

FOR HIS GLORY

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I remember a child who used to be noted for great attention during sermons, and his mother, noticing his deep earnestness, asked him why. He said, "Because, Mother, I heard the preacher once say that if there was a piece of the sermon that was likely to be of good to our souls, Satan would try to make us lose it. And as I do not know which part God will bless me by, I try to hear it all and to remember it all." Oh, when people come to listen to the preacher with such a spirit as that, it is sweet work to preach! You can easily feed hungry horses, and you can easily feed souls that hunger and thirst after righteousness—They shall be filled. The Lord help us to give earnest heed to His own saving Word! "Stand you still awhile, that I may announce to you the Word of God." —CHS



OUR LORD JESUS HEARD THEIR PRAYERS!

By C. H. Spurgeon

"Then said He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few, pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."
Matthew 9:37-38

The last point [Sermon #1127, Volume 19—HARVEST MEN NEEDED] is this —THE LORD JESUS HEARD THEIR PRAYERS—He did send forth laborers. I feel vexed with the fellow who chopped the Bible up into Chapters; I forget his name just now, and I am sure it is not worth remembering. I have heard that he did the most of his carving of the New Testament between London and Paris, and rough work he made of it. Surely he was chaptering the Gospel of Matthew while he was crossing the Channel, for he has divided it in such strange places! He has chopped this passage in two. "Pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." Down comes the meat axe, right across a bone! Let us put the bones together, and read what is next. "And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power

against unclean spirits, to cast them out." It appears, then, that the Lord told them to pray that God would raise up laborers, and then called them to be the laborers themselves! "You have been praying for men," He said, "and you are the very men yourselves." He puts His hands upon them one by one. "You prayed God to send out laborers, come here Matthew, come here Peter, James, John; I heard you pray as I told you, and behold I send you forth to work for Me." What if God, this morning, should move some of you to feel that men are perishing, and you cannot let them perish? What if you should pray, "Lord, send out men to save souls," and then He should put His hands on you, and say, "You are the man yourself. Behold I send you"?!
(See PRAY FOR on page 3)

I do not suppose the 12 dreamed for a moment that they would be sent forth to be reapers, but so the Lord of the harvest had decreed. Have I not some men here who, if they thought it over, would say, "Lord, I am of uncouth

DIVINE SURPRISES!

By C. H. Spurgeon

Dear Friends, I know that some of you can tell of instances in which the Presence of God has worked great surprises for you, and I can join you in doing so. If you have had rich experiences be sure to tell them to others. Perhaps you remember that a fortnight ago, on Sunday morning, I preached of Paul's deep experience [#1536—*Sentence of Death, the Death of Self-Trust*] and I said that the experiences of the saints were a treasure of which they were the trustees for the benefit of others. A well-known and beloved Brother in Christ was here that morning—I refer to Mr. W. Haslam, a clergyman of the Church of England—and he so fully agreed with the remark, that he carried it out by sending me a book in which he has written out the story of the first 20 years of his ministry.

I have much enjoyed the reading of the narrative, and to carry out the principle, I will now give you in brief, the story of Mr. Haslam's conversion as an instance of "things which we looked not for." You have all heard of Billy Bray, the Cornish

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OUR MASTER'S HOLY SPIRIT CAN BRING THE MOST OBSTINATE TO JESUS' FEET!

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Methodist who was so mighty in prayer. There was a certain hill that Billy was accustomed to pass, for which he prayed with all his might till he believed that his heavenly Father had given him that mountain, so that all the souls that lived on it should be saved. He visited all the houses, and obtained a blessing for the inhabitants, but as there were only three houses on the hill, he prayed, in his own simple way, that more might be built. It seemed an odd prayer, and the neighbors did not think it a wise one, but nevertheless it was fulfilled.

Some time later, when he visited that place, he found that Mr. Haslam had built a church and schools there, and his joy was great until he entered the church. At the sight of the surprised choir, and the ritualistic performance, poor Bray was greatly downcast, and said that it was nothing but an "old Roman church." Billy went home and set himself to praying, again, for that hill, but the fact was quite unknown to those who were the objects of his petitions. Soon the Lord hearkened to the cry of His servant, and it came to pass that the Lord visited Mr. Haslam. His gardener fell sick, and in the time of his illness his churchmanship failed to comfort him. A Methodist Brother visited him, and was the means of his conversion. When the man told Mr. Haslam that he was converted, he was very grieved and disappointed—he felt that he could never make Cornish men into Churchmen—they were confirmed schismatics.

His favorite and most promising Churchman, a Mr. Aitken, had become a Dissenter, and was actually praying that his master might become the same. What was to be done? Mr. Haslam had occasion to visit Mr. Aitken, and told him about the sad defection of the gardener. "Why," said Mr. Aitken, "you are not converted yourself! I am sure of it, or you would not have come here to complain of your gardener." Conviction came into Haslam's heart! His former hopes vanished, and in sadness he sought the Lord. Mr. Aitken said, "The best thing you can do is to shut the church up, and tell your people you will never preach again till you are converted." He could not do that, but on the next Sunday morning he went, ill and sad, to read the prayers, determined to send the people home as soon as they were finished.

Instead of that, his eyes lighted on the Text, "What think you of Christ?" and he thought he would make a few observa-

tions upon that question before dismissing the congregation. For the rest, I will quote his own words, lest I should seem to color the incident by telling it in my own language—"As I went on to explain the passage, I saw that the Pharisees and scribes did not know that Christ was the Son of God, or that He was come to save them. They were looking for a king, the son of David, to reign over them as they were. Something was telling me, all the time, 'You are no better than the Pharisees, yourself—you do not believe that He is the Son of God, and that He is come to save you any more than they did.' I do not remember all I said, but I felt a wonderful light and joy coming into my soul, and I was beginning to see what the Pharisees did not.

"Whether it was something in my words, or my manner, or my look, I know not, but all of a sudden a local preacher, who happened to be in the congregation, stood up, and, putting up his arms, shouted out in Cornish manner, 'The parson is converted! The parson is converted! Hallelujah!' And in another moment his voice was lost in the shouts and praises of three or four hundred of the congregation! Instead of rebuking this extraordinary 'brawling,' as I would have done in a former time, I joined in the outburst of praise; but to make it more orderly, I gave out the Doxology—'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow'—and the people sang it with heart and voice over and over again! When this subsided, I found at least 20 people crying for mercy, whose voices had not been heard in the excitement and noise of thanksgiving. They all professed to find peace and joy in believing. Among this number there were three from my own house—and we returned home praising God."

This is a memorable illustration of the statement that when God comes down among a people, He does things we looked not for! You may hope that the Divine Spirit will still display His Power over the most unlikely persons to the glory of His Grace. He can save the most obstinate, and bring any to the feet of Jesus. Plead with Him to do so!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1538, Volume 26—*Divine Surprises*—By the Grace of God read/download ALL 63 volumes of Spurgeon's sermons and over 550 Spanish translations at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

**Jesus Christ is the ONLY
way to God the Father!
Not Mary. Not Mohammed.
Not a future Messiah.
JESUS CHRIST
is the ONLY way!**

**HAS OUR LORD GRANTED YOU GRACE
TO TRUST HIM IN ALL THINGS?
THEN YOU ARE FAMILIAR
WITH ROMANS 8:28,
AND PRAISE HIM OFTEN
FOR THAT PROMISE!**

PRAY FOR LABORERS!

(Continued from page 1)

speech, and I cannot serve You as I would, but such as I have, I give You"? And, dear Brother, when you begin to talk about the Savior, you do not know how well you will succeed. And if you do not please yourself, that does not matter, if you please God. There is another, a man who has been dumb half his life, and yet, if he did but know it, he has force and power in him. "But I shall never preach," says one. If you do not preach, you can serve God another way. Could you not start a Prayer Meeting in your house? Some of you live in different parts of London, could you not commence such interests? Do something for Jesus! Some of you good women, could you not get young women together, and talk to them about the Savior? Yes, but perhaps I have some Brother here who has been smothering in his heart a desire to go into the missionary field. Brother, do not quench the Spirit! You may be missing your vocation while trying to suppress that desire! I would sooner you should burst into fanaticism, some of you, and become right down fools in enthusiasm, rather than remain as the Church now is, in a dead coolness, caring little for the souls of men. What do Christian people nowadays think of? If they hear about Japan, they say, "Oh, we shall have a new trade there!" But do they say, "Who among us can go to Japan to tell them of the Gospel?"

Do you not think that merchants, and soldiers, and sailors, and such like people who trade with distant parts of the world are the very persons to spread the Gospel? Should not a Christian man say, "I shall try and find a trade for myself which will bring me into contact with a class of persons that need the Gospel; and I will use my trade as the stalking horse for Christ. Since hypocrites use religion as a stalking horse for gain, I will make my trading subservient to my religion." "Oh," says one, "we can leave that to the Society." God bless the Society, and I was going to say, smother the Society rather than allow it to smother *personal* effort! We need our godly merchants, working men, soldiers, and sailors everywhere to feel, "I cannot go and get a proxy in the shape of a Society to do this for me. In the name of God I will do it myself, and have a share in this great battle." If you cannot labor, yourself, the Society is the grandest thing conceivable, for you may help others. But still the main cry from Christ is that you, yourself, should go into the highways and hedges, and as many as you find, compel them to come in to the Gospel feast! The world is dying! The graves are filling! Hell is boasting, and yet you have the Gospel! Can it be that you do not care to win souls, do not care whether men are damned or saved? The Lord wake us from this stony-hearted barbarity to our fellow men, and make us yearn over them, care about them, pray about them, and work for them till the Lord shall arise and send forth laborers into His harvest!

But I remember that some of you may very well be unconcerned about others, for you are unconcerned about yourselves! Oh, I do implore you, remain so no longer! Live not upon the brink of the grave without a Savior! Sport not between the jaws of Hell, but fly to Him, to Him who never did reject a sinner that came to Him, and never will! God hear you, for Jesus' sake. Amen.—(Adapted from Sermon #1127, Volume 19—HARVEST MEN NEEDED—By the Grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and 551 Spanish translations, visit: www.spurgeongems.org).



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

A Spirit of Love

But to preach Christ is not only "a work of faith," it is "a labor of love." I will not say that no man can do it in a certain sense, that is, with doctrinal correctness, without the Love of Christ in his heart; for St. Paul speaks of some in his day who preached Christ, "even of envy and strife, not sincerely," from selfish and evil motives. I will not prolong this address in enlarging on the elementary truth, that without a personal experience of the preciousness of Christ to our own souls, by each one's individual participation in the hope that rests on His justifying Righteousness, and is witnessed by the Sanctifying Power of His Spirit dwelling in us, we cannot preach Christ, according to His will, in His mind, in the tenderness, earnestness, patience, and godly wisdom, which alone became His ministry, however correct our teaching in a mere doctrinal aspect.

What I wish in these concluding words to insist on is the importance of a very earnest, tender, and overcoming love, to give living religion to our theology, and the mind of Christ to our teachings concerning Him. Two preachers, alike in accurate and full statement of all that is revealed concerning our blessed Lord and His Salvation, may be very different in the spiritual power of their ministry, and the difference will not depend so much on the superiority of talent, or of eloquence, or even diligence in one over the other, as on their compassion in point of love.

He will preach best who loves most! His preaching will go most to the heart, and will be attended with most of the "demonstration of the Spirit" who, in all he says and does, is most compelled by the Love of Christ, dictating, animating, sanctifying, with the tenderness and patient earnestness of his Master's mind, his whole discourse. Oh, that we were more earnest to grow in this Grace! What ought we to value in personal attainment compared with it? If you shall attain to the ministry, and find it fail in spiritual efficacy, inquire into the cause by searching the state of your hearts in regard to the Love of Christ therein, to what extent the aim, the zeal, the topics, the temper of your work, and the whole character of your personal example, are under the dominion of that Love."—From *Preaching Christ, The Heart of Gospel Ministry: An Address to Those Entering the Christian Ministry*, by Charles P. McIlvaine, Published by The Banner of Truth Trust Carlisle, PA. 2003.

Letters to Mike Gendron Of Proclaiming the Gospel: ptg@pro-gospel.org ~ www.pro-gospel.org

D. N., Kernersville, N.C. writes—Dear Mike: I read an article which said there are true believers who attend Roman Catholic churches. The question I receive most often is: “Can one be a Catholic and be saved?” I am fully aware of how far Billy Graham has gone in his affirmation of Roman Catholics. Thanks for your input, dear friend. Your ministry is more needed now than ever.

Brother Mike answers—Dear D. N., Since Catholic teachings nullify, oppose and pervert the Gospel of Grace, a Catholic must repent and believe the true Gospel to be converted to Christ. When that conversion is a reality, the Spirit of Truth will lead him out of that false and idolatrous religion as he abides in God’s Word, and is disciplined to observe everything Christ has commanded. There are biblical reasons why Christians cannot remain in the Catholic Church. Its teachings deny the sufficiency and efficacy of Christ’s finished Sacrifice on the Cross. In its place they embrace a corrupt religious system that offers a bloodless sacrifice of a Eucharistic Christ on an altar along with sacraments, purgatory and indulgences. Furthermore, Christians who desire to obey God’s Word will leave the Catholic Church and its grievous sin of idolatry. Paul commanded us to “flee from idolatry” (1 Cor 10:14), and to “turn from these worthless things to the living God” (Acts 14:15). Catholics who claim to be born-again, but refuse to submit to the authority of God’s Word, and leave their false religion, have most likely not received the Spirit of Truth.

N. M., Internet, writes—Brother Mike, I heard your radio interview on Worldview Weekend regarding Kenneth Copeland and Pope Francis seeking unity. Thank you for this timely, relevant and very important data. The video clip of the papal appeal to Copeland and his apostate response was beyond grievous. Luther, Wesley, Calvin, Knox, Zwingli, and the Anabaptist leaders would be physically sick if they had seen this apostate unification with Rome in their days. I believe that we are likely seeing the early stages of the forming of the great whore, one world, apostate, unified, false church of Revelation 17-18 before our very eyes. These are certainly incredible times in which we are living. Thanks for your vital ministry for our Lord, Savior and coming King Jesus. May He abundantly bless you for your labors.

J. G., Washington, writes—It is sad that you spend so much time looking for contradictions. If you understood the Catholic Faith and the Eucharist, you would never have left the Faith. Are you sure you were once a “devout Catholic?” Really, it is hard to believe. When I read the citations that you quote as contradictory, I see a unity of thought—though a bit complex. Are you that simple-minded that you really don’t understand these things?

Brother Mike responds:

The only unity of thought that is consistent throughout Roman Catholic teaching is a denial of the sufficiency of Christ’s fin-

ished work of redemption. The Gospel is clear enough for the simple-minded to understand and believe. But you are right, I am too simple-minded to understand why your religious leaders hold people captive in complex legalistic bondage instead of proclaiming the Truth of God that would set them free. Christ, as our only Mediator, conveyed Divine Truth perfectly. Why would you or anyone else trust other mediators? May God draw you to the resurrected, exalted and glorified Jesus instead of the “Jesus” your priest calls down from heaven every day.

Matt, Internet, writes—I am 17 years old and started dating a Catholic about a year ago. I found your web site and listened to your sermons and was amazed at what they teach. I began sharing the Gospel with my girlfriend. Eventually, after many long talks, she was saved. There is no way to explain it—just God! She comes from a long, unbroken line of Catholics. I want to share the Gospel with her family, too. Listening to your sermons just made me want to witness to everyone I see. You have a great ministry and I have grown so much through all this. It’s awesome. I will be praying for you.

K. M., Ontario, Canada, writes—I recently gave a 50 year-old Catholic woman a Bible because she had never owned one. She confessed that after reading it for a while, she could not find any Roman Catholic teachings such as Purgatory in it. When I told her she never would, she held her head in her hands in shock and said, “I have been brain-washed.” Please pray the Lord will use your tracts to open the eyes and hearts of many to the truth of God’s Word.

G. Z., Internet—I hear your heart striving hard against false teaching. If our churches in the Reformation tradition weren’t so full of false living there wouldn’t be room for false teaching. Once under Grace, if the Spirit of God is quenched and grieved, the sheep open themselves up to being “children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.” Not only is there an abundance of false living in the pew, but also in the pulpit—else there would still be discernment and, with it, liberating messages preached with much conviction.

A Nazarene Pastor willing to work side by side with Catholics writes—Your publication has to be the meanest, most prejudiced, unChrist-like, arrogant publication I’ve ever seen. You are a vicious bigot, and a half-informed kook.

PRAY OUR MASTER’S HOLY SPIRIT
WILL COMFORT AND ENCOURAGE
BROTHER MIKE.

“Thy Word Is Truth” - Part 3

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More Biblical contrasts: <http://www.bereanbeacon.org/>

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Biblical Truth

The Light of God's Word

God Hates Idolatry

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything...Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.” Exodus.20:4-5

“And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even Ten Commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone. Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spoke...**Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure....**” Deuteronomy 4:13, 15-16

“**Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen**” 1 John. 5:21

Biblical Truth

The Light of God's Word

The Pagan Practice of Communion with the Dead is Forbidden in the Bible

“There shall not be found among you, anyone...that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a **consulter with familiar spirits**, or a wizard, or a **necromancer**,” [one who calls up the dead]. Deuteronomy 18:10-11

“And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits [divination; contacting the dead], and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, **I will even set my face against that soul**, and will cut him off from among his people. Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I Am the Lord your God.” Leviticus. 20:6-7

More Biblical contrasts: www.bereanbeacon.org

New Catechism

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994)

The Roman Catholic Church Rationalizes Idolatry

“The Christian veneration of images is **not contrary to the first commandment which proscribes idols**. Indeed, the honor rendered to an image passes to its prototype, and **whoever venerates an image venerates the person portrayed in it**.” CCC Para 2132

“Basing itself on the mystery of the incarnate Word, the seventh ecumenical council at Nicaea (787) justified...the veneration of icons—of Christ, but also of the Mother of God, the angels, and all the saints. By becoming incarnate, the Son of God introduced a new ‘economy’ of images.” CCC Para 2131

New Catechism

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994)

The Pagan Practice of Communion with the Dead is Recommended by Rome

“**Communion with the dead**. In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the earliest days of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead...**Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective**.” CCC Para 958

“The witnesses who have preceded us into the kingdom, especially those whom the Church recognizes as saints, share in the living tradition of prayer...Their intercession is their most exalted service...**We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world**.” CCC Para 2683

HOW'S YOUR MEMORY?

By C. H. Spurgeon

Take care that if your memory is weak, you praise God while the mercy is newly born in your mind. Frequently it will help memory much to *set apart a little time for meditation*. A godly man and his wife were accustomed to take half-an-hour on Saturday evening to go over the mercies of the week—this is a good example.

But, says one, “I could not spare so much time.” No, no, I do not suppose you could, but you spare hours to grumble over the *miseries* of the week! “Oh, yes, we talk freely, when we get together, about our pains and our losses, and about the bad times. They are very bad now, are they not?” And you have all talked about them seven days a week for many a long week together. You have said 50 times, “I never saw such a season, there is no business, there is nothing stirring—there never was such stagnation.”

Now, as we all know all about that, and are pretty well agreed that it is true, could we now go on to something else, and could not the time which we waste in talking about our troubles be spent in meditating on our mercies?

See if you cannot spare half-an-hour with your wife for such an exercise as I have mentioned, and I believe that you would never spend 30 minutes more happily and profitably! Say, “Come, Wife, and help me. Help my memory and I will help

(See “*Help My Memory*” on page 7)

STUDY OF EPHESIANS 4:28**STOP STEALING, WORK HARD, AND GIVE —PART 5**

In the same way, stealing can be done by simply failing to be totally honest about his situation. If a person does not report all of his income to the IRS, he is stealing by failing to pay all the taxes he owes.

The employee who goofs off on the job is stealing time from his employer. A Christian employee can steal by using **company time to evangelize others**. If the company he works for specifies how the time is to be used, and an employee uses the time for something else, it is stealing.

One can also steal another person's thoughts and ideas. In writing and speaking we call this plagiarism. And preachers can be guilty of this, too. If a man preaches a sermon whose development has come largely from others, and credit is not given, and the implication is given that the thoughts and ideas are one's own, it is stealing.

Now let us consider something which underlies all that we have been saying about stealing. The reason that there can even be such a thing as stealing is because God in His Word teaches the right of ownership. In other words, for stealing to be possible, there must first of all be the right for people to call things their own. And this is exactly what we find in the Bible. The eighth commandment found in Exodus 20:15 says, "You shall not steal." This commandment assumes that it is right for people to have material possessions.

Now, someone may ask, Doesn't everything belong to God? Of course it does. But at the same time, God says that He has given the earth to man. In Genesis 1:28 we read that God said to Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Personal property is a biblical concept. Anything that is obtained by legitimate means may rightly be said to belong to the one who has obtained it. For instance, your car does not belong to anyone else. It belongs to you. The Bible says that is right and good. For anyone else to take your car is stealing.

At the end of our verse, the subject of giving to others is addressed. The very idea of giving also proves right of ownership. One cannot be said to give something to someone else unless it first of all belonged to him. And with the right of ownership comes the right to give it away if one pleases. Of course the Christian is to be generous with what he has. But, what he has which has been obtained by legitimate means, he is free to do with as he wants.—PF

(Lord willing, more next month).

Spurgeon Recalls His First Sermon

*"Unto you therefore which believe He is precious."
1 Peter 2:7.*

THIS Text calls to my remembrance the opening of my ministry. It is about eight years since, as a lad of 16, I stood up for the first time in my life to preach the Gospel in a cottage to a handful of poor people who had come together for worship. I felt my own inability to preach, but I ventured to take this Text, "Unto you therefore which believe He is precious." I do not think I could have said anything upon any other Text, but Christ was precious to my soul, and I was in the flush of my youthful love, and I could not be silent when a precious Jesus was the subject. I had but just escaped from the bondage of Egypt, I had not forgotten the broken fetter. Still did I remember those flames which seemed to burn about my path, and that devouring gulf which opened its mouth as if ready to devour me.

With all these things fresh in my youthful heart, I could speak of His preciousness who had been my Savior, and had plucked me as a brand from the burning, set me upon a rock, put a new song in my mouth, and established my goings. And now, at this time what shall I say? "What has God worked?" How has the little one become a thousand, and the small one a great people? And what shall I say concerning this Text but

that if the Lord Jesus was precious, then, He is as precious now? And if I could declare, then, that Jesus was the object of my soul's desire, that for Him I hoped to live, and for Him I would be prepared to die, can I not say, God being my witness, that He is more precious to me this day than ever He was? In the remembrance of His unparalleled mercy towards the chief of sinners, I must anew devote myself to Him, and afresh surrender my heart to Him who is Lord and King.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #242, Volume 5—*Christ Precious to Believers*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

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

PRAYED FOR YOUR PASTOR TODAY?

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

**PRAY FOR GRACE TO DESIRE TO SERVE
JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL YOUR SUBSTANCE.**

THE LORD GAVE AND THE LORD HAS TAKEN AWAY

By Pastor Henry Mahan

“**The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.**” Many people reading this portion of Scripture would say that Satan afflicted Job, and took away all that he possessed, but Job (like every true Believer) knew that the Lord is the first cause of all things. Satan and other second causes can only do what God is pleased to permit them to do (1 Sam 2:6-8; Acts 4:27-28; Isa 46:9-11).

“**THE LORD GAVE.**” Job did not say, “I earned these things; I deserve them, for they are the products of my hard work.” No! He said all that I have is the gift of God. “A man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven” (John 3:27; 1 Cor 4:7). All that I have physically, mentally, materially, and spiritually are the gifts of God. Even repentance toward God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are the gifts of God (Rom 2:4; Acts 11:18; Eph 2:8-9; Phil 1:29).

“**THE LORD HAS TAKEN A WAY.**” Job saw the hand of God in all that was taken. He did not curse the Sabians, the wicked Chaldeans, and blame the wind. He knew that the Lord God controlled all these things and that the Lord God had willed it, or it would not have happened (Rom 8:28). Aaron held His peace when His sons were killed, for he knew the Lord had done it (Lev 10:1-3; 1 Sam 3:18; Psa 39:9).

JOB DECLARED THAT IN ALL THINGS, AT ALL TIMES, GOD IS TO BE PRAISED! “Blessed be the name of the Lord.” To be able to praise God equally in the valley of trial, as on the mountain of joy ought to be the desire of every Believer (1 Cor 16:13-14). Paul sounds this note in 1 Thess 5:18. “In everything, (loss or gain, sickness or health, success or failure, summer or winter, life or death), GIVE THANKS! For this (whatever it is if you are in Christ) is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Gleaned from Bulletin of ZEBULON BAPTIST CHURCH—Tom Harding, Pastor

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ASK OUR LORD TO BLESS PASTOR MAHAN.

“HELP MY MEMORY”

(Continued from page 5)

yours. Let us remember what God has done for us this week.” Then go over your own story, and listen to her pleasant annotations.

I do not hesitate to say that my life story is as full of mercy as a honeycomb is full of sweetness when it drips with honey! How God has treated *you*, I do not know, but He has indulged me with such love that if He will only let me get into a corner in Heaven, and praise Him to all eternity, I will scarcely ask Him for anything else but the op-

portunity to adore Him.

I mean to bless Him whatever comes to me—I cannot help it! I have been so favored of Providence and Grace that if I were crushed into mortar, I think every little bit and fragment of me would bless and praise His holy name, “for He is good and His mercy endures forever.”

This is my advice, then, and I have not given it without having tried it myself—often meditate on what the Lord has done and that will help your memory.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1308, Volume 22—*The Recorders*—By God’s Grace, read/download all 63 volumes of Spurgeon’s sermons, and more than 550 Spanish translations at www.spurgeongems.org.

JOHN NEWTON (1725—1807) ON ASSURANCE

“Assurance grows by repeated conflict, by our repeated experimental proof of the Lord’s power and goodness to save when we have been brought very low and helped, sorely wounded and healed, cast down and raised again, have given up all hope and been suddenly snatched from danger and placed in safety. And when these things have been repeated to us and in us a thousand times over, we begin to learn to trust simply to the Word and power of God, beyond and against appearances—and this trust, when habitual and strong, bears the name of assurance—for even assurance has degrees.”—From *Fire and Ice* <http://www.puritansermons.com/>

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

WHAT OUR LORD MUST DO FOR US

By Pastor Tom Harding

“From that time forth began Jesus to show unto His disciples, how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day” (Matt 16:21). We hear much preaching in the realm of false religion that puts the whole emphasis upon the sinner, what he must do to be justified before God, always making salvation conditioned upon the performance of the sinner. However, when the Lord Jesus Christ plainly stated the way of salvation, He put the emphasis upon His performance, not ours (Psa 57:2; John 4:34; 2 Tim 1:9). Notice in the text the Lord states three things He must do to purchase, guarantee, and secure the salvation of God’s elect (2 Thess 2:13).

1. He must suffer at Jerusalem. It is true that our blessed Lord suffered at the hands of godless men, elders and chief priests and scribes. But the work wicked men performed is not the reason of our salvation. The Lord Jesus suffers not only at the hands of sinners, but also and most importantly at the hands and under the wrath of our holy God (Acts 4:26-28). As our Substitute, bearing our sin in His own body (1 Peter 2:24; 3:18), His soul made an offering for sin (Isa 53:10), the Lord Jesus Christ suffers the penalty for sin (2 Cor 5:21). God’s wrath is His holiness stirred into activity against sin (Hab 1:13).

2. He must be killed. Because God is Holy and His justice uncompromising where sin is found, the guilty must die (Ezk18:4; Rom 6:23). The penalty of God’s broken Law demands death (Rom 5:12). Salvation and deliverance from the penalty of sin demands the absolute necessity for Jesus Christ to die in our place as our blessed Surety, Sin Offering, and Substitute for our sin (Lam 1:12; Rom 8:32-35). The Lamb must be slain upon the Altar of God’s holiness to secure our salvation (Zech13:7; John 1:29; Isa 53:8; Matt 1:21).

3. He must be raised again. Our Lord’s resurrection from the dead declares all that He said as God’s Prophet to be true (Deut 18:18; John 12:49-50), all that He performed as God’s Christ to be satisfying and accepted (John 17:2-5; Rom 1:1-4). Our Lord Jesus Christ being raised from the dead declares His victory over sin by putting it away (Heb1:3; 10:14-17; Psalm 103:12), over death by conquering the grave (1 Cor15:57; Rev.1:18), over Satan by crushing his kingdom of darkness (Gen 3:15; Heb 2:14; 1 John 3:8). His resurrection guarantees the absolute certainty of all of God’s elect to be raised up and glorified with Him (John 6:37-39; 1 Cor 15:17-24).

Gleaned from Bulletin of ZEBULON BAPTIST CHURCH—Tom Harding, Pastor
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*“My sins, my sins, my Savior!
How sad on You they fall,
Seen through Your gentle patience
I tenfold feel them all!
I know they are forgiven
But still their pain to me
Is all the grief and anguish
They laid, my Lord, on Thee.”*

[CHS – Sermon #1016, Vol. 17 – Beauty for Ashes.]

Sovereign Grace Fellowship

905 Cattlemen Rd.
Sarasota, FL

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

Contact

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MY GOD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

There are times in prayer when you must be brought to the condition that you will not be denied. There is a holy “impudency,” as the Puritans were known to call it, to which we must be brought—in which we shall, with holy *boldness*, dare to say like Jacob, “I will not let You go unless You bless me.” Such language would be blasphemy if it were not permitted! It would be presumption if it were not encouraged! But there is little fear of our being too bold, for in these times men are more inclined to keep at a distance than to come too near. We are permitted to use the liberty of obedient, loving children. We are allowed, in the holy confidence of faith, to resolve that we will seek until we find; we will ask until we receive; we will knock until the door is opened unto us. Our case is urgent and we must press it till our suit is gained!—CHS

**DO YOU LOVE JESUS CHRIST?
TELL HIM!**

**DO ALL YOU DO
FOR THE GLORY OF CHRIST!**

BUT WHY DID YOU SEEK HIM?

By C. H. Spurgeon

“They shall praise the Lord that seek Him.”

Psalm 22:26

Brothers and Sisters, *we see cause for praise in the very fact that we ever sought the Lord at all.* Think what it was which made us seek Him—what but Sovereign Grace? What wet our eyes with the first tears of repentance? What fetched from our soul the first sigh of desire after Christ? What, I say, but GRACE?

And from where came that Grace but from His eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus before the world was? And from where that purpose but from His Divine Sovereignty, even as it is written, “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion”?

Therefore let us glorify His holy name, and think not of works or merits, or anything in man that could have won for us the love of the Most High! Boasting is excluded, but praise is secured! Give all the praise to His holy name forever and forever, and let the text stand true in your case, “They shall praise the Lord that seek Him.”

Our final thought on this shall be, if these things are so, let us praise the Lord, even we who have sought Him! If our poor friends, the seekers, are soon to bless His name, let us show them the way! We sought and we found—let us magnify the Lord at once!

Do you think we praise our heavenly Father half enough? Do we not rob Him of His Glory by getting down in the dumps and giving way to care and, perhaps, to murmuring? This is not the right spirit for a Christian! Where there is so much undeserved mercy, there ought to be more grateful joy! Do you think we are demonstrative enough in our praise? I am sure we are not! Few around us would ever *dream* that we were half as favored as we are!

Do we sing one-tenth as much as Christians ought to sing? We hum over a tune, now and then, very quietly, but we are terribly afraid of being heard, and of annoying people. I do not find the giddy world much afraid of annoying us with *their* songs—do they not wake us up at night with their lewd discords?

If we were half as earnest as we ought to be, we should sometimes, at least, make the streets ring with the praises of God! It would be well to be a little indiscreet occasionally, and now and then provoke the charge of fanaticism—for this would be a proof of earnest sincerity!

Once, at least, in our lives we should let our Lord ride through the streets, again, in public triumph amid our own most hearty enthusiasm till Pharisees rebuke us, and say, “Do you hear what these say?”—“*Oh, for this love let rocks and hills, their lasting silence break! And all harmonious human tongues, their Savior’s praises speak.*”

Yes, and all inharmonious tongues, too! Let all creatures that have breath praise the Lord—“*Yes we will praise You, dearest Lord, our souls are all on flame. Hosanna round the spacious earth to Your adored name!*”

May the Lord set our hearts on fire! May we be full of exulting praise, marching on with hosannas and hallelujahs, magnifying, praising, and extolling the Lord whom we sought in the hour of trouble and whom we found in the day of His Grace!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software.—Sermon #1312, Volume 22—*Good News for Seekers*—Read/download all 63 volumes of Spurgeon’s sermons, and more than 550 Spanish translations at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>

SOME DEEP THOUGHTS

By C. H. Spurgeon

How sweet it is to feel the touch of the humanity of Christ WHEN WE ARE HUMBLED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. I know not, Brethren, whether you are often favored to behold the shining of the Divine Glory, and to feel the warmth of it in your own soul. This I know—if you are, you find it a wearing and breaking joy! If we had more of it, it might be a destroying delight, for “even our God is a consuming fire,” and when we come nearest to Him and best understand that He is Love, the glory of that Love overcomes us! We cannot eat much honey, neither can we endure much sensible enjoyment of the Divine Glory—I mean much *comparatively*, for, of course, it is much to us, but it is not much compared with what He could reveal if we were able to endure it.

I wonder what we would have done if we had known so much of God, and had not known Christ! I suppose I am speaking paradoxically, and saying what I should not say, for we never could have known God, except in Jesus Christ, in such a way as we do know Him. But if such a thing had been possible, it must have been destructive to us. But now, God in Jesus Christ, how blessed! God *out* of Christ, we know nothing of, nor need we. Luther used to say, “I will have nothing to do with an absolute God.” Beware of attempting to deal with God apart from the Mediator, for no man comes unto the Father but through His Son, Christ Jesus. Thus have we felt the touch of the human hand strengthening us when we have fallen prostrate under a deep sense of the Glory of God.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software.—Sermon #1295, Volume 22—*Our Lord’s Humanity a Sweet Source of Comfort*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

IS YOUR HEART RIGHT?

By A. W. Pink, 1889-1952

Many people place great expectations in varied circumstances and conditions. One thinks he could serve God much better if he were more prospered temporally; another, if he passed through the refining effects of poverty and affliction. One thinks his spirituality would be promoted if he could be more retired and solitary; another, if only he could have more society and Christian fellowship. But, my Reader, the only way to serve God better is to be content with the place in which He has put you and, therein, *get a better heart!* We shall never enter into the advantages of any situation, nor overcome the disadvantages of any condition until we fix and water the roots of them in ourselves. It is out of *the heart* are the “issues of life,” and not from our surroundings. “Make the tree good *and* his fruit good” (Matt. 12:33)—get the heart right and you will soon be superior unto all “circumstances.”

“But how can I get my heart right? Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots?” Answer, you are creating your own difficulty by confounding “heart” with “nature”—they are quite distinct. It is important to recognize this, for many are confused thereon. There has been such an undue emphasis upon the “two natures in the Christian,” that often it has been lost sight of that the Christian is *a person* over and above his two natures. The Scriptures make the distinction clear enough. For example, God does not bid us keep our “nature,” but He does our “heart.” We do not believe with our “nature,” but we do with our “hearts” (Rom. 10:10)! God never tells us to “rend” our nature (Joel 2:13), “circumcise” our nature (Deut. 10:16), “purify” our nature (James 4:8), but He does our “hearts”! The “heart” is the very center of my responsibility and to deny that I am to improve and keep it, is to repudiate human accountability.

It is the Devil who seeks to persuade people that they are not responsible for the state of their hearts and may no more change them than they can the stars in their courses. And the “flesh” within finds such a lie very agreeable to its case. But he who has been regenerated by the Sovereign Grace of God cannot, with the Scriptures before him, give heed unto any such delusion. While he has to deplore how sadly neglected is the great task which God has set before him; while he has to bemoan his wretched failure in making his heart what it ought to be, nevertheless, he desires to do better; and after his duty has been pressed upon him—as it now has upon the readers of these articles—he will daily seek Grace to better discharge his duty and, instead of being totally discouraged by the difficulty and greatness of the work required, he will cry the more fervently to the Holy Spirit for His power.

The Christian who means business will labor to have a “willing” heart (Exo 35:5)—which acts spontaneously and gladly, not of necessity. A “perfect” heart (1 Chron 29:9)—sincere, genuine, upright. A “tender” heart (2 Chron 34:27)—yielding and pliable, the opposite of hard and stubborn. A “broken” heart (Psa 34:18)—sorrowing over all failure and sin. A “united” heart (Psa 86:11)—all the affections centered on God. An “enlarged” heart (Psa 119:32)—delighting in *every* part of Scripture, and loving *all* God’s people. A “sound” heart (Prov 14:30)—right in doctrine and practice. A “merry” heart (Prov 15:15)—rejoicing in the Lord always. A “pure” heart (Matt 5:8)—hating all evil. An “honest and good heart” (Luke 8:15)—free from guile and hypocrisy, willing to be searched through and through by the Word. A “single” heart (Eph 6:5)—desiring only God’s Glory. A “true” heart (Heb 10:22)—genuine in all its dealings with God.

The duty of keeping the heart with the utmost diligence is binding upon the Christian at all times: there is no period or condition of life in which he may be excused from this work. Nevertheless, there are distinctive seasons, critical hours, which call for more than a common vigilance over the heart and it is a few of these which we would now contemplate, seeking help from above to point out some of the most effectual aids unto the right accomplishment of the task God has assigned us. General principles are always necessary and beneficial, yet details have to be furnished if we are to know how to apply them in particular circumstances. It is this lack of definiteness which constitutes one of the most glaring defects in so much modern ministry. Mere generalizations and platitudes are substituted for specific instructions and God has good reason to complain, today, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6).—From *Studies in the Scriptures*, September 1933—Read/download at <http://www.eternallifeministries.org/pink/studies.htm>.

Continued next month, Lord willing.

**Pray it is the Lord’s will to use
Brother Allan Roman’s Web site
<http://www.spurgeon.com.mx>**

**to draw hundreds of millions of Spanish-speaking
Roman Catholics
to His Son, JESUS CHRIST.**

Christians are dying all over the world
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Are you
praying for persecuted Believers?

**WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DIE
FOR YOUR LORD AND
SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST?**

JESUS CHRIST, THE UNIQUE ONE

By Daniel E. Parks

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This world has seen thousands of religious leaders. But Jesus Christ is unique among them all. We see this in the four biographies of Him in the Holy Scriptures from God. They are the Gospels, or reports of good news and glad tidings, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In them we are taught the following regarding Jesus Christ, and surely see how He differs from all other religious leaders.

- He did not start a new religion, but rather fulfilled hundreds of God-given prophecies from the dawn of creation regarding the Lord and Savior of God's people.
- He is the only person of whom God said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"
- He came to make peace, and never participated in a crusade or holy war or any other act of hostility.
- He came to serve others, not to be served.
- He came to save, not to condemn, and fully succeeded in His mission.
- He preached the Gospel to the poor, comforted the brokenhearted, proclaimed liberty to captives, and liberated the oppressed.
- He performed miracles to benefit others, but would not do so to benefit Himself.
- He walked everywhere He went, and did not ride about in style.
- He went about doing good, and never did bad.
- He, like every other man, was tempted by Satan; but unlike every other man, He did not succumb to the devil.
- He went to aid those whom others shunned, such as Samaritans despised by both Jews and Gentiles.
- He graciously touched those whom others considered untouchables, such as lepers.
- He came to call sinners, not the self-righteous.
- He received those whom others rejected, such as tax collectors, the sexually immoral, and other such outcasts.
- He turned the harlot into a virtuous woman, the robber into a philanthropist, the sinner into a saint.
- Even little children gravitated to Him, and He welcomed them.
- He caused the sick to be well, the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the mute to speak, the paralyzed to move, the epileptic to be calm.
- He never charged for doing so, and even told the healed to not tell that He had healed them.
- He delivered those who were possessed by demons, so that they were found at His feet sitting, clothed, and in their right minds.
- He raised the dead, and was never responsible for the death of anyone.
- He commanded the winds and the waves – and they obeyed Him.
- He lived a life full of sorrow, and it is never recorded that He laughed.
- He wept over sinners.
- He obeyed every law of the nation in which He lived—and the only people who said otherwise were known to be false witnesses.
- He perfectly and completely fulfilled the Law of God—and God Himself said so.
- He never involved Himself in politics.
- He never participated in a public protest, nor urged His followers to do so.
- He even withdrew Himself from those who wanted to forcibly make Him their king.
- He never coerced anyone to follow Him, and all His followers are willing volunteers.
- He voluntarily lived in poverty, not in luxury.
- When He died, His only earthly possessions were the clothes He then was wearing.
- He, when in the malicious hands of those intent on destroying Him, could have called for legions of angels to deliver Him; He instead practiced what He preached by turning the other cheek, and suffering persecution for righteousness' sake.
- He prayed for those who killed Him.
- He died in the place of sinners, and suffered God's wrath deserved by them, and saved everyone for whom He died, so that not one of them will perish.
- He was raised from the dead, and received into Glory, where He now sits at God's right hand, waiting for the day when He will return to the earth and judge the world.
- He alone is my Lord and Savior, for I believe on Him, and trust in Him, and follow Him. **Do you?**

**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 the children of inmates.

In This Issue...

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

DOES THIS MEAN I CAN'T RELY ON THE “VIRGIN OF THE TORTILLA”?

By C. H. Spurgeon

The Apostle Peter, after he has described Christ upon the mount as manifesting Himself to His servants in the Transfiguration, declares, “We have a more sure word of prophecy.” What? More sure than the Transfiguration? Yes, more sure, even, than the evidence of their eyes when they saw their Lord glorified upon the holy mountain! If you have ever been upon the mountain with Christ, and if you have seen all His brightness, you are still not to compare, even, the sight of your eyes when they see the best and brightest that they can see, with the Word of Testimony which must be sure—the Light of God that shines in a dark place! All the heavenly experiences which we have ever had are not to be trusted in comparison with the Word of God!

I say it advisedly—even the sweetest communion we have ever had with Christ may, after all, be suspect, and, indeed, it is upon such ripe fruit that Satan soon sets his hand that he may rob us of its savor, if possible, for he is not slow to cast doubts upon the holiest joys of God’s Elect. There may come a time when we shall fear that we were carried away by excitement, or deluded by fanaticism, but He who speaks the Word of Scripture cannot lie! And when His Spirit speaks that same Truth of God into the soul, we have, therein, a testimony which never can be doubted but must be accepted over the head of everything. “Let God be true and every man a liar”—*ourselves* and all—all liars as compared with the eternal Truths of the Revelation of God the Holy Spirit!

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1559, Volume 26—*Tokens for Good*—Read/download all 63 volumes of Spurgeon’s sermons, and more than 550 Spanish translations at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.