am He who lives, and...I am alive forevermore” (Rev 1:18).

Jesus Christ is the “bread of life” (John 6:35, 48). As the “living bread,” Jesus Christ possesses life. As the “bread of life,” He bestows and sustains His own life to all who partake of Him. And we partake of Him by believing in Him, trusting in Him, alone, as our Lord and Savior.

1) All who believe in Jesus Christ receive spiritual life: “He who feeds on Me will live because of Me” (v 57).

2) All who believe in Jesus Christ receive eternal life: “He who eats this bread will live forever” (v 58); “he who believes in Me has eternal life” (v 47).

3) All who believe in Jesus Christ receive fulfilling life: “He who comes to Me shall never hunger” (v35).

Have you partaken of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life?

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, DO YOU PRAY?

The name, “Israel,” was given to Jacob because he “wrestled with the angel, and prevailed.” Are you a man of prayer? Come now, answer the question, each one of you for yourselves! Are you men of prayer, and women of prayer? Alas, some of you may use a *form* of prayer, but it has no life in it! You ask, do I object to forms of prayer? I answer, no. I believe that sometimes forms of prayer, molded according to the mind of the Spirit, are offered up with the vital breath of the same Spirit of God. Far be it from me to say that because you use a form of prayer, therefore you do not pray at all!

This, however, I remind you—your form of prayer is merely a vehicle that moves not except as it is drawn. Of itself it is like a steam engine, motionless till the furnace is heated. Or rather it is like the carriage which is drawn by the steam engine, being linked thereto with chains. A form of prayer is a heavy material thing which prayer has to drag after it. It is no help to prayer, but rather a burden to it. There may be prayer with the huge cumbersome thing called the form attached but the form is distinct in every sense from the power. The prayer is the spirit, the life, the desire, the wish, the agonizing panting with God to obtain the blessing.

I ask you not whether you use a form of prayer, or whether you utter extempore prayers. You may speak extemporaneously in prayer and talk as much nonsense, yes, and a great deal more than you would if you used a prescribed form. You may avoid formality and become frivolous. It is not uttering spontaneous words that is prayer any more than repeating a litany. But I ask you, do you pray? If you are prayerless, then you have no right to call yourselves God’s Elect. God’s people are a *praying* people. They are an Israel, a wrestling race and unto them the promise is made—“I will be unto them as the dew unto Israel.”—**CHS**—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Version 1.0, Ages Software,—Sermon #342, Vol. 6—*Grace Reviving Israel*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

REFLECTIONS

Gems gleaned by Jim Robinette
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WHAT DID THIS LOVE COST HIM?

When Jacob loved Rachel, he served seven years for her—he bore the summer's heat and winter's cold. But Jesus bore the hot wrath of God, and the winter blast of His Father's anger, for those He loved.

Jonathan loved David with more than the love of women, and for his sake he bore the cruel anger of his father, Saul.

But Jesus, out of love to us, bore the wrath of His Father poured out without mixture. It was love that made Him not despise the Virgin's womb—it was love that brought Him to the manger at Bethlehem—it was love that drove Him into the wilderness; love that made Him a Man of Sorrows—love that made Him hungry, and thirsty, and weary—love that made Him hasten to Jerusalem—love that led Him to gloomy, dark Gethsemane—love that bound and dragged Him to the judgment hall—love that nailed Him to the Cross—love that bowed His head beneath the amazing load of His Father's anger.

"Greater love has no man than this." "I am the Good Shepherd; the Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

Sinners were sinking beneath the red-hot flames of Hell; He plunged in and swam through the awful surge, and gathered His own into His bosom. The sword of Justice was bare and glittering, ready to destroy us; He, the Man that was God's Fellow, opened His bosom and let the stroke fall on Him.

We were set up as a mark for God's arrows of vengeance; Jesus came between, and they pierced Him through and through—every arrow that should have pierced our souls stuck fast in Him! He, His own Self, bore our sins in His own body on the Cross. As far as east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. This is the love of Christ that passes knowledge.

This is what is set before us today in the broken bread and poured-out wine. This is what we shall see on the Throne of God—a Lamb as it had been slain. This will be the matter of our song through eternity: "Worthy is the Lamb!"—From *Sermons of Robert Murray M'Cheyne* (1814-1843) Published by The Banner of Truth Trust Carlisle, PA, 1961.

**DO YOU LOVE
JESUS CHRIST?**

HELP SOUGHT

(Continued from page 1)

Rock that is higher than I."

If You, blessed Leader of the Lord's distressed ones, would be my Pilot when those storms are beating upon me, I should soon be blown upon the firm landing place of Jesus' security. Oh, how should I ride out the storm even when the tempest was highest, as long as God the Holy Spirit enabled me to cast the anchor of faith upon this eternal Rock of Jesus.

Oh, lead me, then, Sovereign Lord, continually to an all-precious Christ! Open the door of communication and keep it constantly open between Christ and my soul. Faith will find a soft and quiet bed to sleep on in the arms of Jesus, and no noise of wars shall break the soul's rest while reposing on Him, for so the promise runs: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You: because he trusts in You."

Oh, then once again I send up the earnest cry of my soul—let it be continually answered in mercy: "When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the Rock that is higher than I."—Gleaned from Brother A. W. Pink's *Studies in the Scriptures*, February, 1936.

THIS IS TRULY AMAZING GRACE!

By C. H. Spurgeon

Ah, it is an amazing thing, we may have been the instrument of sending others down to the pit of Hell, and alas, we cannot restore them from their endless woe—yet we may, by Grace, *amazing Grace*—be delivered ourselves from the horrible doom of sinners! The mercy of God may be extolled in us, and His justice in them! There is the infidel, the atheist, who has poisoned the minds of others, and sent them down to Hell, and yet Almighty Mercy saves him at the last hour. He cannot save his dupes, he cannot pull up his followers from the pit of Hell, but he is himself saved. What a stupendous wonder of Divine Sovereignty and Grace! —(See Sermon #676, Volume 12—MAN'S THOUGHTS AND GOD'S THOUGHTS—read/download, by God's Grace, all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons, and over 495 Spanish translations free of charge at www.spurgeongems.org.)

CHRIST'S ELECT

(Continued from page 6)

blood, then can we suppose that God will allow His most avowed enemy to rob His Son of any of them?

Were that to happen, the Redeemer's name would be rendered meaningless, for God Himself said, "you shall call His name Jesus, for He *shall save* His people from their sins" (Mat 1:21). Were that to happen, it could not be true that the Redeemer "shall see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied" (Isa 53:11).

Since Christ bore our sins, and was condemned in our place; since by His expiatory death the claims of Divine Justice are answered, and the holiness of the Divine Law is maintained, who can condemn those for whom He died? O, what security is this for the believer in Jesus! Standing beneath the shadow of the Cross, the weakest saint can confront his deadliest foe, and every accusation alleged, and every sentence of condemnation uttered he can meet by pointing to Him who died.

In that one fact he sees the great debt cancelled, the entire curse removed, the grand indictment quashed and "No condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus" written as in letters of living light upon the Cross!—(Adapted from Brother Pink's October, 1942, *Studies in the Scriptures*).

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AND
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**PRAY FOR CHILDREN
AND SPOUSES
OF PEOPLE IN PRISON.**

THE MIGHTY ARM

By Charles H. Spurgeon

“You have a mighty arm: strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand.”

Psalm 89:13.

There is a friend here who says, “I have been praying very long to this mighty God for the conversion of one who lies very near my heart, but I cannot get an answer.” No, Beloved, it may be that God has not yet put forth His Power—it is certain He has not, or your friend would be healed. There may have been a reason why the Lord would not work, namely, because you were not prepared for so great a blessing, and perhaps, had He honored you to be the means of your friend’s conversion, you would have grown proud. If you now feel your own utter powerlessness, now will be the time for God to work. The reason of delay may now have gone.

Certainly the fact that God has not answered you is no reason why He should not ultimately give you your desire. If He has delayed a little time, remember He is never too late, and certainly never forgets in the end. He may delay, but He cannot deny. Has your friend become worse and worse? Well, then, rampant sin often stirs up God. It is time for You to work, Lord, for they make void Your Law!

I look upon the present age [1866] with very great comfort. Beloved, there never was a time in which Popery was so, I was about to say omnipresent everywhere—it is working everywhere, openly and by stealth. The Church of England has become thoroughly putrid with Puseyism. Infidelity has grown very bold. Let all these powers of evil be developed and work their will, for good will come out of it in the end. All these provocations will arouse our God!

I thought within myself, when turning over these matters and seeing the signs of a breaking out of the old moderatism in Scotland, “Ah, Lord! You have not answered Your friends, perhaps You will hear Your foes; and if Your children’s prayers have not provoked You to bestir Yourself, perhaps the hard words of Your enemies will do it.” It is a good thing for Zion when her enemies begin to curse and to lift up themselves against God, for then He will take up His own quarrel. Let them throw down the gauntlet, and God will take it up; and we know when He does come forth from His resting place, the victory is sure.

It is for us, however, to cry unto Him, and spare not till He proves His cause to be His own by the potency which He puts into it. Let us, then, discard our despondencies and be of good courage, for strong is His hand and high is His right hand!

Beloved, I am encouraged to expect the visitation of Divine Grace among us for these reasons—*It must be for God’s Glory to save souls*; there cannot be two opinions about it. Will He not therefore do it? Secondly, *It must be due to Christ that souls should be saved*. He cannot have seen the whole of the travail of His soul yet; I am sure He is not satisfied yet; He is yet to have many more! And shall He not have His seed and see His children? We can plead the blood, and that is a prevalent argument with the Most High. I look upon our prayers as tokens for good.

Some of us can say we came up here with prayer, and our souls have been exercised during the week with groans and longings towards the mighty God of Jacob, that He would bless this congregation, and bless the world. This, too, is a token for good. Our past history comforts me in cheering hope. “The Lord *has* been mindful of us; He *will*

bless us.” Who would have thought that the Lord would bless us as He has done? It is now 12 years and more since I, a stripling, first came up to this great city. With what trembling did I come! You were but very few and feeble, but still there was the true life lingering among you, and soon the blessing came.

You remember our sore trials and troubles, when we went through fire and through water, and men did ride over our heads; but our God has brought us out into a wealthy place. This very house is, itself, a monument of what God can do. Poor and feeble folk were we, and yet this house was built to His praise; and He has filled it, and kept it full. Where else has He been pleased to gather the multitudes year after year, with never-failing, never-flagging interest and earnestness? Where else has He been pleased to add to the Church by hundreds in the year, till the only difficulty is the time to see the inquirers, and to hear their confession of faith?

In what other Church have there been 450 souls added to the fellowship in one year? Where else has the Baptismal pool been stirred with such a multitude of souls immersed into a profession of the Lord Jesus Christ? We say this not, we trust we do not, with so much as a single grain of sacrificing unto self, for what were we, and what were our father’s house, that He should have brought us up to now? But we beg you to regard the past as a type of the future. Oh, start not back, you men of prayer! Fail not now since God is still your arm! You carry bows, turn not back in the day of battle! You have the trophies of past victories before your eyes! Now for a mighty attack upon the Mercy Seat, that you may win power to overcome the gates of Hell! Let us be vehement—violent I was about to say—for, “the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.”

Let us cannonade the gate of Heaven! Let us rise up, each man and each woman, every soul that has power, and let us cry unto the mighty God that He would be pleased to give us such a blessing that we shall not have room enough to receive it! It *must* come, only be ready for it! It *will* come; it comes even now! Thank God! Take courage! Be on your watchtower! And may the Lord bless us for His name’s sake. Amen.

Brother Spurgeon’s Confession

Oh, may God grant that none of us who have preached to others, and preached to others with fluency and zeal, may ever have our own weapons turned against us. I may make a confession here now. I have read some of my own utterances, and have trembled as I have read them, and afterwards I have wept over them, not wanting to alter them, not regretting them, but fearing and trembling lest I should have my own words used in judgment against me at the Last Great Day, for there can be no more dreadful thing than for a man to have known and taught the Word to others, and then to hear the Master say—just listen to it—“You wicked servant! *Out of your own mouth will I condemn you!*”—(See Sermon #696, Volume 12—TURNING BACK IN THE DAY OF BATTLE at www.spurgeongems.org.)

OH OH!

By C. H. Spurgeon

“But Jehu took no heed to walk in the Law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart; for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin.”
2 Kings 10:31.

Jehu took no heed to what? He took great heed to kill Ahab’s family; he took great heed to totally destroy Baal’s worshippers; but he took no heed to walk in the Law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart. This is the point in which a great many flaming professors show their lack of vital godliness, because they exercise no holy circumspection and show no anxiety to walk in the Law of the Lord their God with all their heart; which they would be very desirous of doing *if they were saved*.

There are many, nowadays, who would be greatly disgusted with me if I did not admit them to be Christians, *who take no heed to even know God’s will*. Many professors never gave themselves an hour’s study of the Scriptures with a serious desire to ascertain God’s way of salvation, and God’s rule for a Believer’s behavior in the Church and in the world.

Multitudes of so-called Christians nowadays do not read their Bibles. My Hearers, do you? I would not malign modern Christendom, but I am persuaded that crowds of professors treat the Book of God with very wicked neglect; for we frequently meet with mistakes which are so absurd that no habitual students of the Word of God could have fallen into them.

So many of you take your religion secondhand; you borrow it from the preacher; you copy it from your grandmothers; you follow custom as your guide, and not the Voice of God; you do not search the Book of the Lord to discover whether these things are so or not. Why, great multitudes of people go blundering on like Jehu, supposing that they must be right; the uncomfortable but very prudent thought that perhaps all may be wrong has never occurred to them, and a resort to the “Law and to the Testimony” appears to them to be altogether superfluous.—

(See Sermon #685, Volume 12—HEEDLESSNESS IN RELIGION—read/download, by God’s Grace, all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons, and over 490 Spanish translations free of charge at www.spurgeongems.org.)

SINNER, TRUST IN JESUS!

By C. H. Spurgeon

Within a few months or years at the longest, we shall all be before the bar of God—and what if some of us should be there with our sins upon us? I am afraid some of you will be there unforgiven. O you to whom I have so often spoken, will you be there unpardoned? I shall not be able to make excuses for you there, and say you did not know the way of salvation, for I have preached it with great plainness of speech.

I have often cast aside language which contended itself to my taste, to use, instead thereof, more homely words, lest one of you should miss my meaning. God knows I have often forsaken tracks of thought which opened before me, and which might have interested many of my hearers, because I have felt while so many of you are unsaved, I must keep on plowing with simplicity, and sowing elementary Truths of God!

I am evermore telling over and over again the story of the Substitutionary work of the Lord Jesus. What? Do you hate your souls so much that you will damn them to spite Christ? Is there such a hatred between you and yourself that you will reject God’s own Sacrifice for sin? You cannot say it is difficult for you to avail yourself of the death of Jesus. It is but to lay your hand of faith on that dear head! What enmity must there be in your hearts that you will not be reconciled to God even when He makes the reconciliation by the death of His own dear Son! To what a pitch has man’s rebellion against his Maker gone, when, sooner than be at peace with Him, he will reject Eternal Love and will forever ruin his own soul!

Oh, may God grant that some this morning may say, “I will stretch out my hand. I will trust in Jesus!” You see that the hand to be stretched out is an *empty* one, and the heart which leans may be a fainting one. Weakness and sinfulness find strength and pardon by taking Jesus to be their All-in-All.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1048, Vol. 18—“*The Sin-Offering for the Common People*”—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

**PRAY THERE ARE
MANY OF GOD’S
ELECT IN PRISONS.**

DOES SIN HAVE HOLD OF YOU?

There is no way left but this. Fair means, as we say, will not do; good words, a glorious Gospel, entreating, beseeching with blood and tears will not do. Men are resolved to put God to the utmost of it. If He will have them, He must fetch them, follow them, catch them, lame them. Yes, break their bones, or else He will not save them.

Some men think an invitation, an outward call, a rational discourse will do; but they are much deceived. There must be a Power, an exceedingly great and mighty Power attending the Word, or it works not effectually to the salvation of the soul. I know that these things leave men without excuse; but they are not enough to bring men home to God.

Sin has hold of them; they have sold themselves to it; the power of the devil has hold of them, they are his captives at his will; yes, and more than all this, their will is one with sin, and with the devil, to be held captive thereby; and if God gives not contrition, repentance, or a broken heart for sin, there will not be, no, not so much as a mind in man, to forsake this so horrible a confederacy and plot against his soul.—John Bunyan. (Gleaned from Brother A. W. Pink’s *Studies in the Scriptures*, November, 1933).

WHO DARED DO IT IN 1872? HOW ABOUT 2013?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

Moses knew that the Israelites were God's chosen—that Jehovah had made a Covenant with them, and in spite of all their faults God would not break His Covenant with His own people. And he knew, therefore, that their cause was God's cause, and being God's cause it was the cause of right, the cause of truth! Oh, it is a grand thing when a man has such faith that he says, "It is nothing to me what other people do, or think, or believe. I shall act as God would have me. It is nothing to me what I am commanded to do by my fellow creatures.

"It is nothing to me what fashion says or what my parents say as far as religion is concerned. The Truth is God's star, and I will follow wherever it may lead me. If it should make me a solitary man. If I should espouse opinions which no one else ever believed in. If I should have to go altogether outside the camp, and break away from every connection—all this shall be as immaterial to me as the small dust of the balance. But if a matter is true, I will believe it, and I will propound it, and I will suffer for its promulgation. And if another Doctrine is a lie I will not be friends with it, no, not for a solitary moment. I will not enter into fellowship with falsehood, no, not for an hour. If a course is right and true, through floods and flames, if Jesus leads me, I will pursue it."

That seems to me to be the right spirit, but where do you find it nowadays? The modern spirit mutters, "We are *all* right, every one of us." He who says, "yes," is right, and he who says, "no," is also right! You hear a man talk with mawkish sentimentality which he calls Christian charity. "Well, I am of opinion that if a man is a Muslim, or a Catholic, or a Mormon, or a Dissenter—if he is sincere—he is all right." They do not quite include devil worshippers, thugs and cannibals, *yet*—but if things go on, they will accept them into the happy family of the Broad Church. Such is the talk and cant of this present age, but I bear my witness that there is no truth in it, and I call upon every child of God to protest against it and, like Moses, to declare that he can have no complicity with such a confederacy!

There is Truth *somewhere*—let us find it! The lie is not of the Truth—let us abhor it! There *is* a God—let us follow Him—it cannot be that false gods are gods, too! Surely Truth is of some value to the sons of men! Surely there must be something worth holding—something worth contending for—and something worth dying for! But it does not appear nowadays as if men think so. May we have a respect for God's true Church in the world which abides by the Apostolic word and Doctrine! Let us discover it and join with it, and at its side fight for God and for His Truth!

Once again, Moses had faith in the "recompense of the reward." He said thus within himself, "I must renounce much and reckon to lose rank, position, and treasure. But I expect to be a gainer, nevertheless, for there will be a day when God shall judge the sons of men. I expect a judgment throne with its impartial balances, and I expect that those who serve God faithfully shall then turn out to have been the wise men and the right men, while those who truckled and bowed down to gain a present ease shall find that they missed Eternity while they were snatching after time, and that they bartered Heaven for a paltry mess of pottage."

With this upon his mind, you could not persuade Moses that he ought to compromise and must not be uncharitable! You could not convince him he ought not to judge other good people, but should be large-minded and remember Pharaoh's daughter and how kindly she had nurtured him—

and consider what opportunities he had of doing good where he was! You could not persuade him how he might just befriend his poor brethren and what influence he might have over Pharaoh—how he might be the means of leading the princes and the people of Egypt in the right way—and perhaps God had raised him up on purpose to be there.

Who could tell, and so-on, and so-on, and so-on—you know the Babylonian talk, for in these days you have all read or heard the plausible arguments of the deceivableness of unrighteousness which in these last days teaches men to do evil that good may come! Moses cared for none of these things. He knew his duty and did it—whatever might be the consequences! Every Christian's duty is to believe the Truth of God, and to follow the Truth and leave the results with God. Who dares do that? Again I ask it, who dares do that in these days?—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1063, Vol. 18—*Moses' Decision*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

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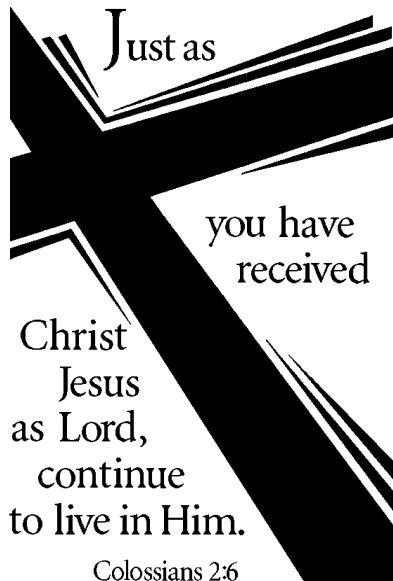
O Master, look on some poor dry heart here—some poor heart that cannot feel its sinfulness but would if it could—and give it feeling! Look on the heart which cannot repent, that is crying, "I would, but cannot feel contrition." Lord, You did make the rock yield water at the smiting of the rod—use Your poor stick of a servant this morning to smite the rocky heart, and let the waters of repentance flow out.—CHS

O Lord Jesus, I have tried to preach YOU this morning, but I cannot look with Your eyes. You must look on erring ones Yourself. Look, Savior! Look, Sinner! "There is life in a look at the Crucified One," because there is life in a look FROM the Crucified One. May Jesus look, and by His Grace may the sinner look, too! Amen.—CHS

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In This Issue...

...and, Lord willing, every issue, our *only* purpose is to honor *Jesus Christ*.

THERE IS A TIME TO THINK OF YOURSELF!

By Charles H. Spurgeon

“And He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man unto Him, and besought Him to touch him. And He took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when He had spit on his eyes, and put His hands upon him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that He put His hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up; and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.”
Mark 8:22-25.

Mark the next act, for it is peculiar. The Savior led the man to a *solitary position*, for He took him out of the town. I have noticed that when persons converted have been spiritually blind rather than willfully wicked, who have not been so much hostile as they have been ignorant, one of the first signs of their becoming Christians is the getting into retirement, and feeling their individual responsibility.

Beloved, I always have hope for the person who begins to think of himself as he stands alone before God, for there are tens of thousands in England [substitute your country—EO] who consider themselves to be parts of a nation of Christians and born members of a Church, and thus never consider themselves as personally responsible to God. They say the confession of sin, but it is always with the whole congregation. They chant the *Te Deum*, but it is not personal but choral praise.

But when a person is led, even while in the congregation, to feel as if he were alone, when he grasps the idea that true religion is of the individual, and not of the community, and that confession of sin is more fitting from his lips than from any other man—then is a gracious work commenced! There is hope of the most blind understanding when the mind begins to meditate upon its own condition and examines its own prospects. It is a sure sign that the Lord is dealing well with you if He has taken you out of the town; if you are forgetting all others, and thinking just now of yourself.

Call it not selfishness; it is only such a selfishness as the highest law of our nature commands. Every man, when he is drowning, must think of himself, and if it is a justifiable selfishness to seek to preserve one's own life, much more is it to labor to escape from eternal ruin! When your own salvation is accomplished you shall have no more need to think of self, but you shall care for the souls of others; but now the highest wisdom is to think of yourself in your standing towards God, and to look to the Savior that you yourself may have Eternal Life.

“He took him by the hand, and led him out of the town.”—(See Sermon #701, Volume 12—SEEING AND NOT SEEING—OR MEN AS TREES WALKING—read/download, by God's Grace, all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons, and over 495 Spanish translations free of charge at www.spurgeongems.org.)