

FOR HIS GLORY

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A second reason of the sinner's inability to believe lies in the fact that *the Gospel is true*. "No," you reply, "that is precisely why we *would* believe it." Yes, but what does Jesus say in John 8:45? He says, "Because I tell you the truth, you believe Me not." Strange reason for not believing a statement—because it is true! Yet there are thousands of individuals whose capacity for believing a lie is enormous—while their ability for accepting the Truth of God appears to have gone from them. When religious impostors have arisen, the very men who have heard the Gospel from their youth up and have not received it because it is *true*, have become dupes of imposition at once!—
CHS



WORSHIP, OR SUPERSTITION?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

WE ALL need to be firm and strong about the superstitions which are too often associated with religious worship. Remember, God is to be worshipped and only God! That is the essence of the First Commandment. And God is to be worshipped in His own way—that is the essence of the Second Commandment. The first is, "You shall have no other God," and the second, virtually, is, "You shall not make any graven image to represent God, nor bow down to it, nor worship it." Moses made the rebellious people *drink* their god as a punishment! But in these times persons live among us who literally *eat* their god as an act of devotion!

The high spiritual mystery in which we are described as spiritually feeding upon our Lord Jesus has my deepest and most solemn reverence, but the superstitious opinion that men can and do literally *eat the flesh* of Christ under the form of consecrated bread awakens my abhorrence and disgust! The worship of what is called the "Blessed Sacrament" is as vile an idolatry as the worship by the Egyptians of onions and other pot herbs which grew in their own gardens! There is not a pin to

choose between the one and the other and yet this is getting to be common! Bread, which is nothing but bread and when you have said all you can say over it, still remains bread, must not be produced in a court of law, or if it is so produced, a great bishop, who should know better, assures his brethren that he has taken care that it is reverently consumed!

I wonder what became of the moldy bread? Oh, that ever I, an Englishman, should be forced to believe that another Englishman in this 19th century reverences the baker's paste! Great God in Heaven, is this the country of Latimer? Is this the land of Gospel Light? Or have we clean gone back to Rome and all its idolatries? I want you to be very stiff and straight about this! Do not pay religious honor to *anything* which can be seen by the eyes! Worship no symbol, however ancient! Worship only God! Abhor every act which approximates to reverence paid to pictures, *images*, crucifixes, wafers, chalices, or altars! Away with the whole idolatrous business—no epithet of scorn will be misapplied if it is turned against these supersti-

(See Worship? on page 3)

THINK ABOUT IT!

By C. H. Spurgeon

What must be the terror of the punishment which will fall upon those men who reject the atoning blood and who will have to stand before God in their own proper persons to suffer for their sins? I will tell you, Sirs, with pain in my heart as I tell you, what will happen to those of you who reject my Lord!

Jesus Christ, my Lord and Master, is a sign and prophecy to you of what will happen to *you*. Not in a garden, but on that bed of yours where you have so often been refreshed—you will be surprised and overtaken—and the pains of death will get hold upon you.

With an exceedingly sorrow and remorse for your misspent life and for a rejected Savior you will be made very miserable. Then will your darling sin, your favorite lust, like another Judas, betray you with a kiss!

While yet your soul lingers on your lips, you will be seized and taken off by a body of evil ones and carried away to the bar of God, just as Jesus was taken to the judgment

(See Think! on page 2)

INSIDE:

Letters to Mike Gendron of Proclaiming the Gospel	4
The Perfect Church and How to Obtain It—PF	6
What Every Catholic Should Know—Richard Bennett	8
Lo que todo Catolico deberia saber—Richard Bennett	9

THINK!

(Continued from page 1)
seat of Caiaphas.

There shall be a speedy, personal, and somewhat private judgment by which you shall be committed to prison where, in darkness, weeping and wailing, you shall spend the night before the great assize of the Judgment Morning. Then shall the day break and the resurrection morning come, and as our Lord then appeared before Pilate, so will you appear before the highest tribunal, not that of Pilate, but the dread Judgment Seat of the Son of God whom you have despised and rejected!

Then will witnesses come against you, not false witnesses, but true—and you will stand speechless, even as Jesus said not a word before His accusers. Then will Conscience and Despair buffet you! You will become such a monument of misery, such a spectacle of contempt as to be fitly noted by another *Ecce Homo*, and men shall look at you and say, “Behold the man and the suffering which has come upon him because he despised his God and found pleasure in sin.”

Then you shall be condemned. “Depart, you cursed,” shall be your sentence, even as, “Let Him be crucified” was the doom of Jesus. You shall be taken away by the officers of Justice to your doom. Then, like the sinner’s Substitute, you will cry, “I thirst,” but not a drop of water shall be given you! You shall taste nothing but the gall of bitterness. You shall be executed publicly with your crimes written over your head that all may read and understand that you are justly condemned.

And then will you be mocked as Jesus was, especially if you have been a professor of religion and a false one! All that pass by will say, “He saved others, he preached to others, but himself he cannot save.” God Himself will mock you! No, think not that I dream! Has He not said it—“I, also, will laugh at your calamity. I will mock when your fear comes”? Cry unto your gods that you once trusted in! Get comfort out of the lusts you once delighted in, O you that are cast away forever! To your shame and to the confusion of your nakedness, you that have despised the Savior shall be made a spectacle of the justice of God forever.

It is right it should be so. Justice rightly demands it. Sin made the Savior suffer in agony—shall it not make you suffer? Moreover, in addition to your sin, you have rejected the Savior. You have said, “He shall not be *my* trust and confidence.” Voluntarily, presumptuously and against your own conscience you have refused eternal life! And if you die rejecting mercy, what can come of it but that first, your sin, and secondly, your unbelief, shall condemn you to misery without limit or end? Let Gethsemane warn you! Let its groans, tears and bloody sweat admonish you! Repent of sin and believe in Jesus! May His Spirit enable you, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon No. 1199, Volume 20—*The Agony of Gethsemane*—Read/download entire sermon on 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!**

Only a Fool Would Believe The Lie That a Pope Is Infallible!

By C. H. Spurgeon

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

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

Why, the popes err in trifles, how much more in great matters? In Disraeli’s, “Curiosities of Literature,” is the following amusing incident, under the head of, “Errata” [plural of erratum—an error in printing or writing]—“One of the most conspicuous of all literary blunders is that of the edition of the Vulgate, by Sixtus V.

“His Holiness carefully superintended every sheet as it passed through the press and, to the amazement of all the world, the world remained without a rival—it swarmed with errors! A multitude of scraps were printed to satiate the erroneous passages, in order to give the true text. The book makes a whimsical appearance with these patches and the heretics exulted in this demonstration of papal infallibility!

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

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

WORSHIP?

(Continued from page 1)

tions! I will not now quote the words of ridicule which our fathers poured upon this wickedness, but I beseech you follow them in sternly refusing by word, or look, or sign, to pay the slightest regard for objects of superstitious reverence, lest by mingling with the heathen you incur their guilt!

These idolatrous Israelites would have pleaded that they did not worship the golden calf but they worshipped Jehovah under the figure of a bull—and then they said, “See what a beautiful emblem it is! The bull is the image of strength and God is almighty! How instructive it is! The ox plows our fields and so produces our harvests—what a teaching symbol of the goodness of God! Many of the common people will learn more from this than from a sermon.” Certain artistic people would add, each one in his own manner, “This symbolic worship is so tasteful that it helps me to worship. When I was in the camp and there was no golden image, I could never enter into such a bare worship, but I greatly admire this decorous and hearty service! The extemporary prayers of Moses and his brother were too poor for me. That beautiful bull is aesthetic and awakens thought and emotion and the ceremonies of Apis is, to my mind, quite a model. Give me a little of Israelite-Egyptian, in which you have the old embellished by the new and, by the help of music and genuflections I can, indeed, adore!” You know who they are who talk in this fashion nowadays! [And in the 21st Century!]

Afterwards came the popular sports—for it is written of the people “they ate and they drank and they rose up to play”—the superstitious are usually fond of vain amusements. The Laudean churchman admired The Book of Sports. The Book of Sports usually gets upon the same shelf as the Book of Ceremonies. “Oh, that is the religion for me,” cries one, “none of your straight-laced talk about worshipping God in spirit and in truth.” My Brothers and Sisters, I want you to feel that you are on God’s side about this, for every symbol, I repeat it—whether *image*, picture, bread, or whatever you please—must be denounced if it is set up as an object of worship! Whereas the bread and wine are appointed by our Lord Jesus to be used for a memorial of Him, they are so to be used with loving thoughtfulness, but we must not, we *dare* not, pay the slightest worship to them, for that were to make sin of the blackest dye out of the most tender of all memories.

The next point is, I would to God we were on the Lord’s side in view of the sinful amusements which appear to have such charms for many that even Christian people go quite as far as they should in reference to them. When they had bowed before this golden calf, they “rose up to play,” and very pretty play it was. It does not bear explanation. There is about the world a good deal of this “playing.” Beware, I pray you, of every amusement which prevents your redeeming the time, or tends to pollute the mind. There are recreations of a healthy, manly, refreshing kind—but those which are of no possible service to you are unprofitable. The same spirit which made the Puritan refuse to reverence the so-called holy days and holy things of superstition led him so to reverence God and His sacred Law that he would not join in the debasing amusements of the period, which were, indeed, so gross, as a rule, that even irreligious people would not, in these times, endure them!

We have somewhat of the same protest to bear and we must not flinch from it. We have better joys than the wanton and the foolish can bring to us. We say of a pastime—if this is pure and clean, if this is health-giving to the body, or restful and invigorating to the mind—we are not led by any old-fashioned whim to denounce it and we do *not* denounce it. But if about it

there is a taint of vice or a temptation that way, or if it is mere folly, we cannot endure it. We venture not where Jesus would not have gone! We would not go where we should be afraid to die, or should tremble to hear the trumpet announcing the coming of the Lord! This is stern teaching—are you enough on the Lord’s side to bear it? I pray God to put backbones into modern professors! Every other part of their bodies seems to grow firm except their spinal column, which remains soft and easily distorted. We need to be made resolute and faithful on the Lord’s side!

“Oh,” says one, “these are small points.” Yes, but I want you to be like the Spartan who painted on his shield a fly. “Your escutcheon is very small,” said one. “True,” he said, “but I hold it very close to the enemy.” If our points of conscience seem to be small, so much the more need that we hold them in the very faces of those who think little of the things of God! A small point where God is involved is a great matter! Trifling with small things leads to trifling with great things! Lastly, we need a firm decision for God and bold acknowledgment of it in this day of general tampering with principle. Numbers of people whom we meet say, “You are right, no doubt, but—.” Now, the Christian way of talking is, “If it is right we know no, ‘but!’” “Oh, yes,” says one, “I agree that it is the straight thing and yet—.” A genuine Christian has no, “and yet’s.”

If words plainly mean such-and-such a thing, he uses them in that sense and not in an unnatural sense. And he never dares to say, “I know that such-and-such things are wrong and they trouble my conscience, but still, you see, I am doing a vast amount of good and we must submit to a little evil in order to gain a great good.” The plain Christian will do no evil that good may come—he loathes the Jesuitical notion! He believes that it is a great evil to attempt to do good by doing evil! To him, truth, right, the teaching of God, the will of Christ, are supreme objects. Oh, that you all possessed this spirit and were steadfast in it! In your family circle, in your business—everywhere—be true, be thorough, be upright, be godlike, be Christ-like and may the Divine Spirit help you to this, for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1531, Volume 26—*On Whose Side Are You?*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

Pray for the children
of our incarcerated
Brothers and Sisters.

PRAY FOR THE REGENERATION OF
GAYS AND LESBIANS.

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

Letters to Mike Gendron Of Proclaiming the Gospel:

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Kathy, Internet, writes—The power of the Holy Spirit has gently pulled me out from under the filthy skirts of the Catholic Church after 40 years. I ask that you pray for me and my family as we heal from the pain of this strong delusion and deception. It is in my heart to evangelize Catholics, allowing God to develop in me the skills I will need to fulfill His calling in my life without the enemy holding me back. I have suffered at the hands of abusive nuns and priests and forgiven them, but I feel called and led to do something. I cannot continue to sit around because Jesus is coming soon.

M. W., Priest River, ID, writes—Thank you for your service to Jesus Christ and for being a part of the Stealing the Mind Bible Conference. I'm still trying to absorb it all. I especially want to thank you, Mike, both for your anointed message and your trust in the Lord. I must confess my confidence in the body of Christ to be men of integrity is challenged at times. You put together the Equipping the Saints package of materials for me and trusted the Lord for payment. Your faith strengthened my faith in the Lord and reminded me that He still moves among His people.

L. T., Eureka, CA, writes—Your tract, *Oxymoron*, is to the point—not wordy. People soon get the message that Biblical Christianity and Roman Catholicism stand in opposition to one another. There are many people who tell me that they know Catholics who are Christians. My question to them is—“If they are Christians, what are they doing in a church opposed to Christ and His Word?”

P.M., Depew, NY, writes—Thank you so much for “being there” in your ministry! I can't tell you how excited I am at the prospect of finally having materials that document the truth for Catholics. I can't praise and thank the Lord enough for allowing me to finally have this answer to prayer! There are so many which I desire to reach.

M. F. Warwick, NY, writes—You have made a real difference in the world around you. I pray that I, too, could bring many Catholics the Truth of God and they will be set free. The loving way that you are able to be so bold is, indeed, a gift.

P.N., Las Cruces, N. M., writes—Recently, I participated in handing out your tract, *The Greatest Gift*, to many Roman Catholics, attending a “Mariachi Mass.” It was so unbelievable—all except three accepted the tract with open hands. Between five of us, we handed out over 700 tracts. Praise God! Our small group is already making plans to “Proclaim the Gospel” at another RCC event which will be held in December. This one is where Catholics climb a mountain to do penance in hopes of achieving Heaven. In the past, some have carried crosses, tires, chains and some will even walk bare-footed. My heart goes out to them because they fail to understand the simple plan of salvation.

A. B., Northbrook, IL, writes—About two years ago we started a Bible study at our house and our teacher was an ex-Catholic. When I asked questions about the difference between the Bible and the Catholic Church, he did not provide me with satisfactory answers. So I decided to search on the internet and found your website. I read all your articles and ordered your tapes which I showed to my brother and his wife who were still going to the Catholic Church. Now his family is saved and has left the Catholic Church. My heart goes to Catholics who are so deceived—including my parents and other siblings.

D. N., Garland, TX, writes—As a Protestant teaching at a Catholic school, I was placed on probation for looking up your website on campus. I tried to explain that the website is not anti-Catholic, it's just an organization that proclaims the Truth of God. I am in an unusual situation because students say I know more about the Bible than their theology teachers. Now I'm off probation but forbidden to access your website.

Glenn, Internet, writes—You give the Magisterium too much credit for being clever. No group of humans are smart enough to twist the Scriptures to mean something other than they were intended and maintain harmony with the Scriptures. Not possible. The gift of infallibility actually puts restrictions on their ability to interpret, guard and teach the Scriptures. It prevents them from being fickle or careless in their responsibility. Protestantism, without a Magisterium, has splintered over the past 500 years into 30,000 different denominations. Where is the unity that Jesus prayed for? (John 17:21). That, alone, is a sign that a Magisterium led by the Holy Spirit is necessary, so that there can be unity in our belief.

Brother Mike responds—If you divide all “Christian” faiths into two groups—those who have an infallible interpreter of Scripture and those who uphold the doctrine of “Sola Scriptura,” you will find a greater degree of unity in the latter group. In the first group of “infallible interpreters” you have the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox, the Mormons, along with hundreds of other cults. When you compare the teachings of these “infallible interpreters,” you see no unity at all, only doctrinal chaos and binding legalistic indoctrination. There is so much disunity within this group of religions that they call each other heretics. Now compare the teachings within the second group—denominations who submit to the authority of Scripture alone. Here you find complete unity around the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each member of this group refers to one another as Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Yes, there is disunity in some non-essential doctrines such as the timing of Christ's return, methods of baptism, church government, etc., but there is no disunity on the sufficiency, efficacy and necessity of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

G. N., Las Vegas, NV, writes—I enjoyed your presentation at the Spokane Stealing the Mind conference. It was exciting to see the sell-out crowds hungry to sharpen their swords for the Lord. I was raised in a Catholic home, but have now put my trust in the sufficiency of Jesus for my salvation. Praise Him! The work to tell so many Catholics the Truth is a daunting task, yet a great privilege. Your work is an encouragement and blessing as I seek opportunities to tell my family the Good News!

C. J. Lilly, GA, writes—I recently received a number of the tape sets from the Reaching Catholics for Christ Conference and am busily distributing them to my friends, family, pastors and also to the Young Adult class which I teach. I feel that the embrace of Catholicism by the evangelical world is of major concern, so I try to inform as many people as I can about the issue. Please pray these tapes will have a positive impact on those who hear them.

PRAY OUR MASTER'S HOLY SPIRIT
WILL HOLD UP BROTHER GENDRON
AND KEEP HIM SAFE!

TO WHICH HEAVEN ARE YOU GOING?

I once heard the officiating minister of a funeral say of the dearly departed, “The Lord needed help preparing the marriage feast of the Lamb, so He called our dear Sister home.”

I suppose that if I attended enough of that sort of funeral that I would eventually hear, “The Lord called Sister Taylor home because He needed help making all the garments for that wedding.” And, “The Lord called Brother Carpenter home because He needed help making all the tables for that wedding feast.” I wonder what such a preacher would say when conducting the funeral of a septic tank cleaner?

That preacher’s Heaven is not the Heaven of God and His Christ! God’s Heaven is a Kingdom prepared by Himself, alone, before the foundation of the world (Matt 25:34). The habitations in Heaven are being prepared by Christ (John 14:2), and He is the Lord God Almighty who does not need the help of you or me or anyone else! The wedding feast is Christ (John 6:53), and God prepared that meal in Christ’s Incarnation. The heavenly garment is Christ (Rev 19:8), and Christ worked that righteous robe during His incarnation. Christ is the light of Heaven (Rev 21:23) and everything else that makes Heaven to be Heaven!

Who wants to go to a Heaven in which he must work to help God? It is one who denies God’s Omnipotence and deludes himself into believing God needs his help! It is one who denies Christ’s Sufficiency and deludes himself into believing he can supply what Christ lacks! It is one who denies Heaven is a place of rest and believes earthly toils yet continue there. It is one who believes the works he performed while alive on earth were so pleasing to God that God considers him qualified to work in Heaven, doing for God’s children what God cannot do Himself! It is the idolatrous works-religionist, vainly endeavoring to be saved by his own works instead of God’s Grace, thinking it is better to have a god of his own workmanship rather than being God’s workmanship (see Ephesians 2:8-10). And being dissatisfied with the Heaven God has prepared, he deludes himself into thinking he can contribute to its betterment.

I do not want to go to that Heaven! That Heaven would be Hell to me!

To which Heaven are you going?—**Daniel E. Parks**

**PRAY YOUR PASTOR WILL STUDY THE
DOCTRINES OF THE
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH TO
DETERMINE IF IT IS TRULY “CHRISTIAN”
OR NOT—AND IF NOT—TO HAVE THE
COURAGE TO EXPOSE ITS LIES AND
BLASPHEMIES!**

DO YOU KNOW CHRIST
BY SEEING HIM IN
HIS WORD?

PRAY!

*Proverb 12:1—Whoever
loves instruction loves
knowledge, But he who
hates correction
is stupid.*

Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge—This “knowledge” is foremost “the knowledge of the Holy One” (Prov 9:10), that of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He who loves such knowledge will love instruction regarding Him through the means of—

Holy Scriptures (2 Tim 2:15-17)—“The Holy Scriptures...are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

The Gospel (Romans 1:17): “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed.”

Gospel ministers—“instructors in Christ” (1 Cor 4:14). They are “pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ” (Eph 4:11-15).

Afflictions (Psalm 119:71, 67): “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes...Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.”

But he who hates correction is stupid—The most stupid thing a man ever does is reject the truth regarding the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which alone can provide the saving correction his soul needs. Here are “those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thess 2:10-12).—**Daniel E. Parks**

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Study of Ephesians**THE PERFECT CHURCH AND HOW TO OBTAIN IT**

Last time we considered Ephesians 3:12, where we saw some of the purposes of pastors. As pastors faithfully preach and teach God's Word, others will be won to Christ and Christians will be built up in their faith. In addition, Believers will have their spiritual gifts developed and become more and more useful in Christ's Kingdom.

But what is the goal of all of this? What are this week-in and week-out preaching of the Word of God and the growth and development of the saints designed to lead to? Ephesians 4:13 answers that question, telling us that this is to go on "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

This verse states two goals for the Church. The first half of the verse tells us that one goal is that all in the Church come to a "unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God." We will be focusing on this later because not only is it a goal, but it also tells us how to achieve the ultimate goal stated in the second part of the verse—that the Church come to "a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." It is this ultimate goal that I want us to consider first.

I wonder whether we have given much thought to the fact that God's goal for His Church is nothing less than perfection? It is important that we realize that Paul is talking about the Church, here, and not individual Christians. The Bible has plenty to say about the need for the personal sanctification of each individual Believer, but that is not what this passage is about. This passage is talking about the sanctification of the Church as a united whole.

Now if one looks around at the way the Church exists in the world at this present time, he might think that this is an impossibility. Yet it is going to happen and in fact is happening!

Let us begin by understanding just what the word translated, "perfect," here means. Not only does it mean perfect in the sense that we often use the word, as something that is without flaw or blemish, but it also refers to full maturity. It is used for someone who is fully grown and has reached adulthood. The Apostle is referring here to the Church reaching a state of full development in every way. He is talking about the Church coming to perfection in character and purity. We can understand this more fully by looking at the next phrase, which is an explanation of what it means to be a perfect man—"to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Again, the idea is that of coming to maturity. The word translated, "stature," can mean either height or age. It is to say that the Church will not be perfect until all her parts are perfect and fully developed. At least two things are involved in reaching this stature. There must first be the completion of the bringing in of all those whom God has chosen to be saved. Before the foundation of the world, God chose those who would be saved and become part of the Church, the body of Christ.

Secondly, reaching the stature of the fullness of Christ also involves having each one of the members of the body of Christ become holy and without blame. Let us be clear that we are talking, here, about complete perfection. For the Apostle does not hesitate to say that the ultimate goal of the Church is to come to this maturity "of the fullness of Christ." This is another way of saying that the Church will be perfect when she has become completely filled with and conformed to the image of her Head, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and Sisters, here is a mind-boggling Truth of God! The Lord Jesus Christ, though the self-sufficient God, has so voluntarily humbled

Himself as to not be complete without His Church. He is the Head—the Church is His body. And just as in a physical body, the same life flows in every part, so the very life of Christ is flowing in each member of the Church. There will come a day when He perfectly and completely fills the Church. And when that day comes in which the Church is completely and perfectly filled with Christ, she will be His fullness!

Isn't it because so many Christians have never seen this ultimate goal for the Church that they do not understand the importance of coming to Church and serving in the Church with their spiritual gifts? They do not see the goal for which they are destined. They have not seen themselves as a part of the body of Christ which is being brought to maturity and perfection in Christ. If they but understood this, they would know there is not time to waste and that they must be about the business of seeking Christ and being purified in their lives so that Christ might fill the Church more and more. They would see that they have a vital function to perform for the good of the body and would be zealously seeking to carry it out.

But now, we must back up. We have looked at the goal, which is the ultimate perfection of the Church. But now we must go back to the first part of the verse to see what the Apostle tells us about HOW the Church is to seek to attain this goal. The means of attaining this goal is to work toward coming "to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God." [Continued, Lord willing, next month.]—PF

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

This wicked age must, indeed, have its holy places and its holy days. What is this but a confession that most of its buildings are unholy and its days unholy, too? Of Heaven it is written, "I saw no temple there," and we get nearest to the heavenly state when all superstitious notions about sacred places and sacred substances shall be swept away once and for all! To a man who lives unto God, nothing is secular, everything is sacred! He puts on his workday garment and it is a vestment to him. He sits down to his meal and it is a sacrament. He goes forth to his labor and exercises the office of the priesthood. His breath is incense and his life a sacrifice. He sleeps on the bosom of God and lives and moves in the Divine Presence. To draw a hard and fast line and say, "This is sacred and this is secular," is, to my mind, diametrically opposed to the teaching of Christ and the spirit of the Gospel! —CHS

THE “I AM”S OF JESUS CHRIST—PART 6

“I AM THE WAY” (JOHN 14:6)

By Daniel E. Parks, Pastor
Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, PO Box 305, Frederiksted, VI 00841

We need a way, or means of access, to the Father in Heaven. This Truth of God is set forth in the conversation between Jesus Christ and His Apostles recorded in John 14:1-6. He told them He was departing to prepare an eternal dwelling place for them in which He would one day receive them (vv 1-4). But Thomas, speaking for the rest of the Apostles, replied, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” (v 5).

Jesus Christ is the way we need to the Father in Heaven (John 14:6)—“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” Elsewhere in Holy Scriptures we find this Truth expanded—Jesus Christ is the international way. “For through Him we both [Jews and Gentiles] have access...to the Father” (Eph 2:18).

Throughout the history of mankind, the greatest rift between peoples has been that between Jews and Gentiles. Each of these would be denied access to God by members of the other. Jesus Christ denies this access to none! Whoever and whatever you are, you may, through faith in Jesus Christ, have access to God!

Jesus Christ is the only way (1 Tim 2:5)—“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man, Christ Jesus.” “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Jesus Christ rightly affirms that “I am the way...No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Jesus Christ is the “new and living way” (Heb 10:19-22).

In Old Testament days, God dwelt behind a veil in the Holy of Holies, the innermost room of Israel’s Tabernacle and Temple. Access to Him was denied to everyone except the high priest, who once each year was permitted to enter the Holy of Holies with the blood of a sacrifice for the atonement of Israel (Heb 9:6f).

With this lone exception, the way to God’s Presence in those days was a dead-end street. But Jesus Christ, the High Priest par excellence, at the end of His earthly ministry, entered that veil into the heavenly Holy of Holies with His own blood and made an everlasting Atonement

for the sins of God’s people (Heb 9:11f).

Consequently, the veil separating God from men has been torn asunder (Matt 27:51), giving access to all who will come to Him through Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ is, therefore, the “new and living way”—the “new way” because it was opened in these New Testament days. The “living way” because He is not a dead-end street. All who traverse Him will, without fail, boldly enter into the heavenly Holy of Holies where God resides!

Jesus Christ is the narrow way (Matt 7:13f). The “way that leads to destruction” in the devil’s Hell is broad enough for all humanity. But the “way that leads to life” in God’s Heaven is very narrow for two reasons. 1) It is wide enough to accommodate only those persons who will trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. 2) Those persons who traverse it must carry no excess baggage of self-righteousness and, but, instead, walk in the *imputed* righteousness of Jesus Christ which they receive through faith in Him (Rom 3:21f; Phil. 3:8f). Consequently, “there are few who find it.”

Jesus Christ is the “Highway of Holiness” (Isa 35:8-10). Isaiah prophesied of these New Testament days—“A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean [i.e. unbelievers] shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool [i.e. the simplest of people], shall not go astray. No lion [such as the devil, 1 Peter 5:8] shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed [i.e. believers in Jesus Christ] shall walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion [the city of God] with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

Jesus Christ is “The Way,” to this Highway of Holiness. Are you, through faith in Him, going to the heavenly Father?

**PRAY DAILY FOR AND
ASK OUR LORD TO BLESS PASTOR PARKS.**

A Pure Mind

By Pastor Paul Mahan
“To Stir up your pure minds . . .”
(2 Peter 3:1).

The dictionary defines “*pure*” as, “free from mixture, clear.” What a good description of the mind which God has given to His people—“*let this mind be in you.*” By the Grace and regenerating power of God, every child of God has been given a new mind that is “free from mixture and clear.” There is no mixing of Law and Grace in a Believer’s mind. There is no mixing of God’s work and man’s works. There is no mixing of God’s will and man’s will. The unbelieving religious world is all mixed up when it comes to what they think about God and salvation. Not God’s people! Their minds are made up (by God Himself). Their minds are clear. Their minds are made up (and nothing and no one can change them). For they have all been “*taught of God.*” They ALL know that salvation is pure Grace . . . “*not of works lest any man should boast.*” They ALL know that “*God works ALL THINGS after the counsel of HIS WILL.*”

They ALL know that God alone has free will and man’s will is only sinful. They ALL know that “*salvation is of the Lord,*” that He thought it, bought it, and brought it—that He purposed it, purchased it, and applies it! They all know that their salvation is completely in and of the Lord Jesus Christ—that He is their righteousness before a Holy God, that He is their Sin-Sacrifice, that He is their High Priest, Mediator, Covenant Head, Redeemer, Law-Keeper, Lord and King!

The faith, the heart, the mind of every Believer is purely of Christ. His mind is made up, settled and clear, *Christ is all!*

WHAT EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD KNOW

By Richard Bennett
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Every good Catholic wants to please God in this present life and, when life on earth is over, hopes to live with Him forever. It's a noble goal based on their personal beliefs about God and how they seek to know Him. But noble intentions and personal beliefs about God don't guarantee results—or eternal life. I urge you to do what I did after 22 years as a Dominican priest—make sure your beliefs have a solid foundation in the Bible. These questions will help you do that.

Whose word is truth?

The Catholic Church teaches... *The pope's word is truth.*

"The Supreme Pontiff, in virtue of his office, possesses *infallible* teaching authority..." (Canon 749*).

The Bible teaches... *Every word of God is true.*

Jesus prayed to God His Father, "Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17). Jesus said, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God'" (Matt 4:4). "All Scripture is inspired by God" (2 Tim 3:16). The Holy Bible stands alone as a God-breathed book. Christ Himself warned that to elevate other writings and traditions to the level of God's words is to "nullify the word of God in favor of your traditions that you have handed on" (Mark 7:13).

Should we have sacred images?

The Catholic Church teaches... *Yes, we can have images.*

"The practice of displaying *sacred images* in the churches for the *veneration* of the faithful is to remain in force;..." (Canon 1188).

The Bible Teaches... *No, we are not even to make sacred images!*

"You shall not carve *idols* for yourselves...you shall not bow down before them or worship them" (Exo 20:4,5). Yet the Roman Catholic Church encourages "veneration," the act of bowing down to sacred images, which the pope himself does.

Is the sacrifice of the cross to be cotin-

ally offered?

The Catholic Church says... *Yes, it is.*

"Remembering that the work of redemption is continually accomplished in the mystery of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, priests are to celebrate frequently..." (Canon 904).

The Bible says... *One Person offered one sacrifice once for all and is now seated in glory.*

"When Jesus had taken the wine, He said 'It is finished.' And bowing His head, He handed over the spirit" (John 19:30).

"Every priest stands daily at his ministry, offering frequently those same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But this one (Jesus Christ) offered one sacrifice for sins, and took His seat forever at the right hand of God" (Heb 10:11,12).

Is there a need for priests?

The Catholic Church says... *Priests are necessary.*

"They [the priests] are in fact sharers of the priesthood of Christ Himself... to celebrate divine worship and sanctify the people" (Canon 835).

The Bible says... *All believers are part of the royal priesthood to bring praise to God and to serve Him faithfully.*

"You are...a royal priesthood...that you may announce the praise of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9). **Every believer has direct access to God and needs no intermediary but Jesus Christ, our High Priest.** "Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from Him and find grace when we are in need of help." Hebrews 4: 14,16 (JB)

"There is one God. *There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, Himself human, who gave Himself as ransom for all*" (1 Tim 2:5, 6).

Does baptism save?

The Catholic Church teaches... *Salvation begins at baptism.*

"Baptism, the gate to the sacraments, is necessary for salvation in fact or at least in intention, by which men and women are freed from their sins, are reborn as children of God, and configured to Christ..." (Canon 849).

The Bible Teaches... *Faith in Christ alone will save you, not your good works!*

The work of reconciliation was completely finished by Jesus Christ when He died on the Cross and rose again. Nothing we add to what God the Son has already done could merit God's

favor. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast" (Eph 2:8,9).

"This is the work of God, that you believe in the one [Jesus] whom He [God] sent" (John 6:29). "But if by grace, it is no longer because of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace" (Rom 11:6).

How then can we be saved?

The Bible says... *Recognize that by nature you are a sinner and unrighteous.*

"We are all sinful [before God]; all of us have become like unclean men, all our good deeds are like polluted rags" (Isa 64:4-5). "More tortuous than all else is the human heart, beyond remedy" (Jeremiah 17:9).

Admit that you are separated from God because of your sins.

As a result, we are spiritually dead, separated from God and condemned forever: "The wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23a). There is nothing of merit in ourselves that could ever help earn our salvation.

Acknowledge your need for a substitute.

Once and for all time Christ took the death penalty for your sins and the sins of the whole world: "[Christ] Himself bore our sins in His body upon the cross" (1 Peter 2:24). He must be believed in as your righteous substitute or you cannot be saved.

Cry out to God for His free gift of salvation.

"All have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God. They are justified freely by His grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus" (Rom 3:23,24). If you are convinced that salvation is only through trusting in Christ's substitutionary death in your place—based solely on what the Bible says—express your heartfelt belief directly to God. "This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11).

Then, having received the gift of eternal life, live your life for God in praise and thanksgiving!

*All Roman Catholic canons quoted are from the Post Vatican Council II *Code of Canon Law*, published by the authority of Pope John Paul II, 1983. Bible quotes: *The New American Bible for Catholics*. Hebrews 4:14,16 from the Catholic Jerusalem Bible.

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Lo que todo Católico debería saber

Por Richard Bennett

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Todo buen católico quiere agradar a Dios en esta vida y cuando la vida en la tierra se termine él espera vivir con Dios para siempre. Esta es una meta noble basada en las creencias personales que los católicos tienen acerca de Dios y en como buscan conocerle. Pero las intenciones nobles y creencias personales acerca de Dios no garantizan los resultados—ni la vida eterna.

Le ruego que haga lo que yo hice después de 22 años de ser sacerdote dominico—asegúrese de que sus creencias están fundadas sólidamente en la Biblia. Las preguntas que siguen le ayudarán a hacerlo.

¿La palabra de quién es verdad?

La Iglesia Católica enseña que *La palabra del Papa es verdad.*

“El supremo pontífice, en virtud de su oficio, posee autoridad magisterial *infallible...*” (Canon 749*)

La Biblia enseña que *Toda palabra de Dios es verdad.*

Jesús oró a Dios su Padre diciendo, “Santificalos en tu verdad; tu palabra es verdad.” (Juan 17:17)

Jesús dijo, “Escrito está: No sólo de pan vivirá el hombre, sino de toda palabra que sale de la boca de Dios” (Mateo 4:4)

“Toda la Escritura es inspirada por Dios.” (2 Timoteo 3:16) Sólo la Santa Biblia se destaca como el libro inspirado por Dios. Cristo mismo advirtió que el elevar otros escritos y tradiciones al nivel de las palabras de Dios es invalidar “la palabra de Dios con vuestra tradición que habéis transmitido.” (Marcos 7:13)

¿Deberíamos tener imágenes sagradas?

La Iglesia Católica enseña que *Sí, podemos tener imágenes.*

“La práctica de desplegar [exhibir] *imágenes sagradas* en las iglesias para la *veneración* de los fieles debe permanecer en vigor...” (Canon 1188).

La Biblia enseña que *No, ¡ni siquiera debemos hacer imágenes sagradas!*

“No te harás imagen, ni ninguna semejanza.... No te inclinarás a ellas, ni las honrarás” (Éxodo 20:4-5). Sin embargo, la Iglesia Católica Romana alienta la “veneración”, el acto de inclinarse ante las imágenes sagradas, algo que el mismo Papa hace

¿Debe ofrecerse continuamente el sacrificio de la cruz?

La Iglesia Católica dice que *Sí, debe ofrecerse.*

“Recordando que la obra de redención es continuamente realizada en el sacramento del sacrificio eucarístico, los sacerdotes deben celebrar frecuentemente...” (Canon 904)

La Biblia dice que Sólo una Persona ofreció un solo sacrificio una vez para siempre y ahora está sentado en gloria.

“Cuando Jesús hubo tomado el vinagre, dijo: Consumado es. Y habiendo inclinado la cabeza, entregó el espíritu.” (Juan 19:30) Y ciertamente todo sacerdote está día tras día ministrando y ofreciendo muchas veces los mismos sacrificios, que nunca pueden quitar los pecados; pero Cristo, habiendo ofrecido una vez para siempre un solo sacrificio por los pecados, se ha sentado a la diestra de Dios.” (Heb10:11-12)

¿Es necesario que haya sacerdotes?

La Iglesia Católica dice que *Los sacerdotes son necesarios.*

“Ellos [los sacerdotes] en realidad son los que comparten del sacerdocio de Cristo mismo... para celebrar el culto divino y santificar al pueblo” (Canon 835)

La Biblia dice que *Todos los creyentes forman parte del sacerdocio real para traer alabanza a Dios y servirle fielmente.*

“Mas vosotros sois linaje escogido, real sacerdocio... para que anunciéis las virtudes de aquel que os llamó de las tinieblas a su luz admirable” (1 Pedro 2:9). *Todo creyente tiene acceso directo a Dios y no necesita intermediario sino a Jesucristo, nuestro Sumo Sacerdote.* “Porque hay un solo Dios, y un solo mediador entre Dios y los hombres, Jesucristo hombre, el cual se dio a sí mismo en rescate por todos.” (1 Timoteo 2:5-6)

¿El bautismo salva?

La Iglesia Católica enseña que *El camino hacia la salvación comienza con el bautismo.*

“*El bautismo*, puerta de los sacramentos, cuya recepción de hecho o al menos de deseo, es necesaria para la salvación, por el cual los hombres son liberados de los pecados, reengendrados como hijos de Dios...” (Canon 849)

Pero la Biblia enseña. ¡Sólo la fe en Cristo salva, no las buenas obras!

La obra de reconciliación quedó completamente terminada por Jesucristo cuando él murió en la Cruz del Calvario y volvió a la vida. Nada que agreguemos a lo que Dios el Hijo ya ha hecho podría merecer el favor de Dios. “Porque por gracia sois salvos por medio de la fe; y esto no de vosotros, pues es don de Dios; *no por obras*, para que nadie se gloríe” (Efesios 2:8-9).

“Esta es *la obra de Dios*, que creáis en el que él [Dios] ha enviado [Jesús]” (Juan 6:29). “Y si por gracia, *ya no es por obras*, de otra manera la gracia ya no es gracia” (Romanos 11:6).

Entonces, ¿cómo podemos ser salvos?

La Biblia dice Reconozca que por naturaleza usted es pecador e impío.

“Si bien todos nosotros somos como suciedad, y todas nuestras justicias como trapo de inmundicia” (Isaías 64:6). “Engañoso es el corazón más que

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

todas las cosas, y perverso; ¿quién lo conocerá?” (Jeremía 17:9)

Admita que usted esta separado de Dios debido a sus pecados.

Como resultado, estamos espiritualmente muertos, separados de Dios, y condenados para siempre: “La paga del pecado es muerte.” (Romanos 6:23a). No hay nada de mérito en nosotros mismos que pueda ayudarnos a ganar la salvación.

Reconozca que necesita un sustituto.

Una vez y para siempre Cristo sufrió la pena de muerte por los pecados de usted y los de todo el mundo: “[Cristo] llevó el mismo nuestros pecados en su cuerpo sobre el madero.” (1 Pedro 2:24) Debemos creer en él, como nuestro justo sustituto o no podemos ser salvos.

Clame a Dios por su regalo gratuito de la salvación.

“Por cuanto todos pecaron, y están destituidos de la gloria de Dios, siendo justificados gratuitamente por su gracia, mediante la redención que es en Cristo Jesús” (Romanos 3:23-24). Si usted está convencido de que la salvación es sólo mediante la confianza en la obra expiatoria de Dios en su lugar-basado solamente en lo que la Biblia dice, exprésele su creencia sincera directamente a Dios. “Y este es el testimonio: que Dios nos ha dado vida eterna; y esta vida está en su Hijo” (1 Juan 5:11)

Luego, habiendo recibido el regalo de la vida eterna, viva su vida para Dios en alabanza y acción de gracias.

*Todos los cánones de la Iglesia Católica son citados del Código de Derecho Canónico posterior al Segundo Concilio Vaticano, publicado con la autorización del Papa Juan Pablo II. Las citas bíblicas son de la versión Reina-Valera, edición 1960

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

Spurgeon Speaks On the Lord's Supper

**“But their eyes were restrained that they
should not know Him.”**

Luke 24:16.

These disciples, when they saw the Master, *hastened to tell others about it*. It was the dead of the night, I suppose, by the time they recognized their Lord. Our Lord Jesus had none of the prejudices of the High Church fraternity against breaking bread in the evening. That has always seemed to me to be the oddest of their freaks—that they will persist in contending that the Lord's *Supper* ought to take place early in the morning!

They ought not to call it a “supper”—they should call it a breakfast. I never could understand a certain class of Christians, great sticklers, too, for Scripture, who always will have the Lord's Supper in the morning of the day, without any precedent, that I know of, for turning an evening meal into a morning one. I grant there is no importance whatever in the time—the only importance that I speak of is putting an importance on a *wrong* time—which those do who say it *ought* to be in the early part of the day.

We say that whenever Believers meet together they may break bread in remembrance of their Lord! If, however, there is one time more like the first occasion, it certainly is the evening of the day.

Though it was late, the two disciples set off on a seven-and-a-half mile journey, in the dead of night, to tell others that they had seen the Lord! If ever you find Christ to the joy of your heart, go and tell His people about it. Yes, and tell sinners, too, and put yourself to inconvenience to do it.

Nowadays we are willing to testify if we can do it very comfortably—but I love to hear of those good Brethren who will walk many miles on Sunday to preach the Gospel—who are willing to sacrifice ease and comfort so that they may do good to others, just as these did. Oh, for more enthusiasm in telling of the Savior's love and hearing of it!

We need nice cushions and very comfortable pews, don't we, nowadays? But when we were first converted, we would *stand anywhere* in the crowd if we could but hear the Savior's name! I remember when I would have gone over hedge and ditch to hear about my Master, or to preach about Him, too.

May our earnest love to Him never grow cold and our enthusiasm never depart. May a midnight's walk be nothing to us if we may but declare, even to unbelieving brethren, what we have seen of our blessed Lord! It is a good message, and it is a good errand to go upon, when we go to tell of Jesus—and it will bring good to our own souls.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1180, *Jesus Near But Unrecognized*—Volume 20—Read/download entire sermon on www.spurgeongems.org.

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

REFLECTIONS

Gems gleaned by
Jim Robinette

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

PRAYER

We may judge of the state of our hearts by the earnestness of our prayers. You cannot make a rich man beg like a poor man. You cannot make a man that is full, cry for food like one that is hungry, and no more will a man who has a good opinion of himself, cry for mercy like one who feels that he is poor and needy.

The symptoms of spiritual decline are like those which attend the decay of bodily health. It generally commences with loss of appetite and disrelish for spiritual food, prayer, reading the Scriptures and devotional books. Whenever you perceive these symptoms, be alarmed, for your spiritual health is in danger! Apply immediately to the Great Physician for a cure!

The best means of keeping near to God is the prayer closet. Here the battle is won or lost.

If a man begins to be impatient because his prayers for any blessings are not answered, it is a certain proof that a self-righteous dependence on his own merits prevails in his heart to a great extent—for the language of impatience is, "I deserve the blessing! I had a right to expect that it would be bestowed and it ought to have been bestowed before this."

It is evident that a man who feels that he deserves nothing will never be impatient because he receives nothing, but will say, "I have nothing to complain of, I receive as much as I deserve." Again, when a man wonders, or thinks it strange that he does not receive a blessing for which he has prayed, it shows that he relies on his own merits. The language of such feelings is, "It is very strange that I, who have prayed so well, and so long, and had so much reason to expect a blessing, do not receive it."

Persons who feel truly humble, on the contrary, are surprised, not when blessings are withheld, but when they are bestowed! It appears very strange and wonderful to them that God should bestow any favors on creatures so unworthy as themselves, or pay any regard to prayers so polluted as their own. This is the temper to which every person must be brought before God will answer his prayers.—By Edward Payson 1783-1827, Published in *Legacy of a Legend* by Solid Ground Christian Books, Vestavia Hills, AL 2001 Pages 86-87

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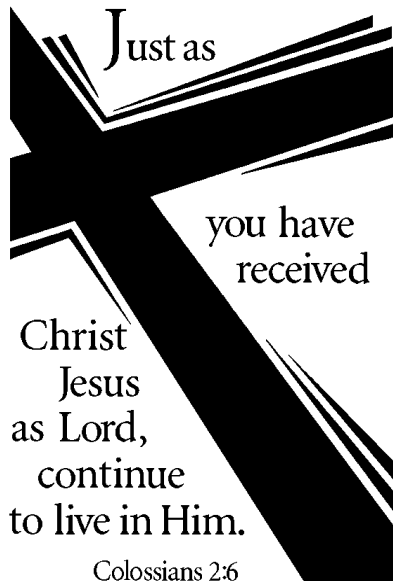
A Living Union with Christ

By Pastor Henry T. Mahan

Our Lord said, "*I am THE DOOR; by Me if any man enter in he shall be saved.*" There is no other door. He said, "*I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE. NO man comes to the Father, but by Me.*" There is no other way, no other truth, and no other source of eternal life. Everything our God has spiritually and eternally for a sinner is in our Lord Jesus Christ, by our Lord Jesus, and through our Lord Jesus. Acceptance, forgiveness and salvation are ours by that living union with Christ. He said, "*I am the true Vine, you are the branches; abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; NO MORE CAN YOU, except you abide in Me.*" Believers are true branches which have life and joy. They grow and bear spiritual fruit only because of their union with the life-giving Vine—Christ Jesus our Lord. —Gleaned from Zebulon Baptist Church's weekly Bulletin. Contact Pastor Tom Harding's office (see above right) to request to be put on e-mail list.

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Pray for Wardens of our prisons.

In This Issue...

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

LORD, I EXPECT TO BE PAID!

By C. H. Spurgeon

Come and put your trust in Him who died for the ungodly! He that believes in Him is not condemned! Would to God that you would believe in Him right now! I feel that God has helped me to speak to you. It has been no small task to me in my weakness—and now I want the Lord to give me some souls. *I expect to be paid for this service.* When one preaches with joy and comfort, and is full of health and strength, there is a great delight in the work. But now, tonight, when it is heavy work to get a thought and to utter it, *I expect my wages in another form* and I shall go home to my Master, and say, “Lord, give me my wages!” If He asks me what I want, I shall say to Him, “Lord, I should like the soul of that young man who sits in the aisle, there, and of that old man in the top gallery who has been so interested while he has been listening. And I should like half a dozen of those young women over there.”

I believe that when I once began to plead with my Lord, I should ask for everyone of you! At any rate, why should I leave anyone out? Which one should I leave out? When I was preaching, once, in the great plow-shed of Mr. Howard, of Bedford (they had cleared out all the plows to make room for a large congregation), His dear old father was sitting on the platform with me, and in the afternoon I prayed that the Lord would give us some souls. I asked that a few might be converted. After the service, the good old saint said, “I enjoyed your preaching, but I did not enjoy your praying. I did not say, ‘Amen,’ when you asked the Lord to give us a few souls. My dear Brother,” he said, “I would not be content unless He gave us hundreds! Go in for it tonight,” he added, “pray for hundreds to be converted.” I thought, what a good thing it was to have a Brother with larger faith than one’s own! Now may the Lord make some of you, who have great faith, like good old Mr. Howard, to pray the Lord to save the whole ship’s company here tonight! Why should they not all be brought in to the praise of the glory of His Grace? God grant it, for Jesus Christ’s sake! Amen.—

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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, Volume 44, Sermon #2566