

FOR HIS GLORY

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Now, to say “Christ is mine,” is a blessed thing. But to *really* take Christ *into* you by the act of faith is the vitality and the pleasure of faith. In eating and drinking, a man is not a producer, but a consumer—he is not a doer or a giver, for he simply takes in. If a queen should eat, if an empress should eat, she would become as completely a receiver as the pauper in the workhouse. Eating is an act of *reception* in every case. So it is with faith—you have not to *do*, to *be*, or to *feel*, but only to *receive*. The saving point is not a something which comes forth of you, but the *reception* of a something imparted *to you*. Faith is an act which the poorest sinner, the vilest sinner, the weakest sinner, the most condemned sinner may perform because it is not an act requiring power on *his* part, nor the going forth of anything *from* him, but simply the *receiving* into himself!—CHS



CHRIST CAME TO MAKE MEN OF US!

By Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“... and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

Notice again, keeping close to the text, that the life which God works in us is still *the life of a man*. “The life that I now live in the flesh,” says the Apostle. Those monks and nuns who run away from the world for fear its temptations should overcome them, and seclude themselves for the sake of greater holiness, are as excellent soldiers as those who retire to the camp for fear of being defeated! Of what service are such soldiers in battle, or such persons in the warfare of life? Christ did not come to make monks of us: He came to make *men* of us! He meant that we should learn how to live *in the flesh*. We are neither to give up business nor society, nor in any right sense to give up life. “The life I live in the flesh,” says the Apostle.

Look at him busy at his tent-making. What? An Apostle making tents? What would you say, Brothers and Sisters, to the Archbishop of Canterbury stitching away for his living? It is too low for a State Bishop certainly, but not too low for Paul. I do not think the Apostle was ever more Apostolic than when

he picked up sticks. When Paul and his companions were shipwrecked at Malta, (Acts 28:1 NKJV) the Apostle was of more service than all the Pan-Anglican Synod with their silk aprons, for he set to work like other people to gather fuel for the fire; he wanted to warm himself as other men, and therefore he took his share at the toil.

Even so you and I must take our turn at the wheel. We must not think of keeping ourselves aloof from our fellow men as though we would be degraded by mingling with them. The salt of the earth should be well rubbed into the meat, and so the Christian should mingle with his fellow men, seeking their good for edification. We are men, and whatever men may lawfully do, we do; wherever they may go, we may go. Our religion makes us neither more nor less than human, though it brings us into the family of God.

Yet the Christian life is a life of *faith*. “The life which I live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God.” Faith is not a piece of confectionery to be put upon drawing room tables, or a garment to be worn on Sundays; it is a *working* principle to be used in the barn and

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READ OF THE UGLIEST SINNER EVER!

By C. H. Spurgeon

I wish I could hope that all of you had tasted of the Grace and Love of God as some of us have done. But I dare not flatter you. I fear that many of you are utter strangers to this matter. It ought to encourage everyone here who has not found peace with God, to hear us tell of what we feel of our own sinfulness, because, Sinner, where one sinner gets through, there is room for another! If there is a prison door, and that door is broken down and one gets out, another man who is in the same prison may safely say, “Why should I not escape, too?”

Supposing we were all beasts in Noah’s Ark, and we could not get down from the Ark to the ground except by going down that slanting ramp which most of the painters have sketched when they have tried to depict the scene. Well, we must go down that ramp. Are you afraid? Are you, sheep and hares, afraid that the ramp will not bear you up? Listen, then! I am an elephant, and I have come down out of the Ark over that ramp and, therefore, it is sure that all of you who are smaller than I am, can come down, too! There is

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NONESSENTIAL?

By C. H. Spurgeon

Now, we have to spend a few minutes in urging home one or two PRACTICAL REFLECTIONS which arise out of this subject. [Jewish Temple—Christ.] And the first is this—how carefully should the Laws of Jesus Christ be observed?

I believe that when you entered the old Jewish Temple by passing through the Beautiful Gate, you saw a notice that worshippers should enter on the right side, and afterwards they were to exit on the left. I am quite sure that if the Temple now stood, and any of us could make a journey to Jerusalem, we would be very careful to observe every order of the sanctuary.

And if we found the porter at the gate said, “You must take off your shoes,” we would with gladness, remove them. Or if he bade us wash, we would gladly enter the bath. Knowing that God dwelt there, had we been Israelites, we would have been very attentive to every observance required of the Law.

Now, Brothers and Sisters, let us be equally attentive to all the Laws of Christ, for He is greater than the Temple! Never ignore His commands, nor tamper with them. Remember, if you break one of the least of His commandments, and teach men so, you will be least in the Kingdom of God. He is very gracious and forgives, but still, disobedience brings injury to our own souls.

I beseech all Christians to search the Scriptures, and see what Christ’s mind is upon every moot point—whether it is Baptism or Church government—and when you know His will, carry it out! Do not say of any precept, “That is nonessential,” for *everything* that Jesus bids you do is essential to the perfection of your *obedience*.

If you say it is not essential to salvation, I am compelled to rebuke you. What? Are you so selfish that you only think about your *own* salvation? And because *you* are saved, will you kick against your Savior, and say, “I do not care to do this because I can be saved even if I neglect it”? This is not the spirit of a child of God!

I pray you, dear Friends, do what I anxiously wish to do myself—follow the Lord fully, and go step by step where He would have us go—for if you would obey Temple rules, much more should you obey the rules of Christ.

Remember, delays are essentially insubordinations, and neglect is a form of rebellion. I fear that there are some Christians whose disobedience to Christ is a proof of their pride; it may be said that they do not know such-and-such a duty to be incumbent upon them. Yes, but there is a proud ignorance which does not *care* to know—a pride which despises the Commandments of the Lord, and counts them nonessential and unimportant.

Can such scorn be justifiable? Is that a right temper for the Lord’s servant to indulge? Can any point in our Lord’s Will be unimportant to us? Can the wish of a dear Friend be trivial to those who love Him? Has Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments,” and shall I treat them as matters of no importance?

No, my Lord, if it were the lifting of a stone from the road. If it were the moving of a dry leaf, or the brushing away of a cobweb, if You ordain it, then it becomes important straightway—important to my loving allegiance that I may, by my prompt obedience, show how fully I love You, and am willing to submit myself to You.

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software,—Sermon #1275 and 1276, Volume 22—*One Greater Than the Temple*, and *Unconditional Surrender*—Read/download entire sermons on www.spurgeongems.org.

UGLIEST!

(Continued from page 1)

strength enough to bear up the hare and the coney, the ox and the sheep, for it carried the elephant! The way down has been trod by that heavy, lumping creature—it will do for you, whoever you may be.

Ever since the Lord Jesus Christ saved me, I made up my mind to one thing, namely, that I should never meet another person who was harder to save than I. Somebody said to me, once, when I was a child, when it was very dark and I was afraid to go out, “What are you afraid of? You won’t meet anything uglier than yourself.” Surely as to my spiritual condition that is true! I never did meet anything uglier than myself, and I never shall! And if there is a great, big, black, ugly sinner here, I say, Sinner, you are not uglier than I was by nature, and yet the Lord Jesus Christ loved *me*! Why should He not love you, too? I tell you, that though Jesus Christ is Omniscient, and it is saying a great thing to say what He could not see, yet I do venture to say that Jesus Christ could not see *anything* in me to love.

What if He cannot see anything good in you? Then we are on a par, and yet I know He loves *me*, why not you? That He loves me I know; bless His name, I know He loves me, and I love Him, too. If He loved me when there was nothing in me to love, why should He not love you when there is nothing in you to love? Oh, turn that ugly face towards the lovely Savior, and trust in Him! I put it in a pleasant way, and you smile, but I want to get it into your *hearts*. I want some poor, trembling sinner to say, “I shall remember that; I do think myself an ugly sinner, but I will come to Christ and trust Him.”

If you do, you will never regret it, but you will bless God forever and ever, and so shall I! And when we get to Heaven, we will talk about it and we will say, “Here we are, a pair of huge, horrible sinners; we came to Jesus Christ and He took us in, and blessed be His name, we will praise Him as long as ever we live.” That we will, I guarantee you! Do you not feel sure of it? God bless you, for Christ’s sake.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software,—Sermon #1289, Volume 22—*The Heart Full and the Mouth Closed*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

A GOOD QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF...

“Did my Lord forgive me all my sin? And after that will He ever be unkind to me? Did He lay down His life for me upon the accursed tree, and can I *dream* that He will desert me? Have I looked into the wounds of my dying Savior, and shall I ever murmur if He should multiply pains, and sufferings, and losses, and crosses to me? God forbid!

“Such love as His forbids all fear! Did you ever lean on the Bridegroom’s arm? Have you ever sung like the bride in the canticle, ‘His left hand is under my head, and His right arm does embrace me’? Did He ever comfort you with apples while your soul was sick with too much delight? And after all that, will you indulge harsh thoughts of Him? O, no! Till the day breaks, and the shadows flee away, we cannot think harshly of Him who has dealt so kindly with us!” —CHS



Reflections is a Christian meditation sent by Action Uganda Ministries, and is meant to instruct, encourage and edify.

Part 2—Seven Supernatural Virtues in Christ’s Blood

5. *Christ’s blood cools the heart.* First, it cools the heart of sin. The heart naturally is full of distempered heat. It must be hot, being set on fire of hell. It burns in lust and passion. Christ’s blood allays this heart, and quenches the inflammation of sin. Second, it cools the heat of conscience. In time of desertion, conscience burns with the heat of God’s displeasure. Now, Christ’s blood, being sprinkled upon the conscience, cools and purifies it. And in this sense, Christ is compared to a river of water (Isa 32:2). When the heart burns and is in agony, Christ’s blood is like water to the fire. It has a cooling, refreshing virtue in it.

6. *Christ’s blood comforts the soul.* It is good against fainting fits. Christ’s blood is better than wine. Though wine cheers the heart of a man who is well, yet it will not cheer his heart when he has a fit of the stone, or when the pangs of death are upon him. But Christ’s blood will cheer the heart at such a time. It is best in affliction. It cures the trembling of the heart.

A conscience sprinkled with Christ’s blood can, like the night-gale, sing with a thorn at its breast. The blood of Christ can make a prison become a palace. It turned the martyr’s flames into beds of roses. Christ’s blood gives comfort at the hour of death. As a holy man once said on his deathbed, when they brought him a cordial, “No cordial like the blood of Christ!”

7. *Christ’s blood procures Heaven.* Israel passed through the Red Sea to Canaan. So, through the red sea of Christ’s blood, we enter into the heavenly Canaan. “Having boldness therefore to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus” (Heb 10:19). Our sins shut Heaven; Christ’s blood is the key which opens the gate of Paradise for us. Hence it is that Theodoret calls the cross the tree of salvation because that blood which trickled down the cross distils salvation. Well, then, may we prize the

blood of Christ and, with Paul, determine to know nothing but Christ crucified (1 Cor 2:2). King’s crowns are only crosses, but the cross of Christ is the only crown.

Does Christ offer His body and blood to us in the Supper? Then with what solemn preparation should we come to so sacred an ordinance! It is not enough to do *what* God has appointed, but *as* He has appointed. “Prepare your hearts unto the Lord” (1 Sam 7:3). The musician first puts his instrument in tune before he plays. The heart must be prepared, and put in tune before it goes to meet with God in this solemn ordinance of the sacrament. Take heed of rashness and irreverence. If we do not come prepared, we do not drink, but *spill* Christ’s blood. “Whoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.” (1 Cor 11:27). “That is,” said Theophylact, “he shall be judged a shedder of Christ’s blood.” We read of a wine cup of fury in God’s hand (Jer 25:15). He that comes unprepared for the Lord’s Supper turns the cup in the sacrament into a cup of fury.

Oh, with what reverence and devotion should we address ourselves to these holy mysteries! The saints are called “prepared vessels” (Rom 9:23). If ever these vessels should be prepared, it is when they are to hold the precious body and blood of Christ. The sinner who is damned, is first prepared. Men do not go to Hell without some kind of preparation. “Vessels fitted for destruction” (Rom 9:22). If those vessels are prepared which are filled with wrath, much more are those to be prepared who are to receive Christ in the sacrament. Let us dress ourselves by a Scripture glass before we come to the Lord’s Table, and with the Lamb’s wife, make ourselves ready.”—from Thomas Watson’s (1620 – 1686) *The Mystery of the Lord’s Supper* based on Matthew 26: 26-28. Printed by Soli Deo Gloria Publications, Morgan, PA, 1997, Pages 150-152.

SPURGEON MAY HAVE WRITTEN THIS TO ME AND OUR MASTER’S OTHER GIMPS:

When I looked the other day upon a number of poor old men and women in the wards of the workhouse, some of whom had not risen from their beds at all for years, I thought to myself it was far better to die than so to live; and yet, if they had a good hope, I was mistaken, for if Christ should make that bed to become soft as downy pillows with His Presence, there might be a Glory in the workhouse, and a Heaven in the midst of poverty, and they would there learn as well as anywhere, that “His mercy endures forever” (Psa 136:1). “Even to your old age I am He; and even to gray hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you” (Isa 46:4). Therefore trust in the Lord, and be not afraid, you whose days of weakness are coming, [or has already come] for He will not fail you nor forsake you! [Of course Spurgeon did not write this to me, but I was much encouraged, as I often am from his messages.]—Adapted from Sermon #787, Volume 13—A SONG, A SOLACE, A SERMON, AND A SUMMONS—read/download, by God’s Grace, all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons, and over 500 Spanish translations free of charge at www.spurgeongems.org

DO ROMAN CATHOLICS REALLY EAT THE BODY, AND DRINK THE BLOOD OF CHRIST?

By C. H. Spurgeon

*“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily,
I say unto you, Except you eat the
flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood,
you have no life in you. Whoever
eats My flesh and drinks My blood has
eternal life, and I will raise him
up at the last day.
For My flesh is meat, indeed, and My
blood is drink indeed.
He that eats My flesh, and drinks My blood,
dwells in Me, and I in Him.”*

John 6:53-6.

OUR Lord Jesus did *not* in this passage, allude to the Lord’s Supper, as some, desiring to maintain their sacramental superstitions, have dared to affirm! I will not dwell upon the argument that there was no Lord’s Supper at the time to allude to, though there is certainly some force in it, but I will rather remind you that even with such an interpretation, this passage would not be true.

It must be confessed, even by the most ardent advocate of the sacramental meaning, that the expressions used by our Lord are not universally and without exception true if used in that sense, for it is not true that those who have *never* eaten the Lord’s Supper have no life in them, since it is confessed on all hands that hundreds and thousands of children dying in childhood are undoubtedly saved, and yet they have never eaten the flesh of Christ, nor drank His blood, if the Lord’s Supper is here meant.

There have also been many others in bygone times who by their conduct proved that the Life of God was in their souls, and yet they were not able to eat bread at the sacramental table because of sickness, banishment, imprisonment, and other causes.

Surely there are some others, though I would not excuse them, who have neglected to come to that blessed commemorative ordinance, and yet nevertheless, for all that, they are truly children of God. Would the highest of high churchmen send every Quaker, however holy and devout, down to the bottomless Pit of Hell?

If this should refer to the Lord’s Supper, then it is certain that the dying thief could not have entered Heaven, for he never sat down at the communion table, but was converted on the Cross—and without either Baptism or the

Lord’s Supper, went straight away with his Master into Paradise!

It can never be proved, indeed, is utterly false that *no one* has Eternal Life if he has not received the bread and wine of the communion table. But on the other hand, it is certainly *equally* untrue that whoever eats Christ’s flesh has Eternal Life, if by that is meant everyone who partakes of the Eucharist, for there are unworthy receivers, not here and there, but to be found by the thousands.

Alas, there are apostates who leave the Lord’s Table for the table of devils, and who profane the holy name they once professed to love! There are also many who have received the sacramental bread and wine, and yet live in sin—who increase their sin by daring to come to the table and who, alas, we fear, will die in their sins as many others have done.

Unregenerate persons are very apt to make much of the sacrament, and nothing of Christ. They think a great deal of the bread and wine of the (so-called) “altar,” but they have never known what it is to eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ.

These eat and drink unworthily—carnally eating bread, but not *spiritually* eating the Redeemer’s flesh—to them the ordinance is a curse rather than a blessing! Our Lord did not refer to the feast of His supper, for the language will not bear such an interpretation.

It is evident that the Jews misunderstood the Savior, and thought that He referred to the *literal* eating of His flesh. It is no wonder that they condemned among themselves, such a saying, for understood literally, it is horrible and revolting to the last degree!

But far greater is the wonder that there are millions of people who accept so monstrous an error as actual truth, and believe in *literally* feeding upon the body of the Lord Jesus! This is probably the highest point of profane absurdity to which superstition has yet reached—to believe that such an act of cannibalism as could be implied in the literal eating of the flesh of Christ could convey Grace to the person guilty of such a horror!

While we wonder that the Jews so misunderstood the Savior, we wonder a thousand times more that there should remain upon the face of the earth men in their senses not yet committed to a lunatic asylum who endeavor to defend such a dreadful error from Holy Scripture!

It is amazing that instead of being staggered, as the Jews were, by so fearful a statement, they actually consider it to be a vital doctrine of their faith—that they are *literally* to eat the flesh of Christ, and to drink His blood!

Brothers and Sisters, if it were possible that

our Lord required us to believe such a dogma, it would certainly need the most stupendous effort of credulity on the part of a reasonable man—and the laying aside of all the decencies of nature. In fact, it would appear to be necessary before you could be a Christian, that you should altogether divest yourself of your reason and your humanity!

It were a Gospel certainly more fitted for savages and madmen, than for persons in the possession of their senses, and in the least degree removed from absolute barbarism! I greatly question whether the creed of the king of Dahomey contains a more unnatural doctrine.

We are not required however, to believe anything so impossible, so degrading, so blasphemous, so horrifying to all the decencies of life! No man ever did eat the flesh of Christ or drink His blood in a *literal* and corporeal sense.

A deed so beastlike, no, so *devilish*, was never yet perpetrated, or could be! No, Brethren, the Jews were under an error—they made the mistake of taking *literally* what Christ meant *spiritually*. Judicially blinded, as the result of unbelief, they stumbled at noonday as in the night, and refused to see what was plainly set forth. The veil was on their *hearts*. Ah, how prone is man to pervert the words of the Lord!

I believe that if Christ had meant this word *literally*, they would have spirited it away, but such is the perversity of the human mind, that when He intended it *spiritually*, then straightway they interpreted it in a grossly carnal manner.

Let us not fall into their error, but may Divine Grace lead us to see that our Lord’s Words are Spirit and Life. Let us not be held in bondage by the letter which kills, but follow the spirit which quickens.

The spiritual meaning is clear enough to spiritual men, for to them belong spiritual discernment. But as for the unregenerate, these things are spoken unto them in parables, that seeing they might not see, and perceiving they might not understand.

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1288, Volume 22—*Truly Eating the Flesh of Jesus*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

LET US TRULY PRAISE GOD!

By Charles H. Spurgeon

“I will declare Your name unto My brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise You. You who fear the Lord, praise Him; all you the seed of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him, all you the seed of Israel.”
Psalm 22:22, 23.

Now, to them it is said first, “Praise Him.” Praise Him *vocally*. I wish that in every congregation every child of God would take pains to praise God with his mouth as well as with his heart. Do you know, I have noticed one thing—I have jotted this down in the diary of my recollection—that you always sing best when you are most *spiritual*.

Last Monday night the singing was very much better than it was on Sunday evening. You kept better time and better tune, not because the tune was any easier, but because you had come up to worship God with more solemnity than usual, and therefore there was no slovenly singing such as sometimes pains my ears and heart.

Why, some of you care so little to give the Lord your best music, that you fall half a note behind the rest; others of you are singing quite a false note, and a few make no sound of any kind. I hate to enter a place of worship where half-a-dozen sing to the praise and glory of themselves, and the rest stand and listen.

I like that good old plan of everybody singing, singing their best, singing carefully and heartily. If you cannot sing artistically, never mind, you will be right enough if you sing from the heart, and pay atten-

tion to it, and do not draw out like a musical machine that has been set, and runs on mechanically. With a little care the heart brings the art, and the heart desiring to praise will by-and-by train the voice to time and tune. I would have our service of song to be of the best. I care not for the fineries of music, and the prettiness of chants and anthems.

As for instrumental music, I fear that it often destroys the singing of the congregation, and detracts from the spirituality and simplicity of worship. If I could crowd a house 20 times as big as this by the fine music which some Churches delight in, God forbid I should touch it; but let us have the best and most orderly harmony we can make—let Believers come with their hearts in the best humor, and their voices in the best tune, and let them take care that there be no slovenliness and discord in the public worship of the Most High.—(See Sermon #799, Volume 14—JESUS, THE EXAMPLE OF HOLY PRAISE—read/download, by God’s Grace, all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons, and over 500 Spanish translations free of charge at www.spurgeongems.org.)

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THINK ABOUT IT

By C. H. Spurgeon

Somebody has asked, “If the heathen are not evangelized, what will become of them?” I will put another question of a far more practical character. If you do not *try* to evangelize the heathen, *what will become of you?* Do not so much inquire about *their* destiny as your own if you have no care for their salvation.

He who never seeks the conversion of another is in imminent danger of being damned, himself. I do not believe in any man’s salvation who is wrapped up in self! Assuredly he is not saved from *selfishness*. I cannot believe in any man’s possessing the Spirit of God who is indifferent to the condition of others—one of the *first* fruits of the Spirit is love. Even as flowers at their very first blooming, shed their perfume, so do the saved ones in their earliest days of Grace, desire the good of their fellows.

I know that one of my earliest impulses when I first looked to Christ, and lost the burden of my sin was to tell everybody around me of the blessings I had received, for I longed to make others as happy as I was. I do fear that you who never try to win souls lack an essential part of the Christian character. I leave the question with your own consciences.

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software.—Sermon #1282, Volume 22—*Conversions Desired*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

AND HOW IS YOUR HEART?

By C. H. Spurgeon

It is well to have our hearts like that poor shepherd to whom a gentleman said, “I wish you a good day.” Said he, “I never knew a bad day.” “How is that, my Friend?” “The days are such as God chooses to make them, and, therefore, they are all good.” “Well,” said the other, “but do some days please you more than others?” “No,” he said, “what pleases God pleases me.” “Well, but have you not a choice?” asked the other. “Yes, I have a choice, and that is, I choose that God should choose for me.” “But have you not a choice whether you would live or die?” “No,” he said, “for if I am here, Christ will be with me; and if I am in Heaven, I shall be with Him.” “But suppose you had to choose?” “I would ask God to choose for me,” he said.

Oh, sweet simplicity which leaves everything with God! This is calling Jesus, Master, to perfection—

*“Pleased with all the Lord provides,
Weaned from all the world besides.”*

**HAVE YOU PRAYED FOR YOUR
PASTOR AND HIS FAMILY
TODAY?**

STUDY OF EPHESIANS 4:25

PUT AWAY LYING—PART 3

Remember how Satan came to Eve in the Garden? He said to her, “Has God said?” He questioned God’s Word, but then he said to Eve in Genesis 3:4-5, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” He was saying that God is withholding something from you. He is just keeping you down for His own interests. He knows that if you eat of that fruit, you will become a god yourself. WHAT A LIE! But Eve fell for the lie, and that is the reason why the world is in the condition it is in today.

Another reason why lying is singled out as the first “rag” of the old man to be put off is that it is so characteristic of the life of sin. Sad to say, we all know the pattern. We do something wrong, and we know it is wrong. We don’t want others to find out about it, so the next thing you know, we are trying to cover ourselves by lying about it. And as things go on, the more lies we have to tell. It begins to snowball. It only gets worse and worse.

Lying is perhaps a more accurate name for the hypocrisy that goes on constantly in the way people relate to one another. People smile at one another; they give the impression that they like one another, and that all is well. But they might be whispering and gossiping things about these same people. Much of the relationships in world today is based upon deceit and lies. And let us be clear that by lying here, Paul is referring to all forms of deceit. You don’t have to say anything to tell a lie. You can just fail to tell the whole truth, or you can simply not say anything. You can lie by the expression on your face.

One more reason we would give why lying is chosen first by the Apostle, is that it, perhaps more than others, points us to what is behind sin. Behind sin is self-centeredness. Didn’t our Lord Jesus say that “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”? People want to impress other people with how good or great or clever THEY are. Sin causes us to want to be highly thought of by others, so we tell things in such a way that we exaggerate in order to build ourselves up. Facts are deliberately misrepresented.

Perhaps we tell a story the first time, and it gets the desired response. So the next time we tell it, we add a little more, hoping for an even greater response. By the time we finish telling the story, it may be very far removed from what actually happened. Why? It is because of our desire for self-importance and praise from others. That is frequently what is driving our lies.

And although everyone despises a liar, we are all guilty. This is a sin that is in every person in every place. Whether one goes to Beverly Hills or to the slums, people lie. The way it is done may be different, but everyone is doing it. Nothing so demonstrates that mankind is a slave of sin as the pervasiveness of lying. And so, isn’t it obvious that those who belong to Christ should put away lying? And what are we to do instead? Paul says, “Let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor.” I do not think we need to spend much time with this, for it is so obvious. The point is this—if you are new creatures in Christ, then you must speak a new way, you must speak in a way that reflects your being children of the God of Truth.

What I would like to spend some time with is the particular reason why we are to speak the truth which is given at the end of the verse. That reason is, “For we are members of one another.” Here we see that the Apos-

tle is using the term “neighbor” in a limited sense. He is referring to Brothers and Sister in the Lord. Many times Scripture shows us that Believers are members of one another because they are members of the same body.

The early church father Chrysostom, had some very insightful comments on this phrase which help us understand its meaning. He asked, “If my mouth tastes something very horrible, it doesn’t deceive my stomach by swallowing it. It spits it out! If my eye sees something dangerous like a poisonous snake, it doesn’t deceive my foot by walking on it.” In other words, the parts of our physical body look out for one another. And they do so by being truthful with one another.

Nothing is so divisive, and causes so much pain as lying. Lying causes distrust and suspicion of one another. Just think of the burdens that people are carrying around because of lies that are told. The heartbreak and suffering caused by lying is tremendous. There is no place for these things among the Redeemed. Lying crushes true fellowship. True fellowship in the body of Christ depends upon being able to speak freely and openly with one another, and to have an environment of mutual trust. Lying makes unity impossible, because it destroys trust. Loving one’s neighbor as himself leaves no room for lying. Would you fool yourself? Yet, the one who lies is hurting himself, for when you lie to a Brother or Sister, you are hurting yourself. Can you cut your finger without it hurting you? No! When one member suffers, everyone in the body suffers.

Therefore, Brothers and Sisters, let the truth abound! Let the truth characterize us! We claim to be those bought by the blood of Jesus Christ. We are no longer children of the devil. Let us no longer feel compelled to follow the lying and deceitful ways of the world. We are not part of it any longer.

And thank God we are not! By God’s Grace we are His children. We are to be like our Father, and tell forth His praises. And we do so when we put away lying, and speak the truth with our neighbor, for we are members of one another.—PF

**PRAY FOR OUR BRETHREN
IN NORTH DAKOTA.
PRAY OUR LORD WILL USE
THEM FOR A TRUE REVIVAL.**

**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)**

THE “I AM”S OF JESUS CHRIST—PART 8

“I AM THE LIFE” (JOHN 14:6)

By Daniel E. Parks, Pastor

Redeemer Baptist Church, 74 Cane Carlton, Frederiksted, VI 00840, USA

We need life. It is obvious that we do not refer to *physical* life, since it is possessed by all who are physically alive. Rather we refer to *spiritual* life. We need spiritual life because we are all, by nature, spiritually dead. As physical death is the separation of the soul from the body, spiritual death is the separation of the soul from fellowship with God.

This spiritual death is the result of the sin of the first man, Adam. When he sinned against God in the Garden of Eden, he immediately died spiritually in consequence of the warning from God that “in the day you eat of [the forbidden fruit] you shall surely die” (Gen 3:17). Adam’s spiritual death was illustrated in his trying to hide from God (Gen 3:8) and by God driving him from the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:23f).

Since the whole human race was represented before God by Adam, his sin and death were also our own (Rom 5:12, 17-19). Consequently, Holy Scriptures inform us that we are all, from the womb, spiritually “dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph 2:1).

Jesus Christ declares that He, Himself, is the Life we need (John 14:6): “I am...the life.” He does not say merely “I possess life.” Rather, He declares He, Himself, to be, “the life”!

1) Jesus Christ has life in Himself. This is true of only God. This is not true of mortals, because our life derives from a Source outside ourselves, the God who is, Himself, the Life. And because Jesus Christ is the co-equal and co-eternal Son of God the Father, He declares, “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself” (John 5:26). He is the eternal and Divine Word of God of whom it is said, “In Him was life” (John 1:1-4). He is, therefore, “the Word of Life...that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us” (1 John 1:1f).

2) Jesus Christ imparts His life to spiritually dead mortals. God did similarly to the newly-created but lifeless body of the first man Adam (Gen 2:7)—“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [“breath of lives” in the Hebrew text] and man became a living being.”

Adam, therefore, possessed not only the physical life of the lower creatures, but also the *spiritual* life of God. Man has a *soul* which will never cease to exist (Eccl 12:7), even though it is, from birth, separated from fellowship with God.

Holy Scriptures declare that “the Son [i.e. Jesus Christ] gives life to whom He will” (John 5:21). Emphasis here is on the Sovereignty of God in salvation. No one *deserves* spiritual life. And no one will, of his own, come to God for spiritual life (John 5:40)—“But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

The bestowal of spiritual life is, therefore, an act of God’s free and Sovereign Grace! God the Father has chosen a host of unworthy sinners to eternal life, (2 Thess 2:13), and it is the will of God the Son to bestow His eternal life to every one of them.

Holy Scriptures also declare that this eternal life is received through faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:16)—“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whoever believes in Him* should not perish but have everlasting life.” If you will but believe in Jesus Christ, trusting in Him, alone, for your soul’s salvation, you will receive the spiritual life He bestows! You will also prove yourself to be one of God’s chosen people, since none but the Elect will believe (Eph 1:3-14).

It is important to note, also, that this spiritual life is “everlasting life” and those who possess it “should not perish” (John 3:15, 16). Jesus Christ has emphatically declared that, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die [physically], he shall live [spiritually]” (John 11:25).

The Doctrine of those who say we may be “saved today but lost tomorrow, meaning that we may receive saving life but afterward lose it, is therefore a lie against the testimony of Jesus Christ! Believers in the Son of God are told “Christ...is our life” (Col 3:4). Is He yours?

**ASK OUR LORD
TO BLESS PASTOR PARKS.**

“I am sometimes asked to read an heretical book. Well, if I believed my reading it would help its refutation, and might be an assistance to others in keeping them out of error, I might do it as a hard matter of duty. But I shall not do it unless I see some good will come from it. I am not going to drag my spirit through a ditch for the sake of having it washed afterwards—for it is not my own.”—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Version 1.0, Ages Software—Sermon #1004, Volume 17—“*Bought with a Price*.”—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

**“Neglect of private prayer is the locust
which devours the strength
of the Church.”—CHS**

“We should be very careful when we do anything for God, that He is pleased to accept our doings, that we never congratulate ourselves. The minister of Christ should disrobe himself of every rag of praise. ‘You preached well,’ said a friend to John Bunyan one morning. ‘You are too late,’ said Honest John, ‘Satan told me that before I left the pulpit.’”—CHS

“We need in the Christian Church not only preachers, but soul-winners, who can bear souls on their hearts, and feel the solemn burden! Men who, it may be, cannot talk, but who can weep! Men who cannot break other men’s hearts with their language, but who break their own hearts with their compassion!”—CHS

WORDS OF WISDOM TO NEW CHRISTIANS

By Charles Haddon Spurgeon

IT IS GOOD FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS THAT THEY BEAR THE YOKE OF JESUS. What do we mean by that? A good number of you have been lately converted, and to you I speak most earnestly. It will be for your good, as long as you live, to render to Jesus complete obedience at the very first.

Some Christians seem to me, to start to Canaan all in a muddle. They do not begin their pilgrimage in the right pilgrim fashion. Every young Christian, when he is converted, should take time to consider, and should say to himself, "What am I to do? What is the *duty* of a Christian?"

He should also devoutly say to the Lord Jesus, "Lord, show me what You would have me to do," and wait upon the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Two young lads were not long ago converted to God—one of them attended here, the other at another place of worship. They talked to each other about what was the right way of confessing Jesus Christ. They did not quite know, but they meant to find out.

They borrowed the keys of a neighboring Independent Chapel, and went inside and spent some hours, day after day, reading together the New Testament, and turning to every passage which refers to Baptism. The result was that they, both of them, came and were baptized in this place.

I wish that all Christians, in commencing, would look at that ordinance, and at every *other* point in dispute, and see what is God's mind about it. Search the Scriptures and see for yourselves. Do not say, "I have always been with the Episcopalians, and therefore I ought to do as they do at Church."

Or, "I have always been with the Baptists," or "with the Wesleyans." My dear Friends, these people cannot make rules for us! Here is our guide—this Bible! If I want to go by the railway, I use Bradshaw, and do not trust to hearsay. And if I want to go to Heaven, I must follow the Bible.

There is another book which people will ask you to attend to. Well, we will say nothing against that book, only it is not *the* book. *The* book is this volume, the blessed Bible!

You should begin by feeling, "My Lord has saved me; I am His servant, and I mean at once to take His yoke upon me. I will, as far as ever I can, do what He would have me do. There are some sins into which I shall most likely fall. Watch as I may, I shall sometimes make a slip, but here are some things which I can be right about, and I will take care that I am right about them."

Now, if you young people begin conscientiously studying the Word of God, and desiring in everything to put your feet down where Christ put His feet, I am sure it will be good for you. You will grow up to be healthy Christians, and men and women of no ordinary stature!

But if you do not begin with searching the Word, and take your religion at second-hand from other people, and do what you see other people do, without searching, why, you will lack that noble independence of mind, and courage of spirit, and at the same time, that complete submission to Christ which make up the main elements of a noble-minded Christian!

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software.—Sermon #1291, Vol. 22—*The Best Burden for Young Shoulders*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

**HAVE YOU PRAYED
FOR YOUR
FAMILY TODAY?**

**PRAY THAT
GOD WILL DRAW
MANY ROMAN CATHOLICS
TO HIS SON.**

**PRAY DAILY FOR
PRESIDENT
OBAMA.**

**PRAY DAILY
FOR THE CONVERSION
OF GAYS AND LESBIANS.**

ADORNING THE GOSPEL

By John Newton

Those are favored places which are blessed with a sound and faithful Gospel ministry, if the people know and consider the value of their privileges and are really desirous of profiting by them. But the Kingdom of God is not in word, it is in power. I hope those who profess the Gospel with you will wrestle in prayer for Divine Grace to walk worthy of it.

A minister's hands are strengthened when he can point to his people as so many living proofs that the Doctrines he preaches are Doctrines according to godliness; when they walk in mutual love; when each one, in their several places, manifests a humble, spiritual, upright conduct. When they are Christians, not only at Church, but in the family, the shop, and the field; when they fill up their relations in life, as husbands or wives, masters or servants, parents or children, according to the rule of the Word.

When they are evidently a people separated from the world while conversant in it, and are careful to let their light shine before men, not only by talking, but by acting as the disciples of Christ.

**PRAY FOR MEN AND WOMEN
IN PRISON. PRAY FOR THEIR
CHILDREN AND SPOUSES.**

PRAY FOR THE HOMELESS.

"It is, in the Kingdom of Christ, a law that there must be experience before there can be expertness. You must be comforted, or you cannot comfort. You must find mercy, yourself, or you cannot lead others in the search."—CHS, 1876

**DO YOU HIDE GOD'S WORD
IN YOUR HEART?**

Letters to Mike Gendron Of Proclaiming the Gospel:

ptg@pro-gospel.org ~ www.pro-gospel.org ~ PO Box 940871, Plano, TX 75904

D. & C. K., Beaverton, OR, write—Thank you for your direct, hard hitting truthful proclamation of the Gospel. We have a family full of Catholics, and praise God for supernaturally working in our lives 20 years ago. We have shared your newsletter and website with several people. May God bless you as you work to serve Him.

D. G., Temecula, CA, writes—I have been working with this Catholic young man for the past 6 weeks. Other people didn't want to work with him because he cussed a lot. Using your Gospel tracts, he is now saved, and is very hungry for the Word of God.

Francis and Adam, Internet, write—

All Christians must become Roman Catholic! We find your website to be interesting and ignorant all at once. It's funny how a book that wasn't

even assembled until 1500 years after the death of Christ can be a sole authority on God. Please discontinue your web site for the sake of your salvation.

R. B., Alberta, Canada, writes—

I am using your tracts for Catholics, but also to deceived Christians. I took the challenge to do child care for some Roman Catholic mothers while they do "Scripture" study at their church, so I could gain their confidence, and share the Gospel with them. I am using your book *Preparing Catholics for Eternity* as a guideline to prepare my first lesson. Sadly, a Christian friend who works at a Roman Catholic hospital has been conditioned to accept Roman Catholicism as a Christian religion. I pray that the Lord will order the circumstances in her life so that she will have a change of heart. I am aware that Christians are being led astray. Where are the pastors who should be warning people about these deceptive media influences?

G. M., Alberton, South Africa, writes—Just a quick word of appreciation for the newsletter as well as the audio tape on the subject of *Biblical Integrity in Evangelism*. This message is greatly needed as the Bible gets left behind, and man's ideas take over. Your teaching on this is indeed a wake-up call to return to the Word of God.

I. T., Boulder City, NV, writes—Many Catholics in Mexico and the Philippines are responding favorably to your great tracts by making commitments to Christ, Praise God!

...TO MAKE US MEN!

(Continued from page 1)

in the field, in the shop and on the exchange; it is a Grace for the housewife, and the maid; it is for the House of Commons, and for the poorest workshop. "The life which I live in the flesh, I live by faith." I would have the believing cobbler mend shoes religiously, and the tailor make garments by faith, and I would have every Christian buy and sell by faith. Whatever your trades may be, faith is to be taken into your daily callings, and that is alone the truly living faith which will bear the practical test. You are not to stop at the shop door, and take off your coat and say, "Farewell to Christianity till I put up the shutters again." That is hypocrisy; but the genuine life of the Christian is the life which we live *in the flesh by the faith of the Son of God*.

To conclude: the life which comes out of the blended personality of the Believer and Christ is a life of *perfect love*. "He gave Himself for me." My question is therefore, "What can I do for Him?" The new life is a life of *holy security*, for if Christ loved me, who can destroy me? It is a life of *holy wealth*, for if Christ gave His Infinite Self to me, what can I need? It is a life of *holy joy*, for if Christ is mine, I have a well of holy joy within my soul! It is *the life of Heaven*, for if I have Christ, I have that which is the essence and soul of Heaven!

I have talked mysteries, of which some of you have not understood as much as one sentence. God give you understanding that you may know the Truth. But if you have not understood it, let this fact convince you—you know not the Truth because you have not the Spirit of God; for the spiritual mind alone understands spiritual things. When we talk about the Inner Life, we seem like those who dote and dream, to those who understand us not. But if you have understood me, Believer, go home and live out the Truth of God, practice that which is practicable, feed upon that which is full of savor, rejoice in Christ Jesus that you are one with Him, and then in your own proper person, go out and *serve your Master* with might and main, and the Lord send you His abundant blessing! Amen and Amen!

—Adapted from Sermon #781, Volume 13—CHRISTUS ET EGO—read/download, by God's Grace, all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons, and over 500 Spanish translations free of charge at www.spurgeongems.org.

**ASK GOD TO BLESS
BROTHER MIKE GENDRON.**

We are resting in a *finished* sacrifice, not in a sacrifice *to be* offered, nor in a sacrifice which continues to be offered, according to this Anglican Popery which reeks in so many parish Churches, but a sacrifice *complete*, for, "by one offering He has perfected forever them that are set apart." There is no continuance of the offering of Christ in the popish "sacrifice" of the "mass"—it is a barefaced lie before Almighty God! Christ declares that when He had once offered Himself, He forever sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens. By that word, "It is finished!" He has put an end to all sacrifices and offerings by way of expiation for sin, because they are not needed—one death has accomplished it all!—CHS

**PRAY FOR MT. ZION AND CHAPEL LIBRARY.
ASK FATHER TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE.**

DARE I PRINT THIS? I DARE! [ED]

By C. H. Spurgeon

And *it is good*, yet further, *to meet with persecution in your youth.*

If it were possible to take every young Christian and put him into a pious family and not let him go into the world at all, but always keep him in his mother's lap—if it were possible to take every working man and guarantee that he should only work in a shop where they sing Psalms from morning to night, where nobody ever swears, where nobody ever utters a word of chaff against him—why, I say, if it were possible to do this, I do not know that it would be wise to do it!

To keep people out of temptation is exceedingly proper and none of us have any right to put a temptation in another's way. But it is good for us to be tempted, sometimes, otherwise we should not know the real condition of our hearts and might be rotting with inward pride while blooming with outward morality. Temptation lets us know how weak we are and drives us to our knees. It tests our faith and tries our love—and lets us see whether our Graces are genuine or not. When religion puts on her silver slippers and walks out with her golden earrings, everybody is quite content to go with her. But the honest, hearty Christian will follow Jesus Christ's truth when she goes barefoot through the mire and through the slough—and when her garments are bespattered by unholy hands.

Herein is the trial of the true and the unmasking of the deceitful. It would not be good for us to be kept from persecution, slander and trial—it is good for a man that he bear this yoke in his youth. A Christian is a hardy plant. Many years ago a pine tree was brought to England. The gentleman who brought it, put it in his hothouse, but it did not develop in a healthy manner. It was a spindly thing and, therefore, the gardener, feeling that he could not make anything of it, took it out and threw it on the dunghill. There it grew into a splendid tree, for it had found a temperature suitable to its nature!

The tree was meant to grow near the snow. It loves cold winds and rough weather—and they had been sweating it to death in a hothouse. So it is with true Christianity. It seldom flourishes so well in the midst of ease and luxury as it does in great tribulation. Christians are often all the stronger and better because they happen to be cast where they have no Christian companions or kindly encouragements. As liberty usually favors the hardy mountaineers whose rugged hills have made them brave and hardy, so does abounding Grace, as a rule, visit those who endure the great fight and through much tribulation inherit the kingdom.

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software, 1.800.297.4307.—Sermon #1291, Vol. 22—*The Best Burden for Young Shoulders*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

**DO YOU SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES
TO BE SURE
TELEVANGELISTS
ARE HONORING
JESUS CHRIST?
NEVER WATCH?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR CHAPLAIN/PASTOR?
YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY
MAY REST IN THE BALANCE!**

Spurgeon Speaks Of Being Born In the 19th Century

First, then, God's determination governs the time of human life. We shall all acknowledge this as to its commencement. Not without infinite wisdom did any infant's life commence then and there, for no man is the offspring of chance. Not without a world of kindness did your life commence, dear Friend, just where and when it did. Our child's little hymn, in which he thanks God that he was not "born a little slave to labor in the sun," contains a good deal of truth in it. A man's whole life is mainly guided by its commencement—had we been born as thousands are where God was never known, we might have been idolaters at this hour!

Who would wish to have first seen the light at the era when our naked forefathers sacrificed to idols? Who would wish to have stepped upon the stage of life amid the dense darkness of popery, when our childish hands would have been lifted up by superstitious parents in adoration of the Virgin Mary, and we should have been taught to worship some bone fragment or rotten rag, superstitiously believed to be a relic of a saint? 'Tis no small thing to have been born in the 19th century, when works of Grace are to be seen on every side! Many of us should bless the Lord every day because in infancy we lay upon a Christian woman's bosom and were lulled to sleep with the sound of holy hymns of which the name of Jesus was the theme!

Our tiny feet were taught to run in the ways of righteousness, as far as parental instruction could effect the same, and this was no insignificant advantage. Blessed are the eyes which see the things which we see and hear the things which we hear! All this is by the appointment of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our presence on earth in this day of Grace was a matter altogether beyond our control, and yet it involves infinite issues—therefore let us, with deepest gratitude bless the Lord, who has cast our lot in such an auspicious season.—Adapted from *The C.H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software, 1.800.297.4307.—Sermon #1258, Vol. 21—*The Hand of God in the History of a Man*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

WHO DOES IT?

By C. H. Spurgeon

Let a Christian begin to boast, "I can do all things," without adding, "through Christ which strengthens me," and before long he will have to groan, "I can do nothing," and bemoan himself in the dust. Many of the sins of true Christians, I do not doubt, have been the result of their glorifying themselves. Many a man has been permitted by God to stain a noble character, and to ruin an admirable reputation because the character and the reputation had come to be the man's own, instead of being laid, as all our crowns must be laid, at the feet of Christ.

Know you not that prayer, itself, is the *work* of God? Prayer is not the *act* of the creature, but the *work* of the Creator! Prayer is God in man coming back to God. Prayer is the fruit of Divine life. And do you believe that God would Himself write upon the human heart prayers which He did not intend to hear? Do you think the Holy Spirit would dictate petitions which God, the Eternal Father, had determined to reject? No, no, no! We must, from this negative way of reasoning, be persuaded that our God will hear and answer prayer.—#508, Vol.8—*Comfort to Seekers from What the Lord Has Not Said*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON BRIEF TIMELINE

[Gleaned from Pilgrim Publications web site: <http://www.pilgrimpub.org>]

- BORN at Kelvedon, Essex England, June 19, 1834
- BORN AGAIN at Colchester, January 6, 1850
- Becomes a BAPTIST, May 3, 1850 (Baptized in the River Lark, at Isleham)
- Preaches FIRST SERMON, at a Cottage in Teversham, 1850
- Preached First Sermon at WATERBEACH Baptist Chapel, October 12, 1851
- Preached First Sermon at New Park Street Chapel, London, December 18, 1853
- Accepts PASTORATE at New Park Street Chapel, April 28, 1854, (232 members)
- First Sermon in the “New Park Street Pulpit” PUBLISHED, January 10, 1855
- MARRIAGE to Miss Susannah Thompson (born 1/15/1832), January 8, 1856
- 10-Day WEDDING TRIP in Paris France by the newly married Spurgeons, Spring 1856
- TWIN SONS (not identical) Thomas and Charles Born, September 20, 1856
- METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE Building Committee Begins, June 1856
- Establishes THE PASTOR’S COLLEGE, 1856, and Expanded in 1857
- Metropolitan Tabernacle OPENS with a Great Prayer Meeting, March 18, 1861
- Metropolitan Tabernacle COLPORTAGE Association Founded, 1866
- STOCKWELL Orphanage (Boy’s side) Founded, 1867, Found. Stone Laid Sept. 9, 1869
- Foundation Stone Laid by Senior Deacon Thomas Olney for the Pastor’s College, May 6, 1867—completed in March, 1868

- Begins Annual Vacations to Southern France for Rest & Relaxation, December 1871
- 571 New Members Added by February 1873, now 4,417 Total Membership
- Foundation Stone Laid for a newer Pastor’s College Building, October 14, 1873
- Mrs. Spurgeon’s BOOK FUND Inaugurated, 1875
- Presentation of the Pastoral SILVER WEDDING Gift (offering) May 20, 1879
- STOCKWELL Orphanage (Girl’s side) Founded, 1879, Found. Stone Laid June 22, 1880
- JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS and Testimonials, June 18 & 19, 1884
- “Down Grade” Paper #1 Published in The Sword & the Trowel, August 1887
- Spurgeon’s Mother ELIZA Dies, Aged 75 Years, 1888
- LAST SERMON Delivered at Metropolitan Tabernacle, June 7, 1891
 - During his Pastorate, 14,692 were Baptized and Joined the Tabernacle
 - As Year 1891 ends, Membership given as 5,311 (Tabernacle capacity: 6,000, with 5,500 Seated, 500 Standing Room; Tabernacle Dimensions: 146’ long, 81’ wide, 68’ high)
- Suffers much pain and sickness during the months of June & July, 1891
- Travels to MENTONE France again (for the Last Time), October 26, 1891
 - While there, becomes SEVERELY ILL from his long-suffering combination of Rheumatism, Gout and Bright’s disease (Kidney)
- Still Resting in Mentone, he Finally TAKES TO BED, January 20, 1892
- Spurgeon’s Flesh DIES, but His Spirit Enters Into GLORY, January 31, 1892
- INTERRED and BURIED at Norwood Cemetery, February 11, 1892
- His Brother (& Asst. Tab. Pastor) JAMES Dies, Aged 61 Years, March 22, 1899
- His Father (& Pastor) JOHN Dies, Aged Almost 92 Years, June 14, 1902
- His Wife (& Laborer) SUSANNAH Dies, Aged 71 Years, October 22, 1903
- His Son (& Pastor) THOMAS Dies, Aged 61 Years, October 17, 1917
- His Son (& Pastor) CHARLES Dies, Aged 70 Years, December 13, 1926

ELECT OR NON-ELECT?

By Robert M. M’Cheyne

Someone said, “If I knew I were one of God’s Elect, I would come to Christ; but I fear I am not.”

To you I answer—Nobody ever came to Christ because he knew himself to be of the Elect. It is quite true that God has of His good pleasure elected some to Everlasting Life, but they never knew it until they believed in Christ.

Christ nowhere commands the *Elect* to come to Him. He commands *all men everywhere* to repent and believe the Gospel.

The question for you is not, “Am I one of the Elect?” But, “Am I a sinner? Am I in need of the blood of Christ to wash away my sins? Am I in need of His Righteousness to clothe my nakedness? Is He my one and only hope for salvation?”

Christ came to save sinners. Are you a sinner?
—Gleaned and adapted from the internet...

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

FOR SURGEON SERMONS IN SPANISH, VISIT
<http://www.spurgeon.com.mx>

And please pray for Brothers Allan Roman in this important work.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Christians die every day in our world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Are you daily praying for the persecuted?

**For HIS Glory
Prison Ministry
Emmett and Ann O'Donnell
P.O. Box 291301
Kerrville, TX 78029-1301**

Our prayer for you:

¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—
¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

(Eph 3:17-19 NKJV)



Pray for persecuted Christians.

In This Issue...

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

FREE WILL VERSUS FREE GRACE

By C. H. Spurgeon

Unrenewed human nature is a soil in which love to God will not grow. There must be a taking away of the rock and a *supernatural* change of the barren ground into good soil. And then, as a rare plant from another land, Love must be planted in our hearts, and sustained by Divine Power or else it never will be found there. There is no love to God in this world that is of the right kind except that which was created and formed by the Love of God in the soul! Put the two Truths of God together—that the Love of God is *first*, and that the Love of God is the *cause* of our love—and I think you will be inclined, from now on, to be Believers in what are commonly called the Doctrines of Grace.

To me it is very wonderful that they are not received by all Churches, because they are practically acknowledged by all Christians on their knees. They may preach as they like, but they all pray according to the Doctrines of Grace, and those Doctrines are so consistent with the Christian's experience, that it is notable that the older a Believer becomes, and the more deeply he searches into Divine Truths, the more inclined he is to give the whole of the praise of his salvation to the Grace of God—and to believe in those precious Truths which magnify not the free will of man, but the Free Grace of the Ever Blessed. I need no better statement of my own Doctrinal belief than this, "We love Him, because He first loved us."

I know it has been said that He loved us on the foresight of our faith, and love, and holiness. Of course the Lord had a clear foresight of all these—but remember that He also had the foresight of our lack of love, and our lack of faith, and our wandering, and our sins! And surely His foresight in one direction must be supposed to operate as well as His foresight in the other direction. Remember also, that God Himself did not foresee that there would be any love to Him in us arising out of ourselves, for there never has been any, and there never will be! He only foresaw that we would believe because He *gave* us faith; He foresaw that we would repent because His Spirit would work repentance in us; He foresaw that we would love Him because He worked that Love within us.

Is there *anything* in the foresight that He means to give us such things that can account for His giving us such things? The case is self-evident—His foresight of what He means to do cannot be His reason for doing it! His own Eternal Purpose has made the gracious difference between the saved, and those who willfully perish in sin. Let us give all the Glory to His holy name, for to Him all the Glory belongs. His preventing Grace must have all the honor.

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software.—Sermon #1299, Volume 22—*Love's Birth and Parentage*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.