

FOR HIS GLORY

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DON'T THINK IT!

By Charles H. Spurgeon

And I believe, Brothers and Sisters, by thinking that God is like ourselves, *we also limit the probabilities of success in His work*. If we could have the management of the affairs of the Kingdom of God upon the earth and the power to convert a hundred thousand sinners tomorrow would be put into our hands, we would be wise if we asked God to take back that power, for I am quite certain that God will save a hundred thousand sinners in a day when things are ripe for it—yes, and He will save a nation in a day when the right time comes!

But if there were to be a thousand persons saved under one sermon, or three thousand, as on the day of Pentecost, in any place in London, there is not a Church on the face of the earth that would believe in the reality of the work—and the result would be that those who were converted would *not* be added to the Church as the three thousand were on the day of Pentecost! Even professing Christians would say, “This is wildfire that will do more harm than good! We do not believe in it.” If they were told that one person, or perhaps two, had been saved, they might believe that—possibly not the two, though they might half believe in the one!

But if there were three thousand who professed to be saved, they would say, “Oh, that could not be!” The reason for this unbelief is that members and ministers alike have the mistaken notion that God is like we are. Many ministers feel very happy if they have a dozen conversions in a year and some are quite content if there is one conversion in a dozen years. A brother minister said to me, the other day, “We have had a Baptism at our Chapel this year, bless the Lord.” “Oh,” I said, “how many have you baptized?” “There were two,” he replied, “and one of them was my own son.” I said, “Yes, bless the Lord for those two, but what are we to say about those in your congregation who are not converted to God?”

When we judge the Lord by what we ourselves are, our belief is like that which prevented the Master from doing many mighty works in His own city of Nazareth! May the Lord be pleased to give us a far higher conception of what He really is, for that will enable us to do much more for Him! It is because of this mistaken notion of ours concerning God that we limit our desires, slacken our endeavors and are satisfied to have everything on the pigmy scale when it might be gigantic! We are content with pence when we might have pounds of Grace.

(See *He Is Not* on page 2)

AFRAID TO DIE?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

Are you afraid of dying? Oh, never be afraid of that! Be afraid of living! Living is the only thing which can do us mischief—dying never can hurt a Christian! Afraid of the grave? It is like the bath of Esther in which she lay for a time, to purify herself with spices. The grave fits the body for Heaven. There it lies and corruption, earth, and worms do but refine and purify our flesh!

Be not afraid of dying—it does not take any time at all. Death is emancipation, deliverance, Heaven’s bliss to a child of God! Never fear it—it will be a singing time. You are afraid of dying, you say, because of the pains of death. No, they are the pains of *life*—of life struggling to continue. Death has no pain—death, itself, is but one gentle sigh—the fetter is broken and the spirit fled. The best moment of a Christian’s life is his last one because it is the one that is nearest Heaven—and then it is that he begins to strike the keynote of the song which he shall sing to all eternity! Oh, what a song will that be! It is a poor noise we make, now, when we join the song here. Perhaps we are almost ashamed to sing! But up there our voices shall be clear and good! And there—

(See *Don’t Be Afraid* on page 6)

Abel’s blood had mighty prevalence to curse, but Jesus’ blood has prevalence to bless the sons of men! I want you to dwell a little over this thought to digest it. I wish I had the power to send it home! Only the Holy Spirit, however, can do that. I want you, however, just to dwell on it, that you may get into the soul of it. Observe that the blood of Abel spoke to God long before Cain spoke. Cain was deaf to the voice of his brother’s blood, but God heard it. Sinner, long before you hear the blood of Jesus, God hears it and spares your guilty soul! Long before that blood comes into your soul to melt you to repentance, it pleads for you with God! It was not the voice of Cain that brought down vengeance, but the voice of Abel’s blood—and it is not the cry of the sinner seeking mercy that is the cause of mercy—it is the cry of that blood of Jesus!—CHS



Inside:

Calvinism: Its Third Point—Daniel E. Parks	3
Gems for Friends—Miles McKee	6
Letters to Mike Gendron of Proclaiming the Gospel	9
Notable Quotes of Charles H. Spurgeon	11

CHS & ANGELOLOGY

My second thought is that THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD IS IN SOME MYSTERIOUS WAY CONNECTED WITH ANGELS. [In Ezekiel 1:15-19.]

Look at verse 15. “Now as I beheld the living creatures.” Then turn to the 19th verse. “And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.” These living creatures I believe to be angels.

And the text teaches us that there is a connection between Providence and angelic agency. I do not know how to explain it. I cannot tell how it is, but I believe angels have a great deal to do with the affairs of this world. An angel cut off the hosts of Sennacherib and it is still my firm belief that angels are sent forth, somehow or other, to accomplish the everlasting purpose of God. The great wheel of Providence is still turned by an angel. When there is some trouble which seems to stop that wheel, some mighty cherub puts his shoulder to it and hurls it round—and makes the chariot of God’s Providence go on still.

Angels have much more to do with us than we imagine. I do not know but that spirits sometimes come down and whisper thoughts into our ears. I have strange thoughts, sometimes, that seem to come from a land of dreams—and fiery visions that make my soul hot within me. Sometimes I have thoughts which I know come from God’s Spirit—some which are glorious and some that are not so good, but still holy thoughts—and I often attribute them to angels. I have sometimes a thought which cheers me in distress—and was not an angel sent to strengthen Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane? How do you think the angel strengthened Him? Why, by putting thoughts into Christ’s mind! He could not do it in any other way—he could not strengthen Him by a plaster, or by any physical means, but by injecting holy thoughts!

So is it with us. There was a temptation which might have led you astray, but God said, “Gabriel, fly! There is one of My people in peril—go and put such a thought into his soul that when the danger comes, he will say, ‘Get you behind me, Satan, I will have nothing to do with sin.’”

We have, each of us, a guardian angel to attend us. The meaning of the passage, “In Heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in Heaven,” surely is that every Christian has a guardian angel who flies about him and holds the shield of God over his brow, keeps his feet lest he should dash them against a stone, guards him, controls him, manages him, injects thoughts into his mind, restrains his evil desires and is the minister and servant of the Holy Spirit to keep him from sin and lead him to righteousness.

Whether I am right or wrong, I leave you to judge, but perhaps I have more angelology in me than most people have. I know my imagination has sometimes been so powerful that when I have been alone at night, I could almost fancy that I saw an angel fly by me when I have been out preaching the Word. However, I take it that the text teaches us that angels have very much to do with God’s Providence, for it says, “And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them, and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.”

Let us bless God that He has made angels ministering spirits to minister unto them that are heirs of salvation.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Version 1.0, Ages Software, 1.800.297.4307. Sermon #3114, Volume 54—GOD’S PROVIDENCE—Read/download the entire sermon, free of charge, at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

HE IS NOT LIKE OURSELVES!

(Continued from page 1)

We are satisfied with the very imperfect cultivation of a tiny plot of land when the broad acres of God’s bounty lie before us. We win an inch or two of the enemy’s territory and we throw up our caps, and cry, “What mighty conquerors we are!” while whole provinces lie unconquered and whole nations remain ignorant of the Gospel! Then we keep on straitening ourselves more and more, contracting our conceptions and our ideas, the older we grow, till the zealous youth gets to be a “prudent” old man, whose “prudence” consists in chilling everybody he meets, carrying wet blankets to cover up everyone who has a little life in him, snuffing everybody’s candle and generally managing to snuff all the candles out.

We are, most of us, conscious of this chilling process. I seem myself to be continually feeling it. I think I am not altogether destitute of earnestness even now, but I wish I could keep at blood heat always, for blood heat is the heat of health, the heat of true life! May God keep us up to that mark and it will help to keep us so if we have true notions of what God can do, and will do—and forever give up thinking that He is like ourselves! May God’s blessing rest upon you, for Jesus’ sake! Amen.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Version 1.0, Ages Software, 1.800.297.4307.—Sermon #3119, Volume 54—MISTAKES CONCERNING GOD—Read/download the entire sermon, free of charge, at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

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CALVINISM: ITS THIRD POINT

By DANIEL E. PARKS, PASTOR
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The foremost theologian of the Reformation of the 1500s was John Calvin (1509-64), the Reformer of Geneva, Switzerland. He systematized the doctrine of salvation earlier defended by Augustine (345-430), inscripturated by Paul the Apostle, and divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. His doctrine was embraced by fellow Reformers throughout Europe and the British Isles.

The most noted protest against the doctrine of John Calvin was raised by disciples of Jacobus Arminius, professor in the university at Leiden, The Netherlands, 1603-09. They started their protest, called the Remonstrance, in 1610, one year after Jacobus Arminius' death. Their disagreement with Calvin's doctrine of predestination was presented to the Dutch Reformed Church's Synod of Dort in 1618-19 in what has come to be called the Five Points of Arminianism:

[The January issue of this magazine listed the Five Points of Arminianism and refuted the first point. Last month Pastor Parks refuted the second point.]

Arminianism Point #3: Universal Redemption

Or General Atonement

We will here consider the third of the five points of Arminianism and of Calvinism (as they are summarized in *The Five Points of Calvinism* by David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas).

3. *Universal Redemption or General Atonement.* Jesus Christ did not die for the elect alone; rather, He died for all mankind, but only those who of their own free will believe in Him will benefit from His death.

"Christ's redeeming work made it possible for everyone to be saved but did not actually secure the salvation of anyone. Although Christ died for all men and for every man, only those who believe in Him are saved. His death enabled God to pardon sinners on the condition that they believe, but it did not actually put away anyone's sins. Christ's redemption becomes effective only if man chooses to accept it."

This third point of Arminianism denies what Holy Scriptures teach regarding the atoning work of Jesus Christ in the following respects.

1. Arminianism teaches: "Christ died for all men and for every man." Holy Scriptures teach otherwise. God Himself, in Isaiah 53:11,12, denied "Christ died for all men and for every man," and affirmed, instead, Christ died for only *many* of mankind: "My righteous Servant shall justify *many* [not *all*], for He shall bear their iniquities...And He bore the sin of *many* [not *all*]." And Christ Himself agreed with His Father on at least two occasions. In Matthew 20:28 He declared He had come to earth as the "Son of Man...to give His life a ransom for *many* [not *all*]." And in Matthew 28:26 He declared, "My blood of the new covenant...is shed for *many* [not *all*] for the remission of sins."

Holy Scriptures also specifically identify the "many" for whom Christ died. Paul the Apostle identified them in Ephesians 1:3-7 as God's chosen people, writing to them in these words: "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus

Christ...In Him *we* [i.e. the elect] have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...."

God Himself declared in Isaiah 53:8 that Christ died for only "My people." God's angel declared in Matthew 1:21 that Christ would die for only "His [own] people." Peter the Apostle in Acts 20:28, and Paul the Apostle in Ephesians 5:25, declared that Christ died for only the "church of God." Jesus Christ Himself declared in John 15:13 that He would die for only those whom He calls "My friends," thereby teaching He would not die for those who choose to ever be His enemies.

Christ declared in John 10:11ff that He would die for only those whom He calls "My sheep." And in John 10:26 He declares that those who will never believe in Him are "not of My sheep," thereby teaching He would not waste a drop of His precious blood on them. Those enemies and deniers of Christ are the same persons for whom He refused to even pray in John 17:9, saying to His Father, "I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me."

2. Arminianism teaches: "[Christ's] death...did not actually put away anyone's sins." Holy Scriptures teach otherwise. For example, we read in Hebrews 9:26-28 that "Christ was offered once to bear the sins of *many*," and that "He has...put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."

3. Arminianism teaches: "Christ's redeeming work...did not actually secure the salvation of anyone." Holy Scriptures teach otherwise. For example, we read in Hebrews 9:12 that Christ has with His one offering for the sins of His people "obtained eternal redemption" for everyone for whom He died. Every single sinner for whom Christ died will be saved. Not a single sinner for whom He died will perish in the lake of fire!

4. Arminianism teaches: "Christ's redemption becomes effective only if man chooses to accept it." Holy Scriptures teach otherwise. Christ's redemption became effective the very moment God accepted it. The saving work of Christ does not depend upon it being accepted by frail and fickle and depraved man. Arminians sneeringly call this doctrine "Limited Atonement," and boast, "We do not in any way limit the atoning work of Jesus Christ."

Actually, both Holy Scriptures *and* Arminians preach limited Atonement, but with different limitations. Holy Scriptures limit the *extent* of the Atonement, but not its *result*. That is, Holy Scriptures teach the Atonement was limited to the elect, and that it guaranteed the salvation of everyone for whom it was made. Arminians, on the other hand, limit the result of the Atonement, but not its *extent*. That is, Arminians teach Christ made atonement for *everyone*, but guaranteed the salvation of no one, requiring sinners to believe in it in order for it to be made effectual.

We may illustrate these differences by imagining a bridge of salvation from earth to Heaven across the abyss of Hell and built by the atoning work and righteousness of Jesus Christ. Holy Scriptures declare this bridge is limited in its *width*, but not in its *length*. It is wide enough to accommodate only those who will believe in Christ, but it stretches all the way across the abyss to Glory, and guarantees

(See *Calvinism* on page 4)

CALVINISM

(Continued from page 3)

the salvation of all who take it. Arminianism, on the other hand, declares this bridge is limited in its *length*, but not in its *width*. It is wide enough for *all* humanity, but it does not reach all the way to Glory, and guarantees the salvation of no one who takes it.

The Synod of Dort, therefore, rightly condemned this third of the Five Points of Arminianism as heresy, and affirmed as Scriptural truth all that it denied. The synod's third response was:

Calvinism Point #3: Particular
Redemption or Limited Atonement

“Christ's redeeming work was intended to save the elect only and actually secured salvation for them. His death was a substitutionary endurance of the penalty of sin in the place of certain specified sinners. In addition to putting away the sins of His people, Christ's redemption secured everything necessary for their salvation, including faith which unites them to Him. The gift of faith is infallibly applied by the Spirit to all for whom Christ died, thereby guaranteeing their salvation.”

BROTHERS, DO SOMETHING!

“God save us from living in comfort while sinners are sinking into Hell! In traveling along the mountain roads in Switzerland you will continually see marks of the boring-rod. And in every minister's life there should be traces of stern labor. Brethren, do something! Do something! Do something! While committees waste their time over resolutions, do something! While Societies and Unions are making constitutions, let us win souls! Too often we discuss, and discuss, and discuss, and Satan laughs in his sleeve. It is time we had done with planning and sought something to plan. I pray you, be men of action, all of you. Get to work and quit yourselves like men. Old Suvarov's idea of war is mine: “Forward and strike! No theory! Attack! Form column! Charge bayonets! Plunge into the center of the enemy.” Our one aim is to save sinners, and this we are not to *talk* about, but to *do* in the power of God.”—Adapted from *Lectures To My Students* by C. H. Spurgeon.

A PEEK AT BROTHER SPURGEON'S WEEK

We have a right to expect a harvest when we remember what has been done already. And Brethren, I think it is a sign of some good for the Church of Christ when there is a stir among the people. The worst thing, perhaps, for true religion is the stagnation of the human mind. When people are not thoughtful about other things, it is very seldom that you can get them to be thoughtful about religion. It is generally supposed that our country friends, some of whom seem to vegetate rather than to live, and who are not so pressed with business from morning till night as we are in London, must have a great deal of time to give to religion, and that they must, therefore, be the most hopeful of congregations.

My country Brethren do not confirm the supposition, and for myself—for I preach more in the country than I do in the town—and often spend three or four days a week in addressing country audiences—for myself I must say that glad as I am to address the assembled crowds in a field or anywhere else, I do not find that the supposition that their having less to do makes them think more of Divine things is at all correct.

I believe that where the intellect is most exerted, above other things, there is, on the whole, the most hope of sending home some thought about Divine things. It is true that thorns may be a hindrance, and are, but at any rate they prove that the soil will grow *something*, and I think if I were going to take a farm, I would sooner take one that was overgrown with thistles than one which grew nothing at all.—
Volume 12, Sermon #706—*Fields White for Harvest*—read/download entire sermon free of charge at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

PRAYDAILY FOR GRACE TO BE OBEDIENT TO GOD'S WORD

GOD DOES NOT GRADE ON THE CURVE

By Charles Wayne Rosson,
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BEREAN, INC. / SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES
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(First used in 2002).

So many people have the idea that God is going to grade on the curve. We say to ourselves, “We're bad, but we're not as bad as So-and-So.” But God doesn't grade on a curve. He grades on an absolute standard of holiness. Can anybody say that they've kept all of God's Ten Commandments? Of course not!! (James 2:10). Read again the story Jesus Christ told of the rich young ruler who sincerely thought he had kept all the Commandments of God, BUT HE WAS WRONG! (Mark 10:17-27). Only the sinless, stainless, spotless Son of God lived a completely perfect life—and then died a vicarious, substitutionary death on the cruel Cross at Calvary to save sinners.

If any of us could be saved and made right (righteous) with God apart from the surrender of our lives to Him through faith and repentance, then we are fully justified in thinking how barbaric He was to permit His own dear Son (Jesus Christ) to suffer, bleed and die on that Cross!! Only by truthfully trusting God's Son can we expect to have genuine happiness in this world and eternal joy in the world to come! Because of who Jesus Christ is and what He did on our behalf will any sinner be saved forever! HE PAID IT ALL!! And since HE PAID IT ALL there is nothing left for repenting, trusting sinners to do but express our sincere gratitude by loving, honoring, obeying and serving HIM through time and eternity!! (1 Tim 1:12-17, Phil 2:5-11).

A Study of Ephesians

ONE BAPTISM – PART 2

Let us never forget that no ritual or ceremony can of itself save anyone. Baptism cannot wash anyone's sins away. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can do that. Yet Believers are commanded to receive baptism in order to picture what has happened to them. Baptism is an outward picture of an inward reality.

But the picture of baptism is even richer than that. Baptism also signifies a person's being placed into Jesus Christ. Let us look at two passages which speak of this. Romans 6:3—"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" Galatians 3:27—"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Notice that in these passages there is the phrase "baptized into Christ." The Galatians passage helps us to understand what is meant by that because Paul immediately adds "have put on Christ." To be baptized into Christ is to put on Christ.

Once again we are confronted with the fact that this is talking about something INTERNAL. Does everyone who receives the outward ritual of baptism automatically receive the inward reality of what baptism signifies? Well, the sad and honest answer to that question is no. Many people have been outwardly baptized who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They have been baptized with water but not baptized into Christ.

However, that should not cause us to minimize the practice of water baptism in any way. For water baptism is still a picture of being baptized into Christ. The person who is baptized with Christian Baptism is making a great statement. He is saying he has transferred his loyalty, his citizenship and his whole direction. He is announcing that he no longer belongs to himself but that he belongs to Jesus, who is his "one Lord."

But to be baptized into Christ has a significance that goes beyond even that. For the New Testament uses this expression of being baptized into Christ in a very literal manner. In fact, we must say that it takes us into the realm of that which passes our understanding and to a certain degree remains a mystery. When a person is baptized into Christ, he or she, in a sense, literally becomes a part of Christ. So literally does he or she become a part of Christ that the New Testament speaks in terms of the Believer having actually taken part in Christ's death, Resurrection and being seated at the right hand of God!

Consider, for instance, the awesome statement we find in Romans 6:1-4—"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Do you see how Paul is reasoning here? He is saying, "You who call yourselves Christians, don't you realize that you have had a complete transfer? Don't you realize that when you were baptized into Christ you were baptized into His death? This means that you died to sin. Don't act as if you still live under the dominion of sin. Christ conquered sin and you were in Him when He did so! Not only that, but because you are literally 'in Christ,' when He arose from the dead, so did you! Therefore, don't live as though you are still dead, but walk in newness of life!" Now, do you see how this "one baptism" is a wonderful basis of our unity which the Holy Spirit has given us? All who have had Christian Baptism are saying that they are following Jesus and submitting their wills to His will. Such self-denial is always a critical component of true unity and harmony.

In addition, baptism eliminates the need for us to go around trying to "prove" ourselves. I do not need to try to impress you that I am a great Believer. The Believer's joy and peace come from the fact that he has been "baptized into Christ." This means that God says he or she is already perfect in God's eyes because he or she is now clothed with the perfect righteousness of Christ. As Paul says in Colossians 3:3, "For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." When God looks at you, He sees you in Christ and clothed with His perfection.

And so, I do not have my standing in the Church because of the spiritual gift I have or because I give a lot of money or because I have memorized Bible verses or because I have a head full of doctrine, as wonderful as all of those things may be. But each Believer can look at every other Believer in the whole world and say, "We are baptized into Christ. Each one is just as loved by God as the other. Each one has the same perfect righteousness. All room for boasting is gone."

And each one of us can say with the Apostle in Galatians 2:20—"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."—PF

**PRAY DAILY
FOR OUR BROTHERS
AND SISTERS IN PRISONS.
ASK OUR
HEAVENLY FATHER
TO USE THEM FOR
HIS HONOR AND GLORY.**

REFLECTIONS

Gems gleaned by Jim Robinette
<http://www.actionuganda.net/>

Reflections is a Christian meditation sent by ACTION Uganda Ministries and is meant to encourage and edify.

THERE IS A GOOD REASON YOU HAVE NEVER BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST!

Now, my friends, there are many of you who know that you never believed on Jesus, and yet you are quite unmoved. You sit without any emotion—you eat your meals with appetite and doubtless sleep sound at night. Do you wish to know the reason? You have never been convicted of sin. The Spirit has never begun His work in your heart. Oh, if the Spirit of Jesus would come on your heart like a mighty rushing wind, what a dreadful thought it would be to you this night, that you are lying out of Christ!

You would lose your appetite for this world's food—you would not be able to rest in your bed—you would not dare to live in your sins! All your past sins would rise behind you like apparitions of evil. Wherever you went you would meet the words—"Without Christ, without hope, and without God in the world."

And if your worldly friends should try to hush your fears and tell you of your decencies, and that you were not so bad as your neighbors, and that many might fear if your feared, ah, how you would thrust them away and stop your ears, and cry, "There is a city of refuge, to which I have never fled, therefore there must be a blood-avenger! There is an ark, therefore there must be a coming deluge! There is a Christ, therefore there must be a Hell for the Christless."—From *Sermons of Robert Murray M'Cheyne* (1814-1843). Published by The Banner of Truth Trust, Carlisle, PA, 1961.

(Continued from page 1)

DON'T BE AFRAID TO DIE, CHRISTIAN!

*"Loudest of the crowd we'll sing,
 While Heaven's resounding mansions ring
 With shouts of Sovereign Grace!"*

The thought struck me, the other day, that the Lord will have in Heaven some of those very big sinners—who have gone further astray than anybody else that ever lived—just to make the melody complete by singing some of those alto notes we sometimes hear which you and I, because we have not gone so far astray, will never be able to utter! I wonder whether one has stepped into this Chapel, this morning, whom God has selected to take some of those alto notes in the scale of praise? Perhaps there is one such here. Oh, how loudly will he sing, if Grace, free Grace, shall have mercy upon him!

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software, 1.800.297.4307—
 Sermon #2625, Volume 45—*The Dumb Singing*—read/download the entire sermon free of charge at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>

GEMS FOR FRIENDS

From Miles McKee Ministries
 P.O. Box 541, Kingston Springs, TN 37082
<http://www.milesmckee.com>

"Beat it into Their heads Continually"—Luther

The Law of God is divine and holy. Let the law have his glory, but yet no law, be it never so divine and holy, ought to teach me that I am justified and shall live through it. I grant it may teach me that I ought to love God and my neighbor; also to live in chastity, soberness, patience, etc., but it ought not to show me how I should be delivered from sin, the devil, death and Hell.

Here I must take counsel of the Gospel. I must hearken to the Gospel which teaches me not what I ought to do, (for that is the proper office of the Law), but what Jesus Christ, the Son of God has done for me—that is, that He suffered and died to deliver me from sin and death. The Gospel wills me to receive this and to believe it. And this is the truth of the Gospel. It is also the principal article of all Christian doctrine wherein the knowledge of all godliness consists.

It is essential, therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others and beat it into their heads continually.

Wonderful!—

From a sermon by Henry Mahan

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
 Isaiah 9:6

I heard years ago, when I was a boy, I will never forget it. A preacher said, "Since I found out who Wonderful is, I haven't called anyone else "wonderful." "His name is Wonderful."

"His name shall be called Wonderful." We carelessly call a whole lot of things wonderful, but that is His name, Wonderful. He is Wonderful in His eternity, "Glorify Me with the glory which I had with You before the world was." He is Wonderful in His person—"I and My Father are one." He is Wonderful in His love—"Greater love has no man than this." He is Wonderful in His life—"He knew no sin." He's Wonderful in His death—"He died the Just for the unjust to bring us to God." He's Wonderful in His resurrection—"Why seek you the living among the dead?" He's Wonderful in His power—"He is able to save and able to keep and able to present you faultless before His throne of glory with exceeding joy."

What a Gospel this is, [the Gospel of Jesus Christ] for hope is the beginning of amendment, the first letter of the alphabet of reform!—CHS, 1885

HAVE YOU EVER REALLY HEARD THE GOSPEL?

Are you sure?

My friend, as I listen and observe, I am convinced that many people have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. “But Pastor, you are preaching to the choir, I go to church.” My friend, just because you go to church (or used to go) does not necessarily mean that you have heard the Gospel. It appears that whole churches and denominations cannot give a clear answer to the simple question, “What is the Gospel?”

Many have bought a message which was hawked as the Gospel, assuming it to be what it was labeled. On the other hand, some have rejected the same teaching and now they refuse to hear even the true Gospel.

If I gave you a sheet of paper and asked you to write down the answer to this question, what would you say? *What is the Gospel?*

Everyone in the Bible-belt of America knows that the term *Gospel* literally means good message, good news, glad tidings. Let us first consider what it is not, and then we will consider what it is.

What the Gospel is not:

1. The Gospel is not—*Everything will be all right, anyhow, somehow.* (That is simply blind optimism. It is faith in fate or in mathematical probability. Such is fodder for cults and psychologists. God has nothing to do with this at all).
2. The Gospel is not—*Everyone is basically good to begin with, but we all have a few minor flaws. However, by doing the best we can, by being a nice person and helping others, we win God’s approval. It doesn’t really matter if you are a Buddhist or a Moslem, etc., as long as you are sincere.* (This is all patently false, because in God’s sight none of us is good, not even one; nor can we do what the infinitely Holy One regards as good. Notice that Christ does not even enter the equation in this erroneous Gospel.)
3. Here is a variation of the preceding—*If I do the best I can, Christ will make up for the part that is lacking; and of course I’ve always been a pretty good person, so there isn’t much to make up.* (But this, too, is a mixture of works and Grace, which the Bible utterly condemns. Christ will not be relegated to the level of an auxiliary).
4. The Gospel is not—*God loves everybody and everybody is going to Heaven. God, like Santa Claus, makes big threats, but in the end He overlooks all our sins, except maybe those of Adolph Hitler.* (This, of course, is what we are led to believe at most funerals. Alas, some even hold out hope for Hitler!)
5. The Gospel is not—*You will get rich and never again be sick if you come to Christ.* (This is the Prosperity Gospel of many televangelists. With our naturally selfish nature, it is not surprising that this get-rich-quick scheme is readily accepted. Covetousness is now called a virtue!)
6. The Gospel is not—*Feel good about yourself. You are someone special. Let’s boost your self-esteem to new heights with this psychological self-help program!* (Even a cursory reading of Holy Scripture gives the lie to such flattery. Pride is an accomplice to all sin!)
7. The Gospel is not—*Salvation is found in a church. I just leave it to the professionals or priests to sweat the details and dispense my salvation to me.* (This detached posture makes man, not God, to be the savior. Man, not Christ, becomes the object of trust in this subtle shift).
8. The Gospel is not—*The Son of God, Jesus Christ, came to point out the way, to show us how to live, to teach a good philosophy of life. By following His example, we will enter Heaven.* (The truth is, Christ is the way. More than a teacher, He is the curriculum! Thank God for His example—but we need a Redeemer).
9. The Gospel is not—*Get this eternal fire-insurance policy, which becomes binding when you say the “sinner’s prayer.” Make Jesus your Savior now, but not necessarily your Lord.* (Eternal punishment is not avoided simply by repeating a prayer as if it were a magical formula. If a person is saved from Hell, he is also saved from the dominion of sin which leads to Hell. Multitudes have been deceived into thinking that they can live like Hell and still go to Heaven).
10. The Gospel is not—*Jesus Christ has made it easy now to be saved—at least easier than it was in the Old Testament time, when the Israelites had to offer sacrifices and keep the Law of God in order to be saved. All we have to do now is believe. In the New Testament time, believing takes the place of working; believing is the easiest work of all.* (No, there has always been only one way of salvation, namely, through the obedience and sacrifice of Christ. It is all by God’s Grace.)
11. The Gospel is not—*Everyone is made potentially savable by Christ’s work on the Cross...as if God puts everyone on the starting line, and those who cross the finish line get an applause. Good luck!* (Some are even applauded at the altar call nowadays! This whole impersonal scheme actually saves no one. It is anything but good news).
12. Similarly, the Gospel is not—*Christ has done all He can do to save your soul; now you must do the rest. Together, you and He can make it happen. All you have to do is contribute your _____.* Fill in the blank with whatever your church teaches—i.e. baptism, sacraments, money, prayer, decision, faith, tears, tongues, etc. The equation looks like this—Christ’s death + your baptism = acceptance with God. Or Christ’s death + your cooperation = acceptance with God. Or Christ’s death + your anything = acceptance with God. (Yes, even faith is commonly regarded as a work of merit by which you “get saved.” But the Bible plainly tells us that faith is a gift from God, not a praiseworthy donation originating in us, nor a sort of compliment we pay to God.)

What then is the Gospel?

The Gospel equation looks like this—Christ’s death in the sinner’s place = acceptance with God.

There is nothing to add—Christ does it all! The problem with all twelve of the items above is that they in one way or another make man his own savior, as he contributes some kind of work.

In ourselves, we are guilty before a just and holy God, our Creator and Sovereign. Our sin and our sins have separated us from Him who is infinitely holy and pure. We have broken His Commandments and deserve nothing but His punishment. Further, we are utterly bankrupt and inca-

(See The Gospel on page 10)

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FAITH OF BROTHER SPURGEON

I may not often quote my own life as an example except to you who are my friends and fellow workers, and to whom my life is but your own brought out in public. You know how we, as a Church, have been led to see mysteriously the hand of God. I remember one night, when we resolved to build this House of Prayer, we knew that we were poor, much too poor ever to be able to raise so large a sum as this house would cost—especially when the vow was registered that it should never be built with borrowed money—but should either be paid for or else not built at all.

I remember preaching that evening from the text, “And the iron did swim,” and saying that the building of this house seemed as likely a thing to happen as if the iron should swim. But I said I was glad it was 25,000 pounds which we needed, for if it had been only 5,000 pounds, or 10,000 pounds, we might feel able to raise it. But 25,000 pounds was impossible—only I believed that God could do impossibilities! It was one of the most singular things that ever occurred, when a friend at a distance whom I never saw but once in my life—and who had no connection with us—put down 5,000 pounds himself toward it!

We were encouraged. We went to work, and the thing was done and as it went on, more and more singular helps were sent! When the College of which I am president had been commenced for a year or so, all my means were spent. My purse was dried up and I had no other means of carrying it on. I was in this very House of Prayer one Sunday evening after I had spent all I had for the support of my young men for the ministry. There is a dear friend now sitting behind me who knows the truth of what I am saying. I said to him, “There is nothing left whatever.” He said, “You have a good Banker, Sir.” “Yes,” I said, “and I should like to draw upon Him now, for I have nothing.” “Well,” he said, “how do you know? Have you prayed about it?” “Yes, I have.” “Well, then, leave it with Him. Have you opened your letters?” “No, I do not open my letters on Sundays.”

“Well,” he said, “open them for once.” I did so, and in the first one I opened there was a banker’s letter to this effect—“Dear Sir, We beg to in-

form you that a lady, totally unknown to us, has left with us two hundred pounds for you to use in the education of young men.” Such a sum has never come since, and it never came before! And I have no more idea than the dead in their graves how it came then, nor who it came from! But to me it seemed that it came directly from God.

We have gone on successfully ever since with that work, and are resolved to launch out into others. And I believe that we only need as a Church, and your pastor only needs as your pastor, to have faith in God and we shall find Him “wonderful in counsel and excellent in working.”

Wherever there is the hand of a true man there is the wing of an angel! Wherever there is the working of the sword of Joshua and the prayer of Moses, the almighty arm of the God of Israel is present! You have but to believe and to go forward, leaning upon Him who made Heaven and earth, and all will be well.

Let us pluck up courage, and from this very morning let us feel that we are not to be guided by the dogmas of carnal prudence but by the dictates of FAITH IN THE INVISIBLE GOD. Let us no longer measure *means* and calculate *possibilities*, but let us go to Him who cannot be measured or limited. Let us *trust* Him where we cannot *trace* Him. Let us serve Him with might and main and, to use the words of Gerhardt—

**“Let us in life and death
His steadfast Truths declare,
And publish with our latest breath,
His love and guardian care!”**

Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Version 1.0—Sermon #711, Volume 12—*A Feast for Faith*—Ages Software, 1.800.297.4307

**PRAY FOR GRACE
TO BE HOLY!**

If you or someone you know does not have internet access and lives in the United States, write for a free monthly subscription to this little magazine. Address is on the back page.

I heard a speech the other day by a beloved Wesleyan Brother, and it did me much good to hear it. He said, “If God is pleased to scourge us Wesleyans for our sins, and to withhold a large measure of success, I will then pray that he would bless you Baptists, and make up through *you* what the Church may lose through us.” When I heard him say it and knew he meant it, I could not but feel my soul knit to such a man—a man who loves the Church of Christ and loves it for Christ’s sake, for the sake of souls—and for the Truth’s sake. This is just how *all* of us ought to feel—that we wish to see all the Churches multiply and increase—and wherever the Truth of God is preached, wish to see that Truth prevail.—
CHS

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PRAY DAILY
FOR
YOUR
PASTOR!

Letters to Mike Gendron Of Proclaiming the Gospel:

ptg@pro-gospel.org
www.pro-gospel.org

Dianne Pomon, RN, Executive Director, Genesis Pregnancy Care Center, Pottstown, PA, writes—We met after you spoke at the *Midnight Call Prophecy Conference* where I purchased many of your resources for our ministry at the Genesis Pregnancy Care Center. Your DVDs are extremely useful for training new volunteers and my Board of Directors. It is now mandatory for all our volunteers to view your seven DVDs that deal with evangelism God's way, the growing apostasy and the compromise of the Gospel. We are also handing out your tracts to our Catholic clients. Needless to say, the purpose-driven, seeker-friendly churches have produced a huge crop of false converts. Fifteen years ago, when I became director, we rarely saw Christians coming through our doors, but now 65-75% of our clients say they are "Christians." Some have had four or more abortions; others are having their third or fourth child out of wedlock. Most are living with boyfriends and have not read a Bible or attended church since they repeated the "magic prayer." Trying to reach these women with the truth of the Scriptures is like pulling teeth! They believe themselves to be saved, and that's the end of the discussion. When confronted with their sin, they often become angry and defensive, sometimes to the point of leaving. Yet, when someone does repent and believe the Gospel, it is awesome! Evangelism is the #1 goal in our ministry; secondly, we desire to prevent young women from having an abortion which will likely begin a downward progression of sin in their life. All our counseling is 100% biblical, no psychology, no nonsense! Many of our volunteers are now seeing problems in their own churches because of your resources, and now they can better relate to clients who are victims of the "Gushy Gospel" in a purpose-driven church. Our goal is to send them to one of the few "Bible-driven" churches in our area. As I speak in various churches, I am observing the growing apostasy of the church. When Rick Warren started promoting his *Purpose Driven Life*, I knew we were headed for tough times. This book is the most blatantly unbiblical publication I've seen, yet virtually every church in our area is embracing it. Thank you for your many educational resources that are so firmly grounded in Scripture. You have provided me with valuable training materials for the Lord's ministry to young women.

J. T. Paris, France, writes—Thank you so much for speaking at L'Eglise Baptiste du Centre Paris. Your crystal-clear presentation of the difference between the simplicity of the Bible message of salvation on the one hand and the tangled confusion of man-made traditions on the other hand was excellent. Those of us who have the desire to share the Good News with the unsaved are now better equipped to do so, and the visitors who came with their doubts and questions were enlightened upon hearing you present the beautiful message of salvation. We were indeed blessed by your brief visit, and we hope you will have the opportunity to return in the near future. *Encore, un tres grand merci!*

A. W. Sterrett, AL, writes—My experience witnessing to Catholics has not been very good. They believe what they are taught by the Catholic Church. Even when you show them the Scriptures, they still believe the Catholic Church. They aren't looking for the Truth of God. They are satisfied.

J. & C. C., Mariaville, ME, write—We have copied your article, *Why Evangelize If God Has Already Chosen?* to share with those we hope will be convicted by Scripture. I've never seen that subject presented so well and so completely God-honoring, leaving no room for man to gloat! Thanks for your obedience. We took these Truths of God to our pastors and thought they would be ecstatic to learn of the great God we serve. Instead we were put out of teaching and worship and are now looking for a church that will hold up the Bible as the Truth of God.

J. T., Lexington, KY writes—Being a fan of Dave Hunt and having read *What Love Is This?*, I devoured the article Mike wrote on Election. He was acknowledging God's knowledge of who would respond (election), but he also cited the individual's responsibility to respond. I really struggle with this issue more than any other. I have always believed that "God knows" who is going to respond but that we have the final choice. That satisfied me until I read Hunt's book which was vitriolic in some ways. I am one of his greatest admirers, but I was uncomfortable reading that book and had a problem with it. Anyway, please send anything else Mike has that would help me get over the hurdle I have with election and free will.

R. & J. D., Loon Lake, WA write—Our Christian neighbor called the other morning while we were going over some things in your book, *Preparing Catholics for Eternity*. She told us she is working with some nuns in the area (who she believes are Christians) who help people in need. We started sharing with her one thing after another from your book. All she could say was, Wow, Wow! Well, just about an hour ago the local librarian (who is our daughter) called and said our neighbor was there wanting your book. We praise God who knows how all this new information we are getting from your materials will lead us.

J. G., Slatington, PA writes—Your DVD, *Catholicism vs. Evangelical Christianity* was a very informative and well-produced documentary. Dr. Reagan was great interviewing you on the important issues on which Catholics are uninformed and spiritually blinded by the clergy. Catholics seem to be more concerned about subjects like the early church fathers, how Peter became the "first pope" and their traditions, instead of the very Words of God contained in Scripture. They do not realize they are under the influence of Satan because to them, their religious system is handed down from one generation to the next. That is why Catholics will continue to be defensive about their spiritual blindness.

THE GOSPEL

(Continued from page 7)

pable of paying the debt we owe. Nor can we do anything which would reverse this just sentence upon us, or secure His approval of us.

But out of the sheer goodness of His heart, not due to anything good in man now or ever, God has freely taken upon Himself to redeem sinners. How is this possible? How could a holy God receive unholy sinners? How could the Judge acquit the guilty and maintain justice? The answer lies in the Gospel!

God the Father sent His only begotten Son, co-eternal and co-equal with Him, from Heaven to earth to pay the price of sin. After living a perfect and sinless life, He laid down that life on the Cross of Calvary. There, the wrath of God was poured out on Him. There, the transaction was accomplished, the debt canceled, a real Atonement made. The death of Christ in and of itself actually secured redemption for all those for whom He died. The Father in Heaven was satisfied. Justice was upheld. At the same time, the guilty was pardoned and reconciled. Thus, God is morally self-consistent in His justifying of the ungodly.

The very heart of the Gospel lies in two facts—

First, the sins of Christ's people were laid on Him, and He died.

Second, the perfection of Christ was laid on His people, and they live.

This two-way imputation is the good news. Both events always work in tandem. Wherever the first occurs, the second also occurs. That is simply to say that Christ was a Substitute for individual persons, and He is indeed a "personal Savior."

God's Gospel is so amazing, so full of wonder! How many judges do you know who would punish their own son and set the criminal free? How many would then adopt him into the family forever? Such a love is uniquely Divine. This is truly the glorious Gospel of the blessed God! Anything less is no Gospel at all to unworthy helpless rebels like you and I.

Friend, you do not need to add anything to what Christ has done. To attempt to do so is the height of arrogance and blasphemy, a desecration of the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. God does not need your help. Rather, you need His help and deliverance. Come to Him, look to Him, bow to His authority as the King who rose from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father. Turn away from your sin. Repent of your evil deeds as well as your good deeds and flee to Christ. Trust only in His merits! Believe on Him.

"But Pastor, didn't you just say that faith does not save? Now you are telling me to have faith."

Exactly! It is not faith *per se* that saves, but Jesus Christ, Himself, who saves. You must receive everything from Him. He is the source of all things that pertain to life and godliness. He must be the Object of your faith. Don't look to your faith, look to the Savior! Say with the hymn-writer,

Nothing in my hand I bring,

Simply to Your cross I cling.

Even your clinging is a work of His grace! Otherwise, you could not cling to Him at all. By His enabling, cling to Him now!

Dear reader, this is the only true Gospel. Don't be deceived by a counterfeit. Your soul cannot afford to be fuzzy on this issue. Is this the Gospel you have believed? Is this the Gospel you have rejected?

Daniel A. Chamberlin

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THANK GOD!

How many Roman Catholic "masses" did I attend and participate in (as an "altar boy," and a seminarian) in my lifetime? For two years in the seminary and probably another two years, at least, in college, I went every day and "twice on Sundays." And when the Holy Spirit, by His Grace, began convicting me in 1987, at the age of 46, even after 15 years as a professing Lutheran and all those years before, a "devout Catholic," I fought Him and began going back to daily "mass."

But when a person is truly regenerated by the Holy Spirit and is brought to closure with his/her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, believe me, it is *simple* to leave "Mother Church" and all that filthy baggage! Don't believe any person that tells you they trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and yet will not leave the Catholic Church—the Truth of God is not in them!

I wonder, in light of what the Catholic Church teaches to its over 1 billion members in the world today, if there are many reading this who understand what the Catholic church teaches and how it truly is an abomination to our Master, Jesus Christ?

"Masses." "Purgatory." Concrete and porcelain idols in their places of worship. (Thousands lighting candles and praying the "rosary" in their places of worship and even in front of tortillas, spots on driveways, tree stumps—because they have "images" of Mary or Jesus, supposedly, in or on them).

Remember, the Catholic doesn't *worship* Mary—they just *pray* to her. Pray *TO* her! Remember that. Remember, they don't worship her. They "venerate" her. They pray to her. Remember that. I can't remember, although I carried one with me for over 20 years (that's right, 20 *years*), how many "Hail Marys" a Catholic says when he/she says a rosary. I am pretty sure it is 53 or 55.

I'm going to write the words of the "Hail Mary" prayer that is said. But remember, whether it is 53 or 55, or whether your "penance" is to say one or two or three *rosaries*, this is *not* worship. It is only praying to a dead woman! It is only veneration. "Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. [Now remember, this is *not* worshipping Mary, it is only *praying to her*.] Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

So why did I carry a "rosary" around all those years? Why, because "Holy Mother Church" told me if I did, it would guarantee that Mary would pray for me—and her son, Jesus, could not turn her down! And that, Folks, would get me to Heaven!

Of course I never *worshipped* Mary. I mean, I guess I just assumed that if "Mother Church" said to do it, I should and did. I never thought about if she could understand *my* prayers—after all she may not have been fluent in English.

Sick, isn't it? If you're a called minister of the Gospel will you please study the Roman Catholic religion, just a little bit, and warn your congregation of the evil of it? Will you please ask your congregation to pray for Roman Catholics just as you may have asked them to pray for Muslims and Jews? Will you please pray for my brother, David, who has been deceived for almost 64 years? Ask our God to save him for Jesus' sake.—Emmett O'Donnell

NOTABLE QUOTES OF CHARLES H. SPURGEON

“They err from the Scriptures who make the Grace of God a reason for doing nothing—it is the reason for doing everything.”—1896, Sermon #2455

“*Into Your hands I commit my spirit.* You notice that this Psalm [31] is dedicated to the chief musician. I have studied these Psalms, not only by the hour, and by the day, but sometimes by the month, together. Some of these Psalms have been the pillow for my head at night. Others of them, like wafers made of honey, have lain in my mouth till I have sucked out of them their Divine sweetness. I have often noticed that when one of these sacred songs is dedicated to the chief musician, The Chief Musician generally appears somewhere in the Psalm—He from whom comes all the music that ever makes bleeding hearts, glad, usually shows some traces of Himself within the Psalm itself! In this instance, the living words of David were the dying words of David’s Lord—‘Into Your hands I commend My spirit.’ What David did and what the Lord Jesus Christ did, let us do, and do it every day—let us commit our spirit into the hands of our God.”—1896, Sermon #2455

“‘But,’ says someone, ‘there are certain districts where you cannot do any good if you try to preach the Gospel. You must fiddle to the people and drum to them—and then you must have amusements and entertainments for them—you must have penny readings and concerts.’ Very well, convert sinners that way if you can, dear Friends—I do not object to any method that results in the winning of souls! Stand on your head if that will save the people, but still, it seems to me that if God’s Word is like a fire, there is *nothing* like it for burning its way! And if God’s Word is like a hammer, there can be *nothing* like that Word for hammering down everything that stands in the way of Jesus Christ! Why, then, should we not continually try the Gospel and nothing but the Gospel?”—1896, Sermon #2460

“There is nothing truly substantial apart from God, the Everlasting One, who lives and abides forever. Depend upon it, we shall, in a short time, prove the insubstantiality of our own lives! Worms will be scrambling for our flesh and if we have not Christ as our Savior, devils will be fighting for our soul—and we, unable to help ourselves—shall have passed away from all that we once thought real with a groan because it was so false and so deceptive. ‘Verily, every man at his best state is altogether vanity.’”—1896, Sermon #2462

“Scripture all through represents the acquisition of wealth as involving very solemn responsibilities and loading the soul with burdens. I do not doubt that there are some men who could never have sinned as they have done if they had not been successful in acquiring wealth. They could never have plunged into a damnation so deep as that which is theirs if they had not been able to indulge their lusts without stint.”—1896, Sermon #2462

“It ill becomes a man, who is on the brink of Hell, to be laughing and jesting!”—1896, Sermon #2468

“Do not attempt to make any *excuse for your sin*. Oh, how ready sinners are with their excuses! A man says, ‘But, Sir, I have a besetting sin.’ Do you not think that a great many people make a mistake about besetting sins? There was a man who used to get drunk and he said that it was his besetting sin. But his brother said, ‘No, Sam, it is your *upsetting* sin!’”—1896, Sermon #2468

“Until you are like a vessel turned upside down and drained of every drop of human merit, there is no hope of salvation for you. You must sit alone and keep silent about those good works of yours, for they are all a lie and you know it! You have never done a good work in your life—you have either spoiled it by your selfish motives *before* it, or by some carelessness *in* it, or by some vainglorious pride *after* it. At the best, you are nothing but a boasting Pharisee, and though you may wash the outside of your cup and platter, yet your heart is full of wickedness and your soul is steeped in sin.”—1896, Sermon #2468

“O Beloved, in your hour of darkness because of your sin, sit still and hold your tongue, for it is oftentimes the way of peace to the soul!”—1896, Sermon #2468

“There is no exhibition like the exhibition of the love of God in Jesus Christ to guilty sinners!”—1896, Sermon #2468

“Virtue is like goodness frozen into ice, hard and cold. But holiness is that same goodness when it is thawed into a clear, running, sparkling stream. Virtue is the best thing that philosophy can produce, but holiness is the true fruit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and of that alone!”—1896, Sermon #2469

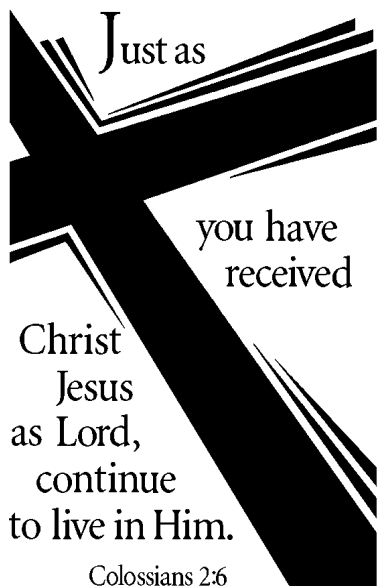
“I do not hesitate to say that the whole theory of evolution is more monstrously false and foolish than any other ever conceived beneath high Heaven! It is a marvelous thing that men should be able to squeeze their minds into the belief of an absurdity which, in time to come, will be ridiculed to children in the schoolroom as an instance of the credulity of their ancestors.”—1896, Sermon #2463

“Yes, Brothers and Sisters, God hears our sighs even if we cannot hear them ourselves! When we think we have not prayed at all, we have often prayed the best! When we imagine that our groans have been empty, they have often been the fullest! When we sigh because we think we do not sigh, God hears that sort of sighing which is only a *longing* to sigh! He hears the grief when the grief has no voice. He hears the sorrow when the sorrow cannot find a tongue.”—1896, Sermon #2464

“If God’s people strive mightily, it is because God works mightily in them! Nothing can come out of a man but what God puts into Him. We work to will and to do when He works in us according to His good pleasure. Oh, for more of the agonizing of the Spirit within us, that there might be more of agonizing in our spirits for the Glory of God!”—1896, Sermon #2465

“Study the Word, that your faith may not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God!”—1896, Sermon #2469

For HIS Glory
Prison Ministry
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PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY

In This Issue...

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

LISTEN TO HIM, BELOVED!

By Charles H. Spurgeon

Now let me look up again and see my Lord with His wounds, as Mary did not see Him, but as we now may—with hands and feet pierced, with scarred side and marred visage—tokens of the ransom price paid in His pangs and griefs and death. Is it not amazing to see your sin forever blotted out and blotted out so fully, and blotted out by such means as this? Why, if there were not an audible word, those wounds are mouths which speak His love! The most eloquent mouths that ever spoke are the wounds of Christ. Listen! Listen! Every drop of blood says, “Peace.” Every wound says, “Pardon. Life. Eternal life.”

And now see your Beloved once again. He is risen from the dead and His wounds bleed no more! Yes, He has gone into Glory and He sits at the right hand of God, even of the Father! It is well for you, dear Brother or Sister, that you cannot literally sit at His feet in that guise, for if you could only see Him as He is, I know what would happen to you—even that which happened unto John when he saw Him with His head and His hair white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes as a flame of fire, and His feet as if they burned in a furnace. You would swoon away! John says, “When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.”

You cannot sit at those feet of Glory till you have left this mortal clay, or until it has been made like unto His glorious body! But you may in faith do so—and what will His Glory say to you? It will say, “This is what you shall receive. This is what you shall share. This is what you shall see forever and ever.” He will say to you—even to you who mourn your insignificance and in lowliness sit at His feet—“Beloved, you shall partake of the Glory which the Father gave Me, even that which I had with Him before the world was. Soon, when a few more moons have waxed and waned, soon you shall be with Me where I am.”

Oh, what bliss is this! Never mind Martha’s frowns! Forget her for the moment and keep on sitting at Jesus’ feet! She may come in and grumble and say that something is neglected—tell her she should not neglect it, then, but now your business is not with plates or pots, but to do as your Master has permitted you to do, namely, to sit at His feet and listen to Him!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Version 1.0, Ages Software, 1.800.297.4307—Sermon #2927, Volume #51—LOVE AT LEISURE—Read/download the entire sermon, free of charge at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.