

FOR HIS GLORY

Volume 17, Issue 1

January, 2014

We have known some who have become offended because of Christ, or were in great danger of it because they began to find that religion entailed more self-denial than they had reckoned upon. The precepts of our blessed Master come very close home to their consciences, and gall them somewhat. He told them that the yoke was easy and that the burden was light—and so it is to the meek and lowly in heart—but they are not changed in heart, and therefore they find the burden heavy and the yoke galling! I do not wonder that it is so, for that which is the delight of the renewed heart is bondage to the unregenerate spirit. And self-denials, which are really no denials at all to the man who is born-again, are an iron bondage to those who still remain in their unregenerate state—they get offended and they go away from the Master whom they professed to serve.—CHS, 1878

THE DYING BELIEVER

By Octavius Winslow, 1872

*“And she lay dying.”
Luke 8:42.*

The transition of the Believer from the chamber of sickness to the bed of death is a natural and often a short one. The Lord's *sick* one now becomes the Lord's *dying* one. It is by the process of “wasting disease” that the loving Savior, for the most part, comes into His Garden and gathers His plants of Righteousness—the lily in its youthful bloom, the rose in its matronly beauty, the cedar in its manly strength, the oak in its grace and grandeur—transferring them to His Paradise on high.

There are, indeed, some of God's children whose departure may be regarded more in the light of Enoch—like *translations* than of an ordinary death. The chariot has descended so suddenly and with wheels so noiseless, the last enemy has approached so stealthily and with tread so softly, that we had scarcely seen them enter the celestial carriage before it bore them beyond our weeping eyes and wondering gaze—they themselves not knowing that it was

death, until they had passed through its portal and found themselves in Heaven! Absent from the body, as in a moment, they were present with the Lord!

But with you, Beloved, the Lord's wise and loving dealings may be far otherwise. It is, perhaps, by slow disease and acute suffering He is taking down the earthly house. Weary days and sleepless nights may be appointed to you, and looking through the lattice of the dissolving tabernacle, you exclaim, “Why is His chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the wheels of His chariot?” And now, as with unclasped and uplifted wings, your soul lingers upon the border land—

*“Only waiting until the angels
Open wide the mystic gate,
At whose feet I long have
lingered.
Weary and poor and desolate.
Even now I hear their footsteps,
And their voices far away;
Only waiting to obey.”*

Dying saint of God, how enviable is your state! Soon you will see Jesus in all His

(See Dying Saint on page 2)

DOES TOO MUCH FREE GRACE OFFEND YOU?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

We have found a good many who are offended by Christ because of the graciousness of the Gospel. It has too much Free Grace in it for them. They would like a mangle-mangle of Grace and works. You will constantly hear it said that the Doctrine of Justification by Faith is very dangerous and ought to be preached with great caution.

Occasionally our secular papers, which, as you know, understand a great deal about religion, will instruct us as to what we should preach. The *moral virtues* ought to be our main theme and Justification by Faith should be so qualified as to be virtually denied. It is very wrong, they say, to sing that hymn—

“Nothing, either great or small,

*Nothing, Sinner, no!
Jesus did it, did it all,
Long, long ago.”*

And to tell the sinner that until he believes in Jesus Christ—

*“Doing is a deadly thing:
Doing ends in death,”*

(See Free Grace on page 3)

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“The Son, the Son, Who’ll Take the Son?”

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art they had accumulated.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son. About a month later, right after Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, “Sir, you don’t know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art.”

The young man held out the package. “I know this isn’t much. I’m not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this.” The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man.

He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. “Oh, no Sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It’s a gift.”

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home, he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected. The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collections.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. “We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?” There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, “We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one.” But the auctioneer persisted. “Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?”

Another voice shouted angrily. “We didn’t come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!” But still the auctioneer continued.

“The son! The son! Who’ll take the son?” Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the long-time gardener of the man and his son. “I’ll give \$10 for the painting.”

Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. “We have \$10, who will bid \$20?” “Give it to him for \$10. Let’s see the masters.” “\$10 is the bid, won’t someone bid \$20?” The crowd was becoming angry. They didn’t want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. “Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!” A man sitting on the second row shouted,

“Now let’s get on with the collection!” The auctioneer laid down his gavel. “I’m sorry, the auction is over.”

“What about the paintings?” “I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!”

[God gave His Son to die on a cruel Cross 2,000 years ago. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: “The Son, the Son, who’ll take the Son?” Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything!]

DYING SAINT

(Continued from page 1)

Glory! Soon you will mingle with Apostles and Prophets and martyrs and all the heavenly host! Soon you will be clasped in the fond and welcoming embrace of the loved ones who preceded you to Glory! Soon you will be freed from all taint of sin, from every fetter of corruption, from every tear of sorrow, from every pang of suffering, and from every feeling of languor and faintness. Oh blissful exchange! Oh glorious prospect! Fear not! Keep your eyes upon Jesus! Look not so much to His work as to *Himself*; not so much to His Salvation as to the *Savior*; not so much to the Gospel of Christ as to the *Person* of Christ!

Let yours be a *personal* dealing with a *personal* Savior. Let nothing come between you and Jesus. He is with you, and He bids you come—not to His Cross, or to His work, or to His sacrament—but—to *Himself*! “Come unto ME; I will give you rest.” He wants you to lay your dying head upon His very heart, to clasp His very hand in yours, and to feel that nearer to Him you cannot be until your disembodied spirit speeds its flight, and folds its weary wings upon His glorified bosom!—

“Shudder not to cross the stream.

Venture all your hope on Him!

Not one object of His care

Ever suffered shipwreck there.”

One word as to the world you are about to leave. Have you made a wise and equitable adjustment of your *temporal* matters, so that, after your decease, the near and beloved ones who survive and succeed to your property may be free from all anxiety, allegation and litigation? Our Lord Jesus made His last will and testament, bequeathing to His people the richest treasure He could leave—His peace which passes all understanding—do you follow His example and set your worldly house in order, that those who inherit your goods may bless your memory and glorify God for the Grace and wisdom and uprightness given you?

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FREE GRACE

(Continued from page 1)

is regarded as a crime so manifest that it needs only to be mentioned, and every reader of the paper will be dreadfully shocked! And yet the editor of the paper, or the writer, probably calls himself a Protestant and Justification by Faith is the one Doctrine upon which all Protestantism turns! Very likely the writer of the stinging article calls himself a Churchman, and yet even the Doctrine of the Church of England about that matter is as plain as words could possibly make it.

Yes, and then they suppose us to be some modern sect of revivalists that have newly sprung up, although we are preaching that which is and always was the Gospel—the Doctrine by which you may test whether a Church stands or falls—Salvation, not by the works of the Law—but according to the Grace of God!

Crowds of people cannot endure Grace! And as to the term, “Free Grace,” they say that it is a tautological expression! It may be so, but it is a very expressive term, and because they do not like it, I always intend to use it! It will do them good to be made to know that we mean it, and therefore use doubly strong language! It shall not only be, “gratis,” which is free, but, “free gratis!” And we will, one of these days, put something else on to make it still plainer, if possi-

ble, and say, “free, gratis, for nothing!”

Salvation through Eternal Love, Salvation through His Mercy alone—Salvation not of merit, Salvation not of the will of man, nor of blood, nor of the flesh—but Salvation by the Eternal Purpose of Divine Sovereignty! Salvation by the Will of God, who has said, “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion”—this we will, by the Grace of God, always preach! Grace free as the air, spontaneous, undeserved, but given by God because He delights in Mercy! Yes, they kick against this, but if they knew themselves, they would know that nothing else will ever suit the sinner but this!

He who has broken the Divine Law is never in a right state of heart till he feels Salvation by himself to be hopeless! When he is shut up in the condemned cell, and hears the sentence read against him, condemning him to die, and knows that nothing he can do, can by any possible means reverse that sentence—and then sees Jesus interposing in all the freeness of His Love, and saying, “Now you have nothing to pay. I forgive you all”—then, I say, he realizes that Free Grace is the Glory of the Gospel! Do not be offended with it, I pray you, or you will be offended with your own life!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software, Sermon #1398, Volume 24—*Offended Because of Christ?*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

ARE YOU BLIND?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

“I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not: I will lead them in paths that they have not known; I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.”

Isaiah 42:16.

This Promise is not made to every blind man, or to all sorts of blind people, for there are some blind people whom God does not lead. There is only a peculiar sort of blind person to whom this Promise is given, that He will guide them and not forsake them.

If you go outside the Tabernacle [Metropolitan Tabernacle], take the first turn on the left, and walk down what is called the St. George’s Road till you come to the end, you may see asylums built for three sorts of blind people.

On your right hand you will have the Blind School. That is for the physically blind—those who have lost the sight of their outward eyes. On the left hand you will see the Bethlehem Hospital. That is for the mentally blind who have lost the inner sight, and are in the more unhappy state of lunacy.

Then, straight before you, you will see the St. George’s Roman Catholic Cathedral. That is for the *spiritually* blind, whose case is all the more pitiable because these blind people have blind *leaders*, and their deluded souls are prescribed for by physicians who foster their delusions.

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1310, Volume 22—*The Blind Befriended*—Read/download entire sermon on www.spurgeongems.org.

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

Letters to Mike Gendron Of Proclaiming the Gospel:

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

S.F., Florida, writes—I'm the innocent Catholic who ran into your obnoxious web-site and was told that my faith was not valid. If I were you I would take down this site that causes division and blasphemy in Christ's church. Shame on you for this abomination! Your ministry promotes division and is wrong. You are a liar. Your psychobabble of lies and deceit are so obvious, I would advise you to step down, then kneel down and repent of these sins against the Holy Spirit. You won't even listen to St. Paul—"let their be no division among you." It's time to stop rebelling. Conform to the word of God! If you try hard you can get a regular job, earn a living like every other hard-working American, the honest way, instead of ripping off innocent people purchasing your trash. People like you are known as Christian haters. How can you people sleep at night? I will ask you to get a grip on yourself and see how you have been misled by Satan himself. As our tired world becomes even more desperate, people are turning to the one alternative they'd never really considered—the Catholic Church. They are coming upon truth in the last place they thought they could find it. I ask that all the Angels and Saints and the Blessed Mother of God guide your teachings. Don't let your pride get in the way. Save your soul, stop this ministry of hate!

Brother Mike answers—My compassion for you is heavy on my heart. I could point you to the Word of God in hopes that it might penetrate your veiled heart but until you turn to Jesus the veil will remain (2 Cor 3:16). It is my desire to be a "workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the Word of Truth," and to "avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness" (2 Tim 2:15,16). God has exhorted us to examine "the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11), to "expose the evil deeds of darkness" (Eph 5:11), and to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). The Bible says, "he who is spiritual appraises all things" (1 Cor 2:15). The Lord Jesus Christ did not overlook theological error. He rebuked the Pharisees because they had corrupted the Word of God and created their own religion. God has always called His people to rebuke false teachers, to fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12). True Christians not only affirm "the faith" but lovingly rebuke and correct teachers who oppose it. I refuse to keep silent when the Truth of God is being butchered by counterfeit ministers of righteousness.

B. S., Burkburnett, TX, writes—I listen to EWTN and the Catholic Answers program to get their latest "spin" on Catholic theology. Tim Staples is particularly difficult to stomach. His radio demeanor is arrogant and caustic. That may seem normal for some, but such a presentation is not well received by this Texan. What's sad is the lack of education within Evangelical Christianity regarding Catholicism. Few are willing to take a stand and speak out against a false gospel. Keep up the good work.

M. H., Kingwood, TX, writes—We have been receiving your letter for over 3 years and love it. In fact it is the most eagerly

awaited Christian literature that we get among 2 to 3 dozen others. Your article on the *Changing Face of Roman Catholicism* got me thinking about Protestants who are turning back to Catholicism. We have been attending a home church with some ex-Catholics and I find one of them very emotional and a bit "brittle" when doctrine is brought up. In fact, if she were to listen to the *Coming Home Network*, she would probably return to her roots and once again embrace Catholicism. Four weeks ago, I took her all of your past *Proclaiming The Gospel* newsletters in a 3 ring binder to read.

J. S., Burnsville, MN, writes—Congratulations—you nailed it again in your last newsletter! When I first heard of these Protestant pastors falling back into the trap of Catholicism, my spirit wept within me. These men are seeking a form of godliness but truly denying its power (2 Tim 3:5), turning their ears away from the truth (2 Tim 4:3-5) and departing from the faith, being deceived by evil spirits and doctrines of demons (1 Tim 4:1). It is evident from Scripture that when a ministry stands for the Truth of God, it will have more opposition than those that don't. I'm speaking for the thousands of us who read your newsletter each month and agree with you, but don't necessarily take the time to respond. We are out here and we're praying for you and your ministry. You need to know that! Keep up the work you are called to do and fighting the good fight!

L.T., Yreka, CA, writes—Thank you for being like Paul and taking a stand to earnestly contend for the faith. I truly was convicted to speak up for the Truth of God to our local "Christian" book store. It carries a large supply of rosaries and books on how to pray to Mary. I am now encouraged to refute this religious deception.

Deacon Dennis, Internet, writes—As a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church I protest your assumptions that Catholics are not saved and our teachings are full of errors. If Satan cannot undermine the Catholic Church, why are you trying to do so, and what merit is there in attacking your brothers and sisters in Christ? Never have I heard non-catholic churches condemned by the Catholic Church. Who appointed you to be the official judge? I challenge you to read the faith experience of former Protestants Scott Hahn and Jeff Gavins, who were driven to disprove Catholicism, but instead became Catholics.

Brother Mike answers—Why do you believe we are brothers in Christ? We are not in the same family. We have nothing in common (2 Cor. 6:15). Catholics preach another gospel and are condemned for it (Gal 1:6-9). Your faith is in vain (1 Cor 15:2). Your church has condemned Christians over 100 times with anathemas from Trent and Vatican II. Why would Satan try to undermine the Catholic church? It is his crown jewel as evidenced by the doctrines of demons it follows and teaches (1 Tim 4:1-4)! The appointed judge that you should fear is the Word of God that you reject (John 12:48).

ASK OUR LORD TO USE *PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL*
TO BRING MANY OUT OF BONDAGE TO THE
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

**PRAY FOR GRACE
TO BE OBEDIENT TO OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST.**

Study of Ephesians 4:26-27**WHEN IT'S RIGHT, AND WHEN
IT'S WRONG TO BE ANGRY—Part 4**

The devil will use sinful anger to ruin a true Church. I know very dear men of God who have lost Churches because anger has gotten in and destroyed the Church. Remember that one of the principles running throughout this passage is that not only does sin hurt one's self as a Believer, it hurts the whole Church. And it hurts the whole Church because we are all part of one another, members of the same body; so to hurt a Brother or Sister in the Lord with sinful anger will not only hurt that Brother or Sister, but it will also hurt the whole Church.

Furthermore, the Gospel gives a person the ability to quit feeling that he has to always be defending himself. Only the Gospel gives the ability to turn the other cheek, and deliver a person from feeling that he must defend his honor or get back at the one who wronged him. It is said of our Lord Jesus in 1 Peter 2:23, "Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously." The Gospel enables a person to be glad just to leave matters of personal honor in God's hands. Let God take care of such things.

And so we must conclude that anger is a very dangerous thing. It is something which the devil will certainly capitalize on, and use to cause great pain and damage. But it also shows us the need to deal with anger right away. Don't go to bed at night hanging onto anger. Get rid of it even if you need to get out of bed and go to the phone and call somebody. Do it. Get that sinful anger under the blood of Jesus Christ! As Jesus taught in Matthew 5:23-24, "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

And if you ever need help getting rid of anger, think of the suffering and bleeding Savior on the Cross. Dwell on the forgiving Love of God in Christ for you until your heart melts and your pride is broken, and you actually feel sorry for the one who has offended you. Then you will be like your Father in Heaven.—PF

PRAY FOR GRACE TO PRAY

"Brethren, the Church slumbers. It is not merely that the pulpit is a sentry-box with the sentinel fast asleep, but the pews are affected. How are the Prayer Meetings almost universally neglected? Our own Church stands out like an almost solitary green islet in the midst of a dark, dark sea. By God's Divine Grace we are one bright pearl in the depths of an ocean of discord and confusion. Look at neighboring Churches. Step into the vestry and see a smaller band of people than you would like to think of, assembled round the pastor, whose heart is dull and heavy. Hear one Brother after another pour out the dull monotonous prayer that he has said by heart these fifty years, and then go away and say, "Where is the spirit of prayer, where the life of devotion?" Is it not almost extinct? Are not our Churches "fallen, fallen, fallen, from their high estate"? God wake them up, and send them more earnest and praying men."—C.H. Spurgeon

**WORDS
ON PRAYER**

By C. H. Spurgeon

We must not forget *the Mercy Seat*. What a well that is to the Christian when he can draw near unto God with a true heart! It is a glorious thing to have such a well as that in the family, where, in prayer with the children, you can bring all the necessities of the household before God, and mention each child if you will, and all the troubles of the past, or all the expected difficulties of the coming day. Let us never give up that well.

But, as for private prayer, Brothers and Sisters, this world were dreary indeed if we could not pour out our sorrows into our Father's ear. This is the poor man's riches; this is the sick man's medicine; this is the faint man's cordial; this is the weak one's strength; this is the ignorant man's school; this is the strong man's confidence!

Neglect prayer, and you will soon discover that all your spiritual powers wax weak; but be much in supplication—and he who is mighty on his knees, is mighty everywhere! He who looks God in the face every morning, will never fear the face of man; and he who looks Christ in the face each evening, may well close his eyes in sweet repose, feeling that if he should never wake to this world of care, he shall wake up in the likeness of his Lord. Oh, yes, the Mercy Seat is a well of refreshment indeed!—From sermon #764, Volume 13—SONGS OF DELIVERANCE—read/download, by God's Grace, all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons, and over 525 Spanish translations free of charge at www.spurgeongems.org.

PRAY THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL
GRANT YOU GRACE TO BE
BURDENED TO ATTEND ANY AND
ALL PRAYER MEETINGS AT YOUR
CHURCH OR UNIT. PRAY THAT
YOUR PRAYERS MAY BRING
HONOR TO OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST!

Sinful But Not Sinning: II

**The Relationship of the Believer and Sin
As Presented in the First Epistle of John the Apostle**

By Daniel E. Parks, Pastor
Redeemer Baptist Church, 74 Cane Carlton,
Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, 00840 USA

(Concluded from last month).

IX. “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning” (3:8). This verse is in stark contrast to the preceding (v 7): “He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as [Christ] is righteous.” Christ is righteous, and therefore does righteousness; so it is also with Believers in Christ (who are identified as “children of God” in v 10). The devil is sinful, and therefore does sin; so it is with all who are “of the devil” (who are identified as “children of the devil” in v 10). Jesus says to the latter, “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it” (John 8:44). “Like father, like son!”

X. “Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him ...” (3:9a). To be “born of God” is to be “born again” or regenerated (John 1:12f; 3:1-8). When a sinner is “born of God”, “God’s seed” takes permanent residence within him. That is, the regenerate person is given a new nature, which is called “the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph 4:24). All such regenerate persons become “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4) and “partakers of His holiness” (Heb 2:14), and “become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor 5:21). He becomes a “new creation” (2 Cor 5:17) confessing “Christ

lives in me” (Gal 2:20). John teaches the believer that what he is in his new nature, which is as righteous and holy as God is (for it is “God’s seed” and the “divine nature”), “does not sin”, but rather “practices righteousness” (3:7, 10).

XI. “... and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God” (3:9b). Someone will now undoubtedly object to John – and to the Holy Spirit who authored his present writing: “How can it be that such a one, whom you say ‘does not sin’ and ‘cannot sin’, is elsewhere said to sin? Paul the apostle answers this question in Romans 7:17-20: “But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ... Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.” In this present life, the new nature that cannot sin co-exists with the original nature that can do nothing but sin. This is why the believer in this present life exclaims, “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind [i.e., the new nature] I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh [i.e., the old nature] the law of sin” (Rom 7:24f).

XII. “We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him” (5:18). John here speaks for Believers, not for unbelievers – and Believers do not expect unbelievers to understand and believe what they cannot know. John declares three things regarding “whoever is born of God”. First, he “does not sin” – which again reinforces what has already been said. Second, he “keeps himself”, particularly from “idols” (v. 20). Third, “the wicked one does not touch him” – for indeed “you have overcome the wicked one” (2:14).

**PRAY THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL BURDEN YOU TO ATTEND ANY AND ALL
PRAYER MEETINGS AT YOUR CHURCH OR UNIT.
PRAY THAT YOUR PRAYERS
MAY BRING HONOR TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST!**

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allow all who visit
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Internet to be edified and
brought closer to
our Master,
JESUS CHRIST.

**Are you so greatly backslidden
that your very breath dishonors
our Lord?
Remember Jesus Christ
has risen from
the dead
and is alive!
He can save you.
Trust Him!**

**PRAY GOD WILL USE THIS PUBLICATION
FOR HIS HONOR AND GLORY**

✠
“Christ heals with more ease than any other. Christ makes the devil to go out with a word (Mark 9:25). No, He can cure with a look: Christ’s look melted Peter into repentance—it was a healing look. If Christ does but cast a look upon a soul, He can recover it. Therefore David prays to have a look from God, ‘Look upon me, and be merciful unto me’ (Psa. 119:132).”—**Thomas Watson**

www.puritansermons.com/



Reflections

ABOUT JOB 33:1-7

Let us note first of all, that when God grants us the Grace to speak in His name, it behooves us to give authority to His Word and to commend it. If we are so distracted by looking at creatures that we do not speak as freely as we ought to, do we not dishonor God? If a man is sent from some earthly prince and lets other men scorn him and ducks his duty and dares not deliver the message that is committed to him, is it not unpardonable cowardice? God receives us to His service, even as we who are only dust before Him, who are altogether unprofitable; He gives us an honorable commission to carry His Word, and He wishes to have it delivered with all authority and reverence. Then some man makes us tremble so that we disguise God's Truth by turning it into a lie, or else we bear it in such a way that it will no longer have its natural right. I pray you, is not that as great a reproach as can be heaped upon God? So then, if God's Word is not borne so openly and freely that men may honor it, it is no wonder that punishment is prepared such as Eliphaz describes. So we have a double lesson to gather from this passage.

(1) The one is for those who preach God's Word, who are in office to teach as pastors. These must be so firmly resolved that they bend for nothing whatever, as it is said in Jeremiah that he must be as bold as brass in the fight; because the world will never be without great stubbornness, and those who are raised to some dignity or honorable estate cannot be captive to God's obedience, but do always raise their horns against Him. When men so forget themselves that they cannot subject themselves to Him who has created and fashioned them, it behooves us to have an invincible constancy, and to reckon that we shall have enmity and displeasure when we do our duty; yet nevertheless let us go through it without bending. You see what we who are ordained as pastors to preach the Word of God have to remember.

(2) It also behooves all people to receive a general instruction. Therefore when we come to hear a sermon, let us not bring here such haughtiness that we chafe against God when we are reprov'd for our sins. Let us not bring any bitterness so as to be angry when our itching backs are scraped; let us not be so foolish and presumptuous as to think that God ought to hold His peace for us; let us not ask to be

spared under the pretext that there is some good quality in us. Even if we were as kings and princes, it would behoove us to bow down our necks to receive God's yoke; for all haughtiness must be cast down, as St. Paul says. The Gospel is preached in order that both great and small should submit themselves to God and allow themselves to be governed by Him. It cannot be done unless we put down our haughtiness (as St. Paul says in that place—2 Corinthians 10:5) which exalts itself against the majesty of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must not wait until we are forced or compelled to obey God, but every man must do it willingly. Let those who are of high estate know that, even if they were more than kings, they ought to humble themselves at the preaching of God's Truth. They must be aware of this. It is our Lord or Master who sent the preacher; it was He, who has Sovereign dominion over all mankind, and unto whom all men ought to be in subjection. If we are of low estate, I pray you, is it not foolish rage to desire that men should support us, and hide and cover our faults, indeed, that the Word of God should be falsified in our favor? Can God be transfigured? No! He wills that His Word should be His live Image. Now if we seek to be flattered, it is as if we required God to change His Nature and disown Himself in order to please us. And is not that too devilish a rashness? Then let us learn to come to hear God's Word with all humility and modesty, knowing that our obedience must be tested in this respect, and that no one should be spared, but faults exposed with straightforward liberty, as is proper."—John Calvin from his sermons from Job; first printed in 1553. Reprinted in 1952 by Eerdmans Publishing Company, USA. Pages 244-246.

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

We are a Gospel Ministry reaching Uganda and other African countries with the Good News of Salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jim and Kappy Robinette
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Action International Ministries
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**"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
(John 3:18 NKJV)**

PRAY FOR GRACE TO BE PURE

Jesus Christ loves all who trust Him. And we who trust Him, trust Him only by His Grace—our love for Him is His gift to us. Think about it. Pray about it. Marvel at His Love!

ABOUT BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

By Ann Hasseltine Judson

“September 1, 1812—I have been examining the subject of Baptism for some time past and, contrary to my prejudices and my wishes, am compelled to believe that Believer’s Baptism, alone, is found in Scripture. If ever I sought to know the truth; if ever I looked up to the Father of Lights; if ever I gave up myself to the Inspired Word, I have done so during this investigation. And the result is, that, laying aside my former prejudices and systems, and fairly appealing to the Scriptures, I feel convinced that nothing really can be said in favor of infant baptism or sprinkling. We expect, soon, to be baptized. O may our hearts be prepared for that holy ordinance! And as we are baptized into a profession of Christ, may we put on Christ and walk worthy of the high vocation wherewith we are called. But in consequence of our performance of this duty, we must make some very painful sacrifices. We must be separated from our dear missionary associates and labor alone in some isolated spot. We must expect to be treated with contempt and cast off by many of our American friends—forfeit the character we have in our support, wherever we are stationed.”

(Ann Hasseltine Judson (1789-1826) was the wife of Adoniram Judson, the famous Baptist missionary to Burma. The Judsons were appointed as Congregationalist missionaries to India, but on the voyage there, through study of the Scriptures, both forsook pedo-baptism, and decided to become Baptists. The above quote is taken from Judson’s journal. The Judsons were immersed by William Ward, a colleague of William Carey, on September 6, 1812.)

“THE NOTION OF INFALLIBILITY RESIDING IN MORTAL MAN IS WORTHY OF A MADHOUSE”

By C. H. Spurgeon

THOUGHTFUL minds anxiously desire some fixed point of belief. The old philosopher wanted a fulcrum for his lever, and believed that if he could only obtain it he could move the world. It is uncomfortable to be always at sea—we would gladly discover *terra firma* and plant our feet upon a rock. We cannot rest till we have found out something which is certain, sure, settled, decided, and no longer to be questioned. Many a mind has peered into the hazy region of rationalism, and has seen nothing before it but perpetual mist and fog; and, shivering with the cold chill of those arctic regions of skepticism, it has yearned for a clearer light, a warmer guide, a more tangible belief.

This yearning has driven men into strange beliefs. Satan, seeing their ravenous hunger, has made them accept a stone for bread. Many have held, and still hold, that it is possible to find your infallible foundation in the Pope of Rome. I do not wonder that they would rather have an infallible man, than be altogether without a standard of truth. Yet it is so monstrous an idea, that men should believe in papal infallibility, that did they not, themselves, swear to it, we would think it most insulting to accuse them of it! How any mind can, by any possible contortion, twist itself into a posture in which it will be capable of accepting such a belief, is one of the mysteries of manhood!

Why, the popes err in trifles, how much more in great matters? In Disraeli’s, “Curiosities of Literature,” is the following amusing incident, under the head of, “Errata” [plural of erratum—an error in printing or writing]—“One of the most conspicuous of all literary blunders is that of the edition of the Vulgate, by Sixtus V. “His Holiness carefully superintended every sheet as it passed through the press, and to the amazement of all the world, the world remained without a rival—it swarmed with errors! A multitude of scraps were printed to satiate the erroneous passages, in order to give the true text. The book makes a whimsical appearance with these patches, and the heretics exulted in this demonstration of papal infallibility!

“The copies were called in, and violent attempts made to suppress it. A few still remain for the raptures of Biblical collectors—at a late sale the Bible of Sixtus V. fetched above 60 guineas—not too much for a mere book of blunders! The world was highly amused at the bull of the editorial pope prefixed to the first volume, which *excommunicates* all printers who, in reprinting the work, should make any *alterations* in the text!”

The notion of infallibility residing in mortal man is worthy of a madhouse, and scarcely deserves to be seriously discussed. You can scarcely read a page of such history, as even Catholics admit to be authentic, without discovering that popes have been men and not gods—and their bulls have been as blundering and erroneous as the decrees of worldly princes! So long as a clear understanding remains to a man, he cannot repose in the imaginary infallibility of a priest.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon No. 1208, Vol. 20—*Infallibility—Where to Find It, and How to Use It.—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.*

PRAY FOR GRACE TO BE HOLY

**ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GIVE US A
CLEARER UNDERSTANDING
OF HIS HOLY WORD.**

“ONE THING YOU LACK”

By Charles H. Spurgeon

You perhaps may have heard the story of Mr. Whitefield, who made it his wish wherever he stayed, to talk to the members of the household about their souls—with each one personally. But stopping at a certain house of a Colonel, who was all that could be wished except a Christian, he was so pleased with the hospitality he received, and so charmed with the general character of the good Colonel and his wife and daughters, that he did not like to speak to them about a decision as he would have done if they had been less amiable characters.

He had stayed with them for a week, and during the last night, the Spirit of God visited him so that he could not sleep. “These people,” he said, “have been very kind to me, and I have not been faithful to them; I must do it before I go; I must tell them that whatever good thing they have, if they do not believe in Jesus, they are lost.” He arose and prayed. After praying he still felt contention in his spirit; his old nature said, “I cannot do it,” but the Holy Spirit seemed to say, “Leave them not without warning.”

At last he thought of a device, and prayed God to accept it. He wrote upon a diamond-shaped pane of glass in the window with his ring these words: “One thing you lack.” He could not bring himself to speak to them, but went his way with many a prayer for their conversion; he had no sooner gone, than the good woman of the house, who was a great admirer of his, said, “I will go up to his room—I want to look at the very place where the man of God has been.”

She went up and noticed on the window pane those words, “One thing you lack.” It struck her with conviction in a moment. “Ah,” she said, “I thought he did not care much about us, for I knew he always pleaded with those with whom he stayed, and when I found that he did not do so with us, I thought we had vexed him, but I see how it was—he was too tender in mind to speak to us.”

She called her daughters up. “Look there, girls,” she said, “see what Mr. Whitefield has written on the window, ‘One thing you lack.’ Call up your father.” And the father came up and read that, too, “One thing you lack,” and around the bed where the man of God had slept, they all knelt down and sought that God would give them the one thing they lacked; and before they left that chamber, they had found that one thing, and the whole household rejoiced in Jesus! It is not long ago that I met with a friend, one of whose Church members preserves that very pane of glass in her family as an heirloom!

Now, if you cannot admonish and warn in one way, do it in another! But take care to clear your soul of the blood of your relatives and friends, so that it may never crimson your garments, and accuse you before God’s bar. So live, and so speak and teach, by some means or other, that you shall have been faithful to God, and faithful to the souls of men.—(Adapted from Sermon #855, Volume 15—EVERYDAY USEFULNESS—by the Grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and more than 525 Spanish translations, visit: www.spurgeongems.org).

Message to Backsliders

By C. H. Spurgeon

Backsliders who feel your misery, I will come after you one moment. Poor Backslider, you were once a Christian. Do you hope you were? “No,” you say, “I believe I deceived myself and others. I was no child of God.” Well, if you did, let me tell you that if you will admit that, God will forgive you! Suppose you did deceive the Church—you are not the first who did it. There are some members of this Church, I fear, who have done so and we have not found them out. I tell you, your case is not hopeless! That is not the unpardonable sin. Some who have tried to deceive the very Elect have yet been delivered. And my Master says He is able to save to the uttermost (and you have not gone beyond the uttermost) all who come unto Him! Come, then, to His feet and cast yourself on His Mercy. And though you did once enter His camp as a spy, He will not hang you for it, but will be glad to claim you anyway, as a trophy of Mercy!

And if you were a child of God, and can say honestly, “I know I did love Him, and He loved me,” I tell you, He still loves you! If you have gone ever so far astray, you are as much His child as ever! Though you have run away from your Father, come back, come back! He is still your Father. Don’t think that He has unsheathed the sword to slay you. Don’t say, “He has cast me out of the family.” He has not! His heart yearns for you. My Father loves you! Come then to His feet, and He will not even remind you of what you have done!

The prodigal was going to tell his father all his sins and ask him to make him one of his hired servants, but the father stopped his mouth. He let him say that he was not worthy to be called his son, but he would not let him say, “make me as an hired servant.”

Come back and *your* Father will receive you gladly. He will put His arms around you and kiss you with the kisses of His Love! And He will say, “I have found this, My son who was lost. I have recovered this sheep that had gone astray.”

My Father loved you without works. He justified you irrespective of them. You have no less merit, now, than you had then! Come and trust and believe in Him!—Adapted from The C. H. Spurgeon Collection—Version 1.0, Ages Software—Sermon #45, Volume #1—CONVERSION—Read/download entire sermon at

<http://www.spurgeongems.org>

“Christ is the most bountiful Physician. Other patients enrich their physicians, but here the Physician enriches the patient. Christ elevates all His patients. He does not only cure them, but He crowns them (Rev 2:10). Christ does not only raise them from the bed, but to the Throne—He gives the sick man not only health but also Heaven.”—**Thomas Watson (1620-1686)**

SPURGEON SPEAKS OF SOULS

By Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“Or what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, does not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and her neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I had lost.’ Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
Luke 15:8-10.

The piece of silver was *lost but still claimed*. Observe that the woman called the money, “*my piece which was lost.*” When she lost its possession she did not lose her right to it; it did not become somebody else’s when it slipped out of her hand, and fell upon the floor. Those for whom Christ has died, whom He has particularly Redeemed, are not Satan’s even when they are dead in sin; they may come under the devil’s usurped dominion, but the monster shall be chased from his throne; Christ has received them of old of the Father, and He has bought them with His precious blood, and He will have them! He will chase away the intruder and claim His own; thus says the Lord, “Your Covenant with death is disannulled, and your agreement with Hell shall not stand.” You have sold yourselves for nothing—and you shall be Redeemed without money; Jesus shall have His own, and none shall pluck them from His hand; He will defend His claim against all comers.

Further, observe that the lost piece of money was not only remembered and claimed, but *it was also valued*. In these three parables the value of the lost article steadily rises. This is not very clear at first sight because it may be said that a sheep is of more value than a piece of money, but notice that the shepherd only lost one sheep out of a hundred, but the woman lost one piece out of ten, and the father one son out of two. Now, it is not the value of the thing *in itself* which is here set forth, for the soul of a man, as absolutely valued in comparison with the Infinite God, is of small esteem; but because of His Love it is of great value to Him. The one piece of money to the woman was a tenth part of all she had, and it was very valuable in her esteem. To the Lord of Love a lost soul is very precious—it is not because of its intrinsic value, but it has a relative value which God sets at a high rate.

The Holy Spirit values souls, and therefore the Church prizes them too; the Church sometimes says to herself, “We have but few conversions, few members; many are called, but few chosen.” She counts over her few converts, her few members, and one soul is to her all the more precious because of the few there are who in these times are in the treasury of Christ, stamped with the image of the Great Being, and made of the precious genuine silver of God’s own Grace! O dear Friend, you think yourself of small value, you who are conscious that you have sinned, but the Church does not think you of small value—and the Holy Spirit does not despise you; He sets a high price upon you, and so do His people! We value your souls! We only wish we knew how to save them; we would spare no expense or pains if we might but be the means of finding you, and bringing you once more into the great Owner’s hands!

The piece of money was lost, but *it was not hopelessly lost*.

The woman had hopes of recovering it, and therefore she did not despair, but set to work at once. It is a dreadful thing to think of those souls which are hopelessly lost; their state reminds me of a paragraph I have cut from this week’s newspaper—“The fishing smack Veto, of Grimshy, S. Cousins, master, arrived in port from the Dogger Bank on Saturday night. The master reports that on the previous Wednesday, when about 200 miles from Spurn, he sighted to the leeward what at first appeared to be a small schooner in distress, but on bearing down to her found her to be a full-sized lifeboat, upwards of 20 feet long, and full of water up to her corks. There was no name on the boat, which had evidently belonged to some large ship or steamer. It was painted white both inside and out, with a brown streak round the rim.

When alongside, on closer examination, three dead sailors were perceived lying aft, huddled together, and a fourth athwart in the bow, with his head hanging over the rowlocks; they seemed from their dress and general appearance to be foreigners, but the bodies had been frightfully ‘washed about,’ and were in a state of decomposition, and had evidently been dead some weeks. The waterlogged waft drifted on with its ghastly cargo, and the horrible sight so shocked the crew of the Veto, that afterwards they were almost too unnerved to attend to their trawling, and the smack, in consequence, returned to port with a comparatively small catch, and sooner than expected.”

Do you wonder at the men sickening in the presence of this mystery of the sea? I shudder as I think I see that morgue-like boat floating on and on; Mercy need not follow it, she can confer no benefit; Love need not seek it, no deed of hers can save. My soul sees as in a vision souls hopelessly lost, drifting on the waves of Eternity, beyond all hope or help; alas, alas, millions of our race are now in that condition! Upon them has passed the Second Death, and powerless are we all to save them; towards them even the Gospel has no aspect of hope! Our joy is that we have to deal today with lost souls who are not yet hopelessly lost; they are dead in sin, but there is a Quickening Power which can make them live! O mariner of the sea of life, fisher of men upon this stormy sea, those castaways whom you meet with are accessible to your efforts of compassion—they can be rescued from the pitiless deeps! Your mission is not a hopeless one!

I rejoice over the ungodly man here today that he is not in torment, not in Hell; he is not among those whose worm dies not, and whose fire is not quenched. I congratulate the Christian Church too, that her piece of money has not fallen where she cannot find it; I rejoice that the fallen around us are not past hope; yes, though they dwell in the worst dens of London, though they are thieves and harlots, they are not beyond the reach of my Master’s Mercy! Up, O Church of God, while possibilities of Mercy remain!

(See *BE SOUL WINNERS!* on page 11)

AN “INVITATION” TO TAKE TO HEART

By C. H. Spurgeon

“Save now, I beseech You, O Lord, O Lord,
I beseech You, send now prosperity.”

Psalm 118:25.

THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST SUGGESTS A PRAYER.

The 25th verse supplies us with it. “Save now, I beseech You, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech You, send now prosperity.” First, it is a prayer for salvation. It may mean, “God save the King: may Jesus live forever,” and in that sense we would make the heavens ring with it! But we will take it, this morning, to be a prayer for the salvation of *men*. Since Christ is the exalted and victorious Savior, let us beseech Him to save all those who are around us! Save them, Lord! Save them all! Save them NOW!

Put it in the present tense! Ask for a display of the present saving power of our exalted Head! O Christ Jesus, Prince and Lord, save the sinners in Zion! We beseech You save those who occupy these pews Sunday after Sunday and hear about You, but do not know You! Save, too, the strangers that are within Your gates and are strangers to You as well as to us. Save the careless, good Lord! Save the anxious! Save the seekers! By Your Glory at the Father’s side, we beseech You, save men!

Do you believe that Christ Jesus is at the right hand of God? If you do, all things are possible with Him and He has promised to hear prayer! Hear me then, you thousands of Israel, as I entreat you now to breathe one hearty unanimous prayer to this effect—“Save now, O Lord, we beseech You!”

Put the name of your child to the prayer if you please, or that of your wife, or father, or sister, or brother—but do put up the prayer to Him who is enthroned on purpose to save! Save *now*, O Lord! You are no more despised and rejected! Unveil Your Glory by saving men! You could save even in Your agony—on the Cross you did save a dying thief! But now in Glory You have mightier power! Therefore, O Savior, save now!

Will you not importunately urge that petition, O you who know His readiness to hear? Sinners, will you not pray thus for yourselves? Here now, as we sit together in this dense gloom, so

unusual in the month of June, let us feel that the shadow of the Eternal is brooding over us, that the Almighty is now covering us with His wings!

Do you not feel near to Him? Be sure of this, He is very near to you! Call upon Him while He is near! In all probability we shall, in a few moments, hear His majestic voice rolling in thunder through the sky and before long we shall see the flash of His glittering spears! Let all this deepen our reverence and prompt us to entreat Him now to save us! The God that thunders at His pleasure is near! Bow before Him and trust in His Son, Christ Jesus, and let the prayer go up, “SAVE NOW.” Do not wait for tomorrow, nor even until the storm has passed over, but now, even now, seek His salvation!

The other half of the prayer is for prosperity. “O Lord, send now prosperity.” This is what we continually need in this Church. The prayer is in harmony with the whole passage. Since, Lord, You have lifted the chief Stone into its place, be pleased to raise up other stones of Your Temple into their places! O fit them one upon another and send a prosperous building up! Lord, You have conquered all the foes of Christ—come and conquer the foes of Your Church today!

Lord, You did gather out a people to His praise and build up a Church in the first centuries of Christianity and then Your Son Jesus was gloriously the Corner and Headstone! Come again and build up Your own Church throughout all the lands, a Church in which the Lord Jesus shall be exalted even to the highest!

“Send now prosperity.” I pray you, Beloved, join in this prayer! Pray that Jerusalem may have peace and prosperity, for they that love her and her peace still have great happiness. Join in the supplication to the once rejected but now exalted covenant Head of the Church and the Lord will bless you for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1420, Volume 24—*The Headstone of the Corner*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

BE SOUL-WINNERS!

(Continued from page 10)

Gird up your loins; be soul-winners, and resolve by the Grace of God that every hour of hope shall be well employed by you!

One other point is worthy of notice. The piece of silver was lost, but it was lost *in the house*, and the woman knew it to be so. If she had lost it in the streets, the probabilities are she would not have looked for it again, for other hands might have closed over it. If she had lost it in a river, or dropped it in the sea, she might very fairly have concluded that it was gone forever—but evidently she was sure that she had lost it in the house. Is it not a consolation to know that those here, who are lost, are still in the house? They are still under the means of Grace, within the sphere of the Church’s operations, within the habitation of which she is the mistress, and where the Holy Spirit works. What thankfulness there ought to be in your minds that you are not lost as heathens, nor lost amid Roman Catholic or Muslim superstition, but lost where the Gospel is faithfully and plainly preached to you—where you are lovingly told that whoever believes in Christ Jesus is not condemned! Lost, but lost where the Church’s business is to look after you! Where it is the Spirit’s work to seek and to find you! This is the condition of the lost soul, depicted as a lost piece of silver. —(Adapted from sermon #970, Volume 17—*THE LOST SILVER PIECE*—by the Grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and more than 525 Spanish translations, visit: www.spurgeongems.org)

**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 our military personnel.

In This Issue...

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

One reason why you have not obtained comfort is, perhaps, because you do not know all the Gospel yet. Good news half told may often seem to be bad news. I have read that in the days of the flag and light signals, a message came across to England concerning the Duke of Wellington and half the message was read, as it appeared, and astonished all England with the sad intelligence. It ran thus, "Wellington defeated." Everybody was distressed as they read it but it so happened that they had not seen all the message!

Fog had intervened, and when, by-and-by, the air was clearer and the lights flashed out a second time, it was read thus—"Wellington defeated the French"—quite another thing! It was quite the reverse, indeed, of what half the message had led men to fear. Thus when you hear half the Gospel it may appear to condemn you—but you have only to hear the other half to find out its encouraging tidings!

Be diligent in hearing the Gospel!

AN 1877 OPINION OF THE "SHROUD OF TURIN"

By C. H. Spurgeon

Be diligent in searching out what you hear, in the sacred Book which God has given us. And when you know the Truths of God more fully you will find faith comes to you by the *hearing* and the understanding of the Word of God.

Leave those ministers who preach only a portion of the Gospel—try to know all the message of love and you will, by the teaching of the Holy Spirit, soon lose your fears. Do you not think, too, that some seekers miss comfort because they forget that Jesus Christ is alive? The Christ of the Church of Rome is always depicted in one of two positions—either as a babe in His mother's arms, or else as dead.

That is Rome's Christ! But our Christ is alive! Jesus who rose has "left the dead no

more to die."

I was requested in Turin, recently, to join with others in asking to see the shroud in which the Savior was buried. I must confess that I had not faith enough to believe in the shroud, nor had I curiosity enough to wish to look at the fictitious linen. I would not care a penny for the article even if I knew it to be genuine! Our Lord has left His shroud and sepulcher and lives in Heaven! Tonight He so lives that a sigh of yours will reach Him, a tear will find Him, a desire in your heart will bring Him to you! Only seek Him as a loving, *living* Savior and put your trust in Him as risen from the dead no more to die and, comfort will, I trust, come into your spirit.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software, Sermon #1389, Volume 23—*A Gospel Sermon to Outsiders*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.