

FOR HIS GLORY

Volume 17, Issue 5

May, 2014

“God has in these last days spoken to us by His Son” but oh, pray that this Divine Son may speak by the Holy Spirit right into your heart! Anything which keeps you from personal contact with Jesus robs you of the best blessing. The Romanist says he uses a crucifix to help him to remember Christ, and then his prayers often stop at the crucifix—and in the same manner you can make an idol of your Bible by using the mere words as a substitute for God’s Voice to you. The Bible is to help you to remember God, but if you stick in the mere letter, and get not to God at all, you misuse the sacred Word of God! When the Spirit of God speaks a Text right into the soul; when God Himself takes the Promise or the Precept, and sends it with living energy into the heart—*this* is that which makes a man have a reverence for the Word!—CHS, 1880



SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

By Charles Haddon Spurgeon

I mention a little incident in my own personal history for which I have always had reason enough to thank God. When I was converted to God after some long time of bitter anguish of spirit, I found rest. And the very first thing I did when I found rest in Christ was to read, for myself, the New Testament, and see what the Lord would have me to do.

I found in the Word of God the duty of Believer’s Baptism. I had never met with *any* Baptist friends in my life until I had, for myself, discovered that Truth of God. I had not even heard of their existence, so negligent had they been in the spreading of their views on that matter! But taking up the New Testament with my lexicon to see what the word meant, I found that the word, “baptize,” signified to *immerse*. When I read the Scriptures, I found everywhere that Believers were *immersed*. I did not, at first, know the existence of another person who held that opinion, but it did not matter to me the turn of a hair! I was afraid that I might not find anybody to baptize me, but I meant to

attend to the duty in some way or other!

I discovered, afterwards, that there were many who had searched the Scriptures, and had come to the same conclusion as myself. But to me, then, it seemed like walking away from all the Christian people that I knew! Have I ever regretted the step? No! Unimportant as some might think it, it gave to my whole spirit and life a tone for which I have reason to thank God. I stood upon my own feet, having read the Bible for myself; I took my own way in obedience to my Lord and Master, and from that day I know that I have not willfully turned aside from His Statutes, either in Doctrines or in Precept, but I have taught the faith as I have learned it! When I go to my chamber at night with a thousand imperfections to confess, yet I can feel that I have honestly and faithfully followed my Master.

If I have erred, it has been from lack of Light, and not from lack of will to serve Him. But if I had ignored that first conviction, and if I had made

(See *Search* on page 2)

PRAY TO BE TAKEN PRISONER!

By C. H. Spurgeon

“...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”
(2 Corinthians 10:5.)

After a breach has been made, and the city has been taken, PRISONERS ARE TAKEN. The text runs thus, “Bringing into captivity every thought.” The word translated, “thought,” has a very broad meaning, but its best explanation is that which is placed first in the lexicon, “everything which comes from the *mind*.” The mind is like a city, and when it is captured, the inhabitants which swarm its streets are the thoughts—and these are taken prisoners. Look at the process which I will rapidly describe.

The Gospel comes with power to the heart of a man, and he begins to fear the Wrath of God and the Judgment to come. Look how he trembles! Christ has captured his thoughts of self-security. He no more says, “Though I add drunkenness to thirst, it shall surely be well with me.” On the contrary, he cries, “I am guilty! I have broken God’s

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES!

(Continued from page 1)

little nicks in my conscience at first, could I stand before you all this night, and declare that I have not shunned both to do and to declare the whole Counsel of God? I charge every young convert, as soon as he believes in Christ, to read and search the Bible for himself, and say, "Show me what You would have *me* to do." I would rather be right, alone, than be wrong with all the world! And every honest Christian ought to feel that he would rather follow Jesus Christ with two or three, than run with a multitude after the *traditions* of men!

God help you Beloved, to become thoroughly obedient disciples, searching the Word of God. I do not set so much importance upon the *result* of your investigation, as I do upon the investigation itself. I care less about the result you arrive at, than I do for the Spirit which would lead you to earnestly desire to follow your Master, and would lead you to do everything that you believe to be His will—the little as well as the great! The Lord help us to be anxious to know and do His will in all things, regardless of consequences.

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1520, Volume 26—*Pressing Questions of An Awakened Mind*—

ABOUT BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

We who have been baptized upon profession of our faith were taught in that solemn ordinance to bless the Lord with our entire being, for we were not sprinkled here or there—but we were, in the outward sign—*buried* with the Lord Jesus in Baptism unto death; and we were immersed into the name of the Triune God. If our Baptism meant anything, it declared that we were henceforth dead to the world, and owned no life but that which came to us by the way of the Resurrection of Jesus. Over our heads the liquid water flowed, for we resigned the brain with all its powers of thought to Jesus; over the heart, the veins, the hands, the feet, the eyes, the ears, the mouth, the significant element poured itself; symbol of that universal consecration which deluges all the inward nature of every sanctified Believer. My baptized Brothers and Sisters, I charge you not to belie your profession!—CHS—(Adapted from Sermon #1078, Volume 18—THE SAINTS BLESSING THE LORD—By the Grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and 548 Spanish translations, by Allan Ramon, Mexico City, visit: www.spurgeongems.org).

Let me tell each of you who may be reading this, that I truly love Jesus Christ. But for His Grace, I could not say it, or write it, or *think* it. I have loved Him for such a short time, just 26 years—He has loved me for *eternity*—before the world was created, Jesus Christ loved *me*! How I pray that every person who may be reading this has been loved from before "the foundation of the world" by my Master!—Emmett O'Donnell

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IN 1880 AN "INFIDEL" NOTION— IN 2014 AN AMERICAN NOTION?

By C. H. Spurgeon

An infidel notion is abroad that different religions have sprung up at different times as developments of the religious instinct, and that they may all profitably exist side by side with ours. It is admitted that the religion of Christ is excellent, and that it deserves a large following, but still, other religions have their advantages, and must not be despised—as if to say that something better than the Gospel of Christ may yet be discovered! This is the current talk in certain circles, and we would at once express our horror at it! Jesus is not to share a divided Throne! Cast with abhorrence from your souls every such blasphemous thought! Jesus must reign till all enemies are put under His feet, and to Him all rivals are enemies!

If Jesus is King, He is the *only* Potentate! Christians are enlisted under a banner which does not admit another standard side by side with it! They serve a Prince who will not share dominion with others; who will not submit that even a province shall be torn away from His government! He shall reign forever and ever, King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah! Like a burst of thunder let all hearts that love Him say, Amen!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1535, Volume 26—*Christ's Universal Kingdom and How It Comes*—By God's Grace, read/download all 63 volumes of Spurgeon's sermons and 548 Spanish translations by All Roman, Mexico City, at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

Letters to Mike Gendron

Of Proclaiming the Gospel:

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C. P., Lexington, SC, writes—I love to read your rebukes of those who try to insult you. You only answer with what the Word of God says, and not your opinion. Salt, indeed stings unbelievers! I'm so glad you are out there telling others that Catholics who do not trust the finished work of Christ alone are *not* Christians! It's so sad to see how apostate and lacking in discernment many churches are.

G. L., Mayville, WI, writes—I just finished reading your contribution to the book *Revelation Hoofbeats*. I enjoyed your chapter so much that I looked your ministry up on the Internet. I absolutely admire the way you use God's Word to defend the true Gospel—you are gifted by the Lord to make the Truth of God so easy to understand. I grew up in a dead Protestant church, and was saved in 1974. After reading some of the letters you receive from defenders of the "Mother Church," I find it amazing how honestly deceived they are. They get hit between the eyes with pure Gospel Truth, and still can't see how their "religion" opposes the Gospel of Christ! This has opened my eyes in a new way to how clever and deceiving Satan is. Thanks again for your solid stand for the Lord!

S. C., Chicopee, MA, writes—Why do you people insist on persecuting Catholics? We are all Christians who believe in Jesus. The Catholic Church is the only one who truly follows Jesus' teachings. We do not distort or add anything to the Bible. It is "Johnny come lately" religions like yours who take the word and give it a meaning that suits you; not the meaning intended. Could it be you are jealous of our numbers? You should rejoice with us, and try to get along with us, not fight. God doesn't want us claiming to be better than somebody else. Read your Bible! I think you are the one who needs converting. Try the Catholic Church—it has everything! We even accept people like you! Please stop printing trash and untruths about the Catholic Church. God is watching you.

Brother Mike responds—It is letters like yours that prompted me to write the article for this newsletter. If you placed no confidence in the flesh, you would be able to rejoice in Christ Jesus as your all-sufficient Savior (Phil 3:3). But since you rely on your own ability and achievements to merit Salvation through the power of your unredeemed flesh, you view Jesus, not as a Savior, but as a gate-opener to Heaven. You are correct—the Catholic Church accepts anyone, just as Constantine did in the 4th Century. The ritual of baptism is the only requirement; however, the true Church of Jesus Christ accepts only those who have been washed by the blood of Jesus, and have been imputed with His Righteousness. You, too, can be a part of His Church if you obey the first command of His earthly ministry: "Repent and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1:14-15).

Nuclcurve, Internet, writes—The bottom line of your one man religion is that you can disregard the 10 Commandments, and sin all you want because you are already saved. So what happens, "according to Gendron," to someone who "is saved by accepting Jesus into his heart," if he continues a life of lying and swindling, and then dies with a heart attack while fornicating? Does he go to Heaven or not? (**Brother Mike's response on page 4.**)

Central Grace Church

3596 Franklin Street,

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Spring Meeting

May 2nd - 4th, 2014

Friday, 7p.m.,
Saturday, 10 a.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m.

Speakers:

Marvin Stalnaker

Katy Baptist Church, Fairmont, West Virginia

Gabe Stalnaker

Kingsport Sovereign Grace, Kingsport, Tennessee

Any questions contact:

Paul Mahan – 540-489-3035

Sovereign Grace Fellowship

905 Cattlemen Rd. — Sarasota, FL

Service Time: Sunday Evenings
6:00 P.M.

Contact:

Pastor Greg Elmquist (321) 438-4554

— Email: gelmquist@earthlink.net

Eric Burt (941) 408-4497 — Email:

Stmcnc@aol.com

TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST...

(Continued from page 1)

Law, and I am condemned!” The Lord has captured his thoughts of self-righteousness; this is the man who yesterday boasted in himself that he was righteous! The pure and holy Law of God has come near his conscience, and he feels guilty, and therefore cries for mercy!

Now he begins to pray, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” And it is clear that his *thoughts* of independence, and his ideas that he could do without God are made prisoners! His *thoughts* of pleasure in alienation from the Great Father are now slain, for he desires to draw near to the Most High. Look! A little hope begins to dawn! He hopes that there may be Salvation for him; his thoughts of rebellious despair are led captive in fetters of iron. Praise the Lord! Watch him further. The Spirit of God encourages him, and he comes to believe in Jesus—his *self-trust* is a prisoner! That Jesus died for sinners is a Truth of God which he now accepts, and he casts himself upon it—his proud *intellect* is a captive, and he gladly bows at the Redeemer’s feet!

Listen to him as he sings, “I am forgiven! God assures me of it! I am justified because I have believed in Jesus! Oh, how I love His precious name!” His inmost heart is captured—all the thoughts of his love are now subdued, and the Savior whom he once despised, he now adores! Look how, with gratitude, he brings his alabaster box to break it, and pour the sweet perfume on the Savior’s feet! Jesus has won his heart! And Jesus holds it in a *willing* captivity, and therefore, the man consecrates himself to Christ—to live and to die for Him!

Thus the whole mind of the man, yes, the whole man, has thrown down its rebellious weapons and surrendered unconditionally to the conquering arm of the Lord Jesus!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1473, Vol. 25—*Forts Demolished and Prisoners Taken*—read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>

BROTHER MIKE’S RESPONSE—First of all, teachings “according to Gendron,” or anyone else, for that matter, should be rejected unless they conform to God’s Word. Secondly, no one is saved by “accepting” Jesus. Salvation is *given* as a gift to those who “repent and believe the Gospel” (Mark 1:14-15). To repent is to have a change of mind upon discovering you are on the broad road to destruction. To believe the Gospel is to believe that God has accomplished everything in Christ that is necessary for a sinner to be 1) forgiven; 2) reconciled to God; 3) redeemed from the curse of the Law; 4) adopted into His eternal family; 5) justified and acquitted; 6) saved from the power and punishment of sin; and 7) made alive and sealed by His Spirit that guarantees an eternal inheritance. For someone who has experienced this sovereign act of God’s Grace to continue in sin is unthinkable, and highly peculiar. The Grace that brings Salvation instructs us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires, and to live sensibly, righteously, and godly (Titus 2:12). Those God saves from the power of sin will demonstrate their love for Him as slaves of Righteousness with heartfelt obedience to His Word (Rom 6:17-18). As they begin worshipping Him in Spirit and truth, and living a life empowered by the Holy Spirit, they will put to death the evil deeds of the flesh. If the child of God falls into temptation and sins, there is an Advocate in Heaven, the exalted Lord Jesus Christ, who intercedes (1 John 2:1). You asked what happens in the unlikely case that he dies in the act of sin? I am as confident as Paul that God, who began a good work in him, will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil 1:6). He will be brought into Heaven to honor, worship, serve and glorify his Savior throughout all eternity!

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

By C. H. Spurgeon

A very beautiful motto is hung up in our infant classroom at the Stockwell Orphanage, “What would Jesus do?” Not only may children take it as their guide, but all of us may do the same, whatever our age. “What would Jesus do?” If you desire to know what you ought to do under any circumstances, imagine Jesus to be in that position, and then think, “What would Jesus do? For what Jesus would do, that ought I to do.” In following Jesus we are following God, for in Christ Jesus the brightness of the Father’s Glory is best seen. Our example is our Lord and Master, Jesus, the Son of God, and therefore, this question is but a beam from our guiding star. Ask in all cases—“What would Jesus do?” That unties the knot of all moral difficulty in the most practical way, and does it so simply that no great wit or wisdom will be needed!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software, 1.800.297.4307.—Sermon #1526, Volume 26—*The Fair Portrait of a Saint*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

ARE YOU WITH CHRIST, OR AGAINST HIM?

There are some who reject Christ because of the fewness of His followers. They like to go where many go, and they say, “Well, but there are so few that go that way, I do not wish to be odd.” Yet every honest heart must admit that truth could never yet be decided by votes, for as a rule it has been in the minority. If we are to count heads, we must go to the Pope, or the Sultan, or the Hindu. For my part, I think that a minority of one with Christ is stronger than a majority of fifty millions against Him! Christ, the Son of God, in His own Person, sums up a total greater than all the multitudes that ever can be against Him!—CHS, 1878

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

PRAY FOR GRACE TO BE HOLY

Jesus Christ “The Branch” – Part 2

Zechariah 6:12

“Behold, the Man whose name is the Branch!”

Branch of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1-5, 10)

By Daniel E. Parks, Pastor

Redeemer Baptist Church, 74 Cane Carlton, Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, USA, 00840

III. Christ is a fruitful Branch.

1. Christ's fruitfulness is indicated by the Hebrew word here translated “Branch” (*nêtsér*). In all the other instances in which Christ is identified as the “Branch” (Isaiah 4:2; Jeremiah 23:5f / 33:15; Zechariah 3:8; 6:12) the Hebrew word (*tsemach*) means simply “branch”. But the Hebrew word here employed derives from one having “the sense of greenness as a striking color” (*Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions*). Christ even from the beginning of His earthly life was not only a branch, but a *green and fruitful* branch. For example, during a session of the religious leaders in the temple when He was only twelve years old, “all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers” (Luke 2:41-47). He at that time told His parents that “I must be about My Father's business” (v 49). “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (v 52).

2. Christ's fruitfulness is indicated also by His descent from “Jesse the Ephrathite” (1 Samuel 17:12). The word *Ephrathite* means “fruitfulness”. Christ in no way will be barren! Every one for whom He died will be redeemed, saved, justified, sanctified, and glorified. No one for whom He died will perish.

IV. Christ the Branch is under the influence of the Holy Spirit (v 2): “The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him”

1. *The Spirit was upon Christ to anoint Him for His earthly ministry* (Isaiah 61:1 / Luke 4:18): Christ Himself confessed, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor”

2. *The Spirit was upon Christ in a seven-fold and complete manner*: “The Spirit of [1] *Jehovah*, ... the Spirit of [2] *wisdom* and [3] *understanding*, the Spirit of [4] *counsel* and [5] *might*, the Spirit of [6] *knowledge* and of [7] the *fear of the LORD*.” *Seven* in Scriptures is a number of *completion*. In Jesus Christ is the foremost proof that “He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure” (John 3:34).

3. *The Spirit was upon Christ to thoroughly equip Him for His earthly ministry*. Regarding these six aspects of the Holy Spirit to Christ: i. “wisdom” includes comprehension of God's secret things; ii. “understanding” includes knowing the right thing to do; iii. “counsel” includes ability to form wise plans; iv. “might” includes strength to execute those plans; v. “knowledge” is especially of God, resulting in vi. reverential “fear of Jehovah”. And indeed “His delight is in the fear of the LORD” (v 3a – translated “shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD” in KJV).

V. Christ the Branch reigns in righteousness and faithfulness (vv 3b-5): “He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes [i.e., by outward appearance], nor decide by the hearing of His ears [i.e., by what men tell Him]. ... Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.” He is so gird in righteousness and faithfulness that He is *righteous* in all His judgments, and *faithful* in fulfilling them. This was to have been true of the *immediate* branch of Jesse, David the king. This most certainly is true of the *Messianic* Branch of Jesse, Jesus the Christ.

1. *Christ is righteous and faithful toward the “poor” and the “meek”* (v 4a): “but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.” He *justifies* the “poor”, destitute sinners who acknowledge Him as “Jehovah Our Righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:5). He *avenges* the “meek”, those who turn their cheek when unjustly treated (Romans 12:19).

2. *Christ is righteous and faithful toward the “wicked”* (v 4b): “He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.” O sinner! Forsake your pride and humbly come to Christ, and forsake your self-righteousness in order to be clothed in Christ's righteousness. If you do not, the righteous and faithful Branch of Jesse will righteously condemn you and faithfully execute you.

WHAT ABOUT A WOMAN PREACHING?

Paul's preaching is very plain upon the subject of female preaching; he does *not* allow a woman to preach, but this by no means bars her from bearing testimony in her own way, and she can so bear it as to do God's work quite as effectually as if she occupied the pulpit! A woman was the founder of the Church in Samaria, which was afterwards multiplied by Christ's teaching, which continued till the time of Philip, and was then in a state of gracious revival. The first person baptized in Europe was a woman, therefore let none of our Sisters in Christ exempt themselves from bearing witness for Jesus Christ; neither let them think that their witness is unimportant. God will put high honor upon it if it is rendered in simple faith in Him, and, perhaps, where public ministry may have failed, their private testimony may yet succeed!—CHS

“Thy Word Is Truth”— Part 2

Compiled by Richard Bennett, Converted Catholic Priest, now Evangelist. P. O. Box 192, Del Valle, TX 78617

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Biblical Truth

The Light of God's Word

Christ's Sacrifice was His alone and once offered

“...Jesus said, **‘It is finished:...**’” John 19:30

“But this man, **after he had offered one** sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God” Hebrews 10:12

“...when He had **by Himself** purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” Hebrews 1:3

Biblical Truth

The Light of God's Word

God is the Only All-Holy One, and the Only Source of Holiness

“**Holy, Holy, Holy**, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.” Isaiah 6:3

“Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? **For Thou only art Holy**: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee...” Revelation 15: 4

“**There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside Thee**: neither is there any rock like our God.” 1 Samuel 2:2

“**I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another**, neither my praise to graven images.” Isaiah 42:8

Biblical Truth

The Light of God's Word

In Salvation the Lord Jesus Christ Alone Mediates

“For there is one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.**” 1 Timothy 2:5

“**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [Jesus Christ] under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.**” Acts 4:12

New Catechism

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994)

Christ's Sacrifice continues, and is also of the Church

“In this divine sacrifice which is celebrated in the Mass, the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross **is contained and is offered in an unbloody manner.**” CCC Para 1367

“The Eucharist is also the sacrifice of the [Roman Catholic] Church. **The Church which is the Body of Christ participates in the offering of her Head.** With him, **she herself is offered** whole and entire.” CCC Para 1368

New Catechism

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994)

Mary is also the All-Holy One, and the Source of Holiness

“By asking Mary to pray for us, we acknowledge ourselves to be poor sinners and we address ourselves to **the ‘Mother of Mercy,’ the All-Holy One.**” CCC Para 2677

“From the [Roman Catholic] Church we learn the example of holiness and recognize its model **and source in the all-holy Virgin Mary...**” CCC Para 2030

“**The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God ‘the All-Holy’ (Panagia)**, and celebrate her as ‘free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature’” CCC Para 493

New Catechism

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994)

In Salvation “Mary” Also Mediates

“Taken up to heaven **she did not lay aside this saving office**, but by her manifold intercession **continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation...**Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church [Roman Catholic] under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and **Mediatrice.**” CCC Para 969

Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to God the Father!

Not Mary. Not Mohammed.

Not a future Messiah.

He is the ONLY way!

(John 14:6)

...And so we must pray for the conversion of Roman Catholics as well as Muslims, Jews, and all others who know not our Master...

STUDY OF EPHESIANS 4:28**STOP STEALING, WORK HARD, AND GIVE —PART 4**

We come to another of the specific aspects of Christian living which the Apostle addresses in this section of the Epistle to the Ephesians. So far we have seen him speaking about the sins of lying and anger. In the verse before us today, he takes up stealing; and again, as the Apostle so frequently does, he follows a pattern. First of all, he tells about the sin which the Christian is to put off; then he tells us the virtue opposite the sin which the Believer should put on. Thirdly, he gives a reason why the virtue should characterize the Christian.

Note these three elements in the verse before us in Ephesians 4:28: First, the sin to be put off: "Let him who stole steal no longer." Secondly the virtue to be put on: "but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good." And thirdly, the reason for the virtue: "that he may have something to give him who has need."

Now, our immediate response to such a verse may be shock. We might ask the question, "Is it really necessary to tell true Believers to stop stealing?" Doesn't the New Testament make clear that anyone who practices a sin like this is not a true Believer at all? For instance, we read in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." How can the Apostle tell us in the Corinthian passage that no thief will inherit the Kingdom of God, and yet in our passage tell those he considers to be Believers, "Let him who stole steal no longer"?

The answer is in the person's attitude toward the sin. The true Believer may still struggle with a certain sin, but he cannot ever be comfortable with it. If a person just gives in to a sin, and is not bothered or grieved by it, and is not fighting against it, it is unlikely that he is a true Believer at all.

Take for example a man who was a drunkard before his conversion. Upon his conversion, he may lose all interest in drinking alcohol; he may have a complete and immediate deliverance from it. But for another, there will be an intense battle and struggle with that former way of life. The person may even periodically fall back into that sin, but when it happens, it grieves him to the core of his being. He repents of that sin, and seeks with all his heart the Grace not to fall into it again. And in this sense, that Believer can no longer be called a drunkard.

**ASK OUR FATHER'S HOLY SPIRIT
TO GRANT YOU GRACE TO
DESIRE TO BE USED BY HIM
FOR THE HONOR AND
GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST.**

**BROTHER AND SISTERS,
HAVE YOU PRAYED FOR YOUR
CHAPLAIN AND WARDENS?**

The same may be said about the sin of stealing. It is a horrible sin. It is one which should not ever occur among Believers. And yet, the truth is, it does happen. That is why the Apostle addresses it in Ephesians 4:28. Some of the Ephesians may have been thieves before coming to Christ; and many who come to Christ today have been thieves. A mighty transformation has taken place in the heart of every true Believer. Yet instructions like these continue to be needed in the process of growing in Grace.

Let's consider some facts about the sin that the Apostle Paul is addressing here. Stealing has always been prevalent among fallen mankind. It is rampant in the world today; it is engaged in everywhere by people in all walks of life, not just the poor. Stealing is also a sin of the high class and sophisticated. We hear more and more about embezzlement and theft by brilliant businessmen who use their genius to scam the stock market.

Just how wide-spread is the sin of stealing is even more obvious when we consider some of the various forms which this sin may take. Stealing occurs when anyone takes anything that does not belong to him. People steal not only money and material things, but they steal people. The man or woman who commits adultery is stealing another person's spouse.

Our country has generally been so prosperous that "little things" are no longer considered important. The attitude among many seems to be, "Well, the company has so much; if I take a little of this, or a little of that, it is no big deal." But how much the company has is totally irrelevant! If someone takes something that does not belong to him, no matter how small, it is stealing.—PF

**PRAY THAT OUR MASTER'S HOLY SPIRIT
MIGHT BEGIN A REVIVAL
IN NORTH DAKOTA.**

**PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
IN PRISONS. PRAY FOR THEIR SPOUSES
AND THEIR CHILDREN.**

Have you prayed FOR Jesus today?

**Please pray for the living authors of articles
in this little publication.**

**Pray for those being persecuted in China and
North Korea for Jesus' sake.**

ON DRUNKS, DOGS, MEETING HOUSES, PRAYING WOMEN, ROBBERS, “STRANGE” SPURGEON, GREAT SINNERS, AND HE WHO SAVES US ALL! (EXCEPT THE DOGS)

By C. H. Spurgeon

There is *no* cause for fear, not while Jesus lives, for He can reach a soul as long as it remains on this side of the gates of Death! Jesus can still save a man while he is yet out of Hell! Continue to pray, and fear not! No case is absolutely hopeless while Jesus lives! Love will still prevail. We meet, sometimes, with amazing instances where prayer is heard at last. I have read of a woman who prayed long for her husband; She used to attend a certain Meeting House in the north of England, but her husband never went with her. He was a drinking, swearing man, and she had much anguish of heart about him. She never ceased to pray and yet she never saw any result. She went to the Meeting House quite alone, with this exception, that a dog always went with her, and this faithful animal would curl himself up under the seat and lie quiet during the service. When she was dead, her husband was still unsaved, but doggie went to the Meeting House; his master wondered whatever the faithful animal did at the service! Curiosity made him follow the good creature; the dog led him down the aisle to his dear old mistress’s seat; the man sat on that seat, and the dog curled himself up as usual. God guided the minister that day—the Word came with power, and that man wept till he found the Savior! Never give up your husbands, good women, for the Lord may even use a dog to bring them to Christ when you are dead and gone! Never give up praying, hoping and expecting. Fear not! Only believe and you shall have your heart’s desire. Pray for them as long as there is breath in your body and theirs. It is of no use praying for them when they are dead, but as long as they are here, never cease to plead with God on their account.

Persons have been converted to God under very extraordinary circumstances. Two base fellows thought to rob the house of a godly man, the vicar of a parish, who was accustomed on Sunday evening, to gather his poor people together in his parlor, and preach the Gospel to them. This was a little extra work after the day’s services; the thieves thought that if they could get into the house with the people during the evening, and hide themselves away, they could rob the house easily during the night. And so they got into the next room to that in which the Word was preached. But they never robbed that house, for through the godly vicar’s address, the Lord Jesus Christ stole away their hearts, and they came forth to confess their sins, and to become followers of the Savior! You do not know how far the arrows of the conquering Savior may fly! Never despair! Jesus Christ comforts you in reference to the souls of those for whom you are anxious by saying, “Fear not; only believe, and they shall be made whole.” Labor for them, pray for them, and believe that Jesus Christ can save them, and let the same Truth of God be fully believed as to yourselves.

O my dear Hearer, you may think you are too far gone for Salvation, but you are not! You may imagine that your case is altogether out of the catalog, but you are just the sort of person that Jesus Christ saves! If He never saved odd people, He would never have saved me, for many men judge me to be a strange being! If you are another oddity, come along with me, and let us trust in Him! If you are the one man that is a little over the line of mercy, you are the very man that Jesus Christ chooses to bless, for He loves to save extraordinary sinners! He is a very extraordinary Savior—there never was another like He, and when He meets a sinner that is extraordinary, and never another like he, He often takes him and makes him one of His captains, as He did Saul of Tarsus who became Paul the Apostle! I pray you, “fear not,” on account of the greatness of your sin! Be humbled on account of it, but do not despair about it.

Are you old in sin? Are you deeply ingrained in transgression by long practice in it? Still doubt not the Redeemer’s power! If your Salvation rested on yourself, you might despair, but the Lord has laid help on One who is mighty, even on His Only-Begotten Son! And He is able to save to the uttermost them that come to God by Him. O poor condemned sinner, look up and hope! O you who have heard the clang of the iron gate—you who are shut up in despair—have hope, have brave hope, for Jesus says to you, “Fear not, only believe, and you shall be made whole.” God grant that this gracious, “Fear not,” may be a comfort to some seeker reading this today.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1533, Volume 26—*Fear Not*—By God’s Grace, read/download all 63 volumes of Spurgeon’s sermons, and 548 Spanish translations by Allan Ramon, Mexico City, at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

COMPLETE SALVATION

“He was delivered for our offenses, but He was raised again for our justification.”

So the Resurrection of Christ was an announcement of the all-glorious, heart-cheering fact that the iniquities of God’s people were forever done away with, the whole debt of the Church eternally cancelled, a justifying Righteousness for them all brought in and perfected, the whole realm of bliss, in new songs of rapture, glorying in the completion of Jesus’ work! All who had gone before retained their seats in bliss, and all who were yet unborn of the Election of Divine Grace were as sure of getting there as those already within the veil, because Jesus announced in His Resurrection the actual, entire exoneration, and full and complete Salvation of all His Church that the Father had given into His hand.—JOSEPH IRON, 1849

WHAT IS OUR OBJECTIVE?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

“That I might, by all means, save some.”
(1 Corinthians 9:22.)

It seems to be the opinion of a large party in the present day that the objective of Christian effort should be to *educate* men. I grant you that education is, in itself, an exceedingly valuable thing; so valuable that I am sure the whole Christian Church rejoices greatly that at last we have a national system of education which only needs to be carefully carried out, and every child in this land will have the keys of knowledge in his hand. Whatever price others may set upon ignorance, we are promoters of knowledge—and the more it can be spread, the better shall we be pleased.

But if the Church of God thinks that it is sent into the world merely to train the mental faculties, it has made a very serious mistake. The objective of Christianity is *not* to educate men for their secular callings, or even to train them in the politer arts, or the more elegant professions, or to enable them to enjoy the beauties of Nature, or the charms of poetry.

Jesus Christ came not into the world for any of these things, but He came to seek and to save that which was lost! And on the same errand has He sent His Church—and she is a traitor to the Master who sent her if she is beguiled by the beauties of taste and art, to forget that to preach Christ and Him Crucified is the *only* objective for which she exists among the sons of men! The business of the Church is Salvation!

The minister is to use all means to save some! He is no minister of Christ if this is not the one desire of his heart. Missionaries sink far below their level when they are content to civilize—their first objective is to *save*. The same is true of the Sunday school teacher, and of all other workers among children—if they have merely taught the child to read, to repeat hymns and so forth, they have not yet touched their true vocation. We must have the children *saved!* At this nail we must drive, and the hammer must come down upon this head al-

ways—if by all means I may save some, for we have done nothing unless some are saved!

Paul does not even say that he tried to *moralize* men. The best promoter of morality is the Gospel. When a man is saved, he becomes moral—he becomes more; he becomes holy! But to aim *first* at morality is altogether to miss the mark! If we did attain it—and we shall not; yet we should not have attained that for which we were sent into the world! Dr. Chalmers’ experience is a very valuable one to those who think that the Christian ministry ought to preach up mere morality, for he says that in his first parish he preached morality, and saw no good whatever arising out of his exhortations. But, as soon as he began to preach Christ Crucified, then there was a buzz and a stir, and much *opposition*—but Grace prevailed!

He who wishes for perfumes must grow the flowers; he who desires to promote morality must have men saved. He who wants motion in a corpse should first seek life for it, and he who desires to see a rightly ordered life should first desire an inward renewal by the Holy Spirit. We are not to be satisfied when we have taught men their duties towards their neighbors, or even their duties towards God—this would suffice for Moses, but not for Christ!

The Law came by Moses, but Grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ. We teach men what they ought to be, but we do far more—by the power of the Gospel applied by the Holy Spirit, we make them what they ought to be by the power of God’s Spirit. We put not before the blind the things that they ought to see, but we open their eyes in the name of Jesus!

We tell not the captive how free he ought to be, but we open the door and take away his fetters. We are not content to tell men what they must be, but we show them how this character can be *attained*, and how Jesus Christ freely presents all that is essential to eternal life to all those who come and put their trust in Him.



“The wicked is a very coward, and is afraid of everything—of God because He is his enemy; of Satan because he is his tormentor; of God’s creatures because they, joining with their Maker, fight against him; of *himself* because he bears about with him his own accuser and executioner. The godly man, however, is afraid of nothing—not of God, because he knows He is his best Friend, and will not hurt him; not of Satan, because he cannot hurt him; not of afflictions, because he knows they come from a loving God, and end in his good; not of the creatures, since ‘the very stones in the field are in league with him’—not of himself, since his conscience is at peace.” —Joseph Hall

[Gleaned from Eternal Life Ministries]

**Pray it is the Lord’s will to use
Brother Allan Roman’s
Web site
www.spurgeon.com.mx
to draw millions of
Spanish-speaking Catholics
to His Son
JESUS CHRIST.**

AN OUTLINE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

By Charles H. Spurgeon

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen of angels, Preached unto the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”

1 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV).

Paul has here given us an outline of the Christian faith, and we note upon it as follows—

First, *it is all concerning Christ*. Out of these six articles of Paul’s creed, they all speak of Christ; from which I gather that if we are to preach the Gospel faithfully, we must preach much concerning Jesus Christ. My dear Brothers, this must be the first, the middle, and end of our ministry. That man of whom it cannot be said that he preaches Christ, does not behave himself aright in the House of God; he evidently is not a messenger sent from Heaven. It is our business here to cry with John the Baptist, “Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.” Brothers and Sisters, as it is ours to preach Christ, so it is yours to receive Him. If you have received a gospel of which Christ is not the top and bottom, throw it away. If you are resting on anything besides Christ Jesus, you are resting upon a rotten foundation; get off of it, lest you be deceived at the last. But if Christ is All in All to you, and His work and Person are the sum and substance of your hope, then be of good cheer; where Jesus is honored, souls are safely sheltered.

I notice, in the second place, that there is *not here a single word upon Sacramentarianism*. Now, in these days we are perpetually told by men who are manifestly in earnest, that the great thing is the sacrament. According to their teaching, God has committed to bishops and priests the fullness of His Divine Grace, which we meekly and reverently may receive at their venerable hands. We are told that in connection with a few drops of water, sprinkled by the successors of the Apostles, children become regenerate; through the laying on of these same blessed hands, we afterwards become confirmed in the faith, and assured of our Salvation. We are told that through priestly power we are made partakers of the very body and blood of Christ, which, according to them, becomes literally present through their operation. When we come to die, they can anoint us with oil, consecrated by their power, and by this unction all our sins are forgiven us. The top and the bottom of the system is the priest, the priest, the priest! A man like ourselves, and not a whit better, but 10,000 times worse for his infamous impudence in pretending to be what he is not, this man, dressed out in as many colors as the peacock, is the divinely appointed medium of grace. If this is the Truth of God, Paul did not know it, for if he had known it, he would say, “Great is the mystery of godliness; God dwells in the priests, hasten and kiss their feet, for by their ceremonials you get Salvation.” Paul says nothing of the kind. He has nothing to reveal about candles, and capes, and pompous processions; all he has to say is this, “God was manifest in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen of angels, Preached unto the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in Glory,” and that is all.

How different this simple Gospel from the complex machinery of Catholicism and Anglicanism!

I want you to notice still further, that in this summary there is *no exhibition of mere Doctrine*. I believe, most firmly, in the Doctrines commonly called Calvinism, and I hold them to be filled with comfort to God’s people; but if any man shall say that the preaching of these is the whole of the preaching of the Gospel, I am at issue with him! Brothers, you may preach those Doctrines as long as you like, and yet fail to preach the Gospel; and I will go further, and affirm that some who have even denied those Truths of God, to our great grief, have nevertheless been Gospel preachers for all that, and God has saved souls by their ministry! The fact is, that while the Doctrines of Election, Final Perseverance, and so on, go to make up a complete ministry, and are invaluable in their place, yet the soul and marrow of the Gospel is not there, but is to be found in the great fact that “God was manifest in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit,” and so on. Preach Christ, young man, if you want to win souls! Preach all the Doctrines, too, for the building up of Believers, but still the *main business* is to preach Jesus who came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost. The Apostle tells us in Corinthians that first of all he delivered unto us as soul-saving Truth, “How that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures.” Facts about Christ Jesus, and the promise of life through Him—these are the faith of the Gospel.

Let me also say that I do not perceive anything in this summary *tending remarkably to exalt prophecy*. I would not make this remark were it not that there is a certain troublesome sect abroad nowadays, to whom the one thing necessary is a perpetual speculation upon prophecy; all the bells in their steeple ring out, “prophecy! Prophecy! Prophecy!” They plume themselves upon an expected *secret rapture*, and I know not what vain imaginings besides! Where prophecy is preached in connection with their shibboleth, there the Gospel is preached, but all ministers beside their own, however honored by God, are railed at by them as part of Babylon against whom men are to be warned. They, indeed, are wise men, and can afford superciliously to look down upon their fellow Christians as the slaves of sect and system, being, I venture to say, far more sectarian than the worst of us, and more bigoted to their system than Roman Catholics themselves! My dear Friends, if you have any time to spare, and cannot find any practical work for Jesus, study the dark places of prophecy, but do not read modern prophetic works, for that is a sheer waste of time and nothing better! Hold off as you would from a serpent from the idea that the study or preaching of prophecy is the Gospel, for the belief that it is so is mischievous beyond conception. The Gospel which is to be vehemently declared is this—“God was manifest in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen of angels, Preached unto the Gentiles, Believed

(See The Simple Truth on page 11)

THE SIMPLE TRUTH

(Continued from page 10)

on in the world, Received up in glory.” So long as London is reeking with sin, and millions are going down to Hell, let us leave others to prophesy; let us go with anxious hearts to seek after souls, and see if we cannot, by the Spirit’s Power, win sinners from going down into the pit of Hell.

You will, doubtless, have observed that this summary of the Gospel is *very simple*. Whenever you meet with teaching which is cloudy and complicated, you may generally conclude that it is not the Gospel of your Salvation, for the Truth of Christ is so plain that he who runs may read, and the wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein. Perhaps some of you have been thinking that Conversion and Salvation are dark and mysterious things, and that you have to pass through many singular operations and feelings in order to be saved. Now, Beloved, the whole of our faith lies in a nutshell. He who believes in Jesus Christ, the Incarnate God, is saved! These few Truths of God, if grasped by the mind, received and trusted in by the heart, will save you. It is at the Cross that Salvation must be found. We have not written over our religion, “Mystery, mystery, mother of harlots,” this is the sign of Babylon, but we have this to tell you, “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; he who believes not shall be damned,” and the things which you have to believe are just these simplicities: Jesus the Son of God has come into this world as Man to save men; He has bled and died; He is proclaimed and preached; He is to be received and believed in; He has gone up in Glory to prepare a place for them who trust Him, and that is all.—

Adapted from Sermon #786, Volume 13—THE GREAT MYSTERY OF GODLINESS—read/download, by God’s Grace, all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons, and 548 Spanish translations by Allan Roman, Mexico City, free of charge at www.spurgeongems.org

**ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO USE
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TO COMFORT AND
EDIFY ITS VISITORS.**

Pray over your gifts—that is a blessed way of stirring them up, to go before God and spread out your responsibilities before Him. In my own case I have often to cry, “Lord, You have given me this Congregation, and oh it is hard to be clear of the blood of them all, and to speak with affection, and prudence, and courage to all so as not to leave one unwarned, unhelped, untaught! Help me, my Lord, that I may leave no one without his portion of meat in due season! Who is sufficient for these things? Only Your Grace is sufficient for me!”—CHS—(Adapted from Sermon #1080, Volume 18—OUR GIFTS AND HOW TO USE THEM—By the Grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and 548 Spanish translations by Allan Ramon, Mexico City, visit: www.spurgeongems.org).

It Makes Sense, Doesn’t It?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

IS it necessary to say that the Lord Jesus Christ is no longer corporeally present in His Church? It ought not to be necessary to assert so evident a Truth of God, and yet it is important to do so, since there are some who teach that in what they are pleased to call, “The Holy Sacrament,” Christ is actually present in His flesh and blood! Such persons unwittingly deny the real Humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, for if He has, indeed, assumed our Humanity, and is in all points made like unto His brethren, His flesh and blood cannot be in two places at one time. Our bodies could not be present in more places than one at one time, and if Christ’s Humanity is like ours, it cannot be in an unlimited number of places at once; in fact, it can only be in one place. Where that place is we know from Scripture, for He sits at the right hand of God, waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. Unless you are to suppose that the Humanity of Christ is something altogether different from ours, it cannot be here and there, and everywhere! To suppose that it is a different Humanity from ours, is to deny that He is Incarnate in our nature; our Lord Jesus told His disciples that He would go away, and He has gone away; He ascended into Heaven, bearing Humanity up to the Throne of God. “He is not here, for He is risen.”

Remember, also, that because the Lord Jesus is absent corporeally, the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, is with us, for Jesus specifically said, “If I go not away, the Comforter will not come to you: but if I depart, I will send Him to you.” Those who believe that Christ’s flesh and blood are, or can be present on earth, deny the Presence of the Holy Spirit, for the Scripture is plain enough upon that point—that the bodily *absence* of our Lord is the cause and condition of the *Presence* of the Comforter! If Jesus still dwells corporeally upon the earth, then the Spirit of God is *not* upon the earth. Many other most serious errors follow from the supposition that the Humanity of the Redeemer is present anywhere except at the right hand of God, even the Father; it is an imagination which lies at the basis of the sacramental system—and millions are greatly enamored of it.—(See #1035, Volume 18—THE REAL PRESENCE—THE GREAT NEED OF THE CHURCH—by the Grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and 548 Spanish translations by Allan Ramon, Mexico City, visit: www.spurgeongems.org)

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PASTOR TODAY?**

**PRAY DAILY FOR OUR PRESIDENT
AND ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**

**For HIS Glory
Prison Ministry
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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.

AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!

By C. H. Spurgeon

Fellowship with Jesus has turned the bitterest potion into generous wine. Beloved, if distant glimpses are so precious, what must it be to see Him face to face? I have tried to conceive it, and I declare that even in *attempting* the conception, my spirit seems to swoon at the prospect of such supreme delight! Only to hear the music of His footsteps on the other side the partition wall raises longings in my heart too strong, too eager to be long endured!

What? Death, are you all that divides me from seeing my Lord? I would gladly die a million deaths to see Him as He is, and to be like He! What? A slumber in the grave for this poor body! Is that all I have to dread? Then let it slumber, and let the worms consume it, for, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He shall stand at the last day upon the earth—and though after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God!"

Oh, what will it be to see Him!? To see HIM who loved us so! To mark the wounds with which He purchased our Redemption! To behold His Glory! To listen to that dear voice of His, and to hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." To lie in His bosom forever—truly neither eye has seen, nor ear heard the likes of this bliss!

More than the bride longs for the marriage day, do we expect the bridal feast of Heaven, but of all the dainties on that royal table there will not be one that will be equal to Himself, for to see Him will be all the Heaven we desire! He is better than Heaven's harps or angels, and the cause of greater gladness than streets of gold or walls of jasper!

Brothers and Sisters, can we share this power to distribute joy? Assuredly we can! If the Lord Jesus is with us, we can *give* joy to others! I know some whose very presence comforts their fellows! Their words are so full of consolation, and their hearts so overflowing with sympathy, that they make gladness wherever they go!

Yes, but the best of you, you sons of consolation, are not anointed with the oil of gladness to the same extent as He was. Above His fellows, even above Barnabas, the son of consolation—above the best and the most tender sympathizers is He thus anointed. And from Him there pours forth a continuous stream of effectual consolation which becomes the oil of joy to those who wear the garments of heaviness.

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1273, Volume 22—*The Oil of Gladness*—By the Grace of God, read/download all 63 volumes of Spurgeon's sermons, and 548 Spanish translations by Allan Roman, Mexico City, at www.spurgeongems.org.