

FOR HIS GLORY

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Election is an *important* doctrine, as is evident from various considerations. Perhaps we can express most impressively the momentousness of this truth by pointing out that apart from eternal election there had never been any Jesus Christ, and therefore no divine gospel, for if God had never chosen a people unto salvation, He had never sent His Son; and if He had sent no Savior, none had ever been saved! Thus, the gospel, itself, origin-nated in this vital matter of election. "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God has, from the beginning, chosen you to salvation" (2 Thess 2:13). And why are we "bound to give thanks"? Because election is the root of all blessings, the spring of every mercy that the soul receives. If election is taken away, *everything* is taken away, for those who have *any* spiritual blessing are they who have *all* spiritual blessings "according as they were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world" (Eph 1:3, 4).—
A.W. Pink



WHAT CAN WE DO TO PROMOTE CONVERSIONS?

By Charles Spurgeon

"And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord."

Acts 11:21.

Conversion is God's work. It cannot be worked without His hand; without Him we can do nothing; our hands are far too puny for such a work. The power of the first disciples, and our own lies in the fact mentioned in the text—"The hand of the Lord was with them." Still, there are certain circumstances under which that hand will work, and there are hindrances which will restrain it.

Let us think for a while. First, then, if sinners are to be converted, *we must distinctly aim at it*. As a rule, a man does what he tries to do, and not that which is mere by-play. The conversion of sinners is not one of those things which a man is likely to accomplish without intending it. Sometimes in the sovereignty of God, a preacher who does

not aim at conversion may nevertheless be made useful, for God works as He wills. But as a rule, men do not win souls if they do not eagerly desire to do so; fishing for men cannot be carried out by throwing in the net without caring whether fish are caught or not! Few traders become rich by accident—they generally have to plod and work hard for money; and to be rich in treasures of saved souls you must aim at it, and labor for it. I am struck with astonishment as I think how many sermons are preached, how many Sunday school addresses are given, how many religious books are written of which you are quite sure that the intention was *not* immediate conversion! It is thought that in some unknown way these good things may accidentally contribute to men's salvation, but they are not aimed at as their present objective! Ah, brother, if you want men to come to Christ, (See *Pray for Conversions* on page 3)

THE MAN OF SORROWS

Br C. H. Spurgeon

LET us admire the superlative love of Jesus. O love, love, what have You done? What have You *not* done? You are omnipotent in suffering! Few of us can bear pain; perhaps fewer still of us can bear misrepresentation, slander, and ingratitude. These are horrible hornets which sting as with fire; men have been driven to madness by cruel scandals which have distilled from venomous tongues. Christ, throughout life, bore these and other sufferings! Let us love Him, as we think of how much He must have loved us! Will you try, this afternoon, before you come to the communion table, to get your souls saturated with the love of Christ? Soak them in His love all afternoon, till, like a sponge, you drink into your own selves the love of Jesus!

And then come up tonight, as it were, to let that love flow out to Him again while you sit at His table, and partake of the emblems of His death, and of

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A DIFFERENT WAY TO LOOK AT GIVING

By Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Some of God's children get schemes into their heads of doing great things for God, but they say, "May I not, after all, be working for myself? May it not be that pride and vain-glory so leaven my labors that 'the odor of a sweet smell,' like to that 'acceptable sacrifice' which the Philippians presented, will be all a-wanting." No, my friends, my helpers in every good work—you need not ask that question if He has accepted you—for the accepted man brings an accepted offering! It is wonderful how God sees good things in His people where we cannot see them. He saw in Abijah some good thing towards the Lord God of Israel when, perhaps, no one else saw it.

Mistress Sarah once made a rather naughty speech, yet there was one good word in it. I doubt very much if any one of us would have been quick enough to discern it. Yet the Holy Spirit picked out that one word, and put it into the Old Testament to her praise. She spoke unbelievably as to her bearing a child at her advanced age, though the Promise was announced that she should bring forth a son. She said, "Shall it be, I being old, my lord being old, also?" This was a bad speech, but we are somewhat startled to read in the New Testament, "As Sarah also obeyed her husband, calling him lord." If God can find a speck of good in us, He will! Then let us *try what we can do for Him*. Here is a great lump of quartz, but if the Lord can see a grain of gold, He will save the quartz for the sake of it. He says, "Destroy it not, for a blessing is in it."

I do not mean that the Lord deals thus with all men. It is only for *accepted* men that He has this kind way of accepting their gifts. Had you seen me, when a young man, and an usher walking through the streets with rolls of drawings from a boys' school, you would have guessed that I considered them of no value, and fit only to be consigned to the fire. But I always took a great interest in the drawings of my own boy, and I still think them rather remarkable! You smile, I dare say, but I do so think, and my judgment is as good as yours! I value them because they are his, and I think I see budding genius in every touch! But you do not see it because you are so blind! I see it since love has opened my eyes!

God can see in His people's gifts to Him, and their works for Him a beauty which no eyes but His can perceive! Oh, if He so treats our poor service, what ought we *not* do for Him? What zeal, what cheerfulness should stimulate us! If we are accepted, our sacrifices shall be acceptable! The Almighty will permit us to be called His servants and we shall find His blessing resting on all that we do. "Accepted in the Beloved" has for its accompaniment, "God has accepted your works."

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software, Volume 29—*Accepted of the Great Father*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

DO YOU LOVE HIM?

(Continued from page 1)

His Love. Admire the power of His Love, and then pray that you may have a love somewhat akin to it in power. We sometimes wonder why the Church of God grows so slowly, but I do not wonder when I remember what scant consecration to Christ there is in the Church of God. Jesus was "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief," but many of His disciples who profess to be altogether His, are living for themselves! There are rich men who call themselves saints, and are thought to be so, whose treasures are hoarded for themselves and families! There are men of ability who believe that they are bought with Christ's blood, yet their ability is all spent on other things, and none upon their Lord!

And let us come nearer home—here are we, what are we doing? Teaching in the school, are you? Are you doing it with all your heart *for Jesus*? Preaching in the street? Yes, but do you throw your soul into it *for Him*? Maybe you have to confess you are doing nothing—do not let this day conclude till you have begun to do something for your Lord! We are always talking about the church doing this, and doing that—what is the church? I believe there is a great deal too much said, both of bad and good, about that abstraction. The fact is, we are *individuals*! The church is only the aggregation of *individuals*, and if any good is to be done, it must be performed by *individuals*! And if all individuals are idle, there is no church work done! There may be the semblance of it, but there is no real work done!

Brothers and sisters, what are you *doing for Jesus*? I charge you by the nail-prints of His hands, unless you are a liar unto Him, LABOR for Him! I charge you by His wounded feet—run to His help! I charge you by the scar on His side—give Him your heart! I charge you by that sacred head once pierced with thorns—yield Him your thoughts! I charge you by the shoulders which bore the scourges—bend your whole strength to His service! I charge you by Himself—give Him yourself! I charge you by that left hand which has been under your head, and that right hand which has embraced you, by the roes and by the hinds of the field, by the beds of spices, and the banquets of love—render yourself, your heart, your soul, your strength to Him! Live in His service, and die in His service! Lay not down your harness, but work on as long as you shall live. While you live let this be your motto—"All for Jesus, all for Jesus; all for the man of sorrows, all for the man of sorrows!"

O you that love Him and fight for Him, you are summoned to the front! Hasten to the conflict, I pray you, and charge home for the "man of sorrows!" Make this your battle cry today! Slink not back like cowards! Flee not to your homes as lovers of ease, but press to the front for the "man of sorrows," like good men and true. By the cross which bore Him, and by the heavy cross He bore; by His death agony, and by the agony of His life, I cry, "Forward, for the man of sorrows!" Write this word, "For the man of sorrows," on your own bodies, wherein you bear the marks of the Lord

(See *WILL YOU GIVE YOUR ALL* on page 8)

PRAY FOR CONVERSIONS

(Continued from page 1)

you must preach Christ to them with all your heart—with this design—that they may *immediately* close in with Christ, and at once give their hearts to Jesus!

Yes, and you are to pray that they may do so through the present effort which you are making for their good. *There* is the target, and if you continue to shoot into the air long enough, an arrow may strike it; but, man alive, if you want to win the prize of archery, you had better fix your eye upon the white, and take your aim distinctly, and with skill! If an individual would win souls, he must bend his whole soul to it, and make it the objective of his whole energy! Next to that we must take care, if we would have souls won, that we press upon them the truths which God usually blesses. Shall I read to you the verse before my text? Here it is—“They spoke unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus, and the hand of the Lord was with them.” Now, if we do not preach Jesus Christ, we shall not see souls saved!

There are certain forms of doctrines which condemn themselves by working out their own extinction. Did you ever hear of a minister whose preaching leaned towards Unitarianism, but what the congregation sooner or later began to diminish? Though many such preachers have been men of great ability, they have not as a rule been able to keep the dead thing on its feet! You shall go into our small towns, and you may find an ancient chapel which was once an Independent, or a Presbyterian, or it may be a Baptist Chapel; but if you see over the door, “Unitarians,” you have, as a rule, seen all that there is, for there is neither church nor congregation worthy of the name—frequently the place is never opened at all, and the grass grows knee deep on the path to the door!

Even when these little places are used, you will generally find that they contain half a dozen nobodies who think themselves everybody as to intellect and culture! It is a religion of the utmost value to spiders, for those insects are able to spin their webs in the meeting houses without fear! Who ever heard; who will ever hear of a Unitarian Whitefield, or a Socinian Moody gathering 20,000 people to listen to a Christless gospel? It is a phenomenon which never has been seen, and never will be!

Men’s instincts lead them to turn away from a creed which contains so little which can solace the troubled soul. If we want souls saved, we must equally avoid the modern intellectual system in all its classes. “Oh,” cries somebody, “you should hear the great Mr. Bombast. It is—Oh, I cannot tell you what it is, but something very wonderful! It is an intellectual treat.” Just so, but how many conversions are worked by this wonderful display of genius? How many hearts are broken by fine rhetoric? How many broken hearts are healed by philosophy? So far as I have observed, I find that God does not save souls by intellectual treats!

Certain views as to man’s future are equally to be kept clear of if you would be the means of conversion. Diminish

your ideas of the Wrath of God, and the terrors of hell—and in that proportion you will diminish the results of your work! I could not conceive a Bunyan or a Baxter, or any other great soul-winner, falling into these new notions, or if he did, that would be an end to his success! Other crotchets and novelties of doctrine are also to be left alone, for they are not likely to promote your objective, but will most probably divert men’s attention from the vital point.

Dear brothers, if you want a harvest, look well to your seed! Time was when gardeners threw all the little potatoes on one side for seed, and then they had bad crops. Now I have seen them pick out the very best, and put them by! “We must have good seed,” they say. If I had to sow my fields with wheat, I would not take the tail seed; I should grudge no expense about seed, for it would be false economy to buy any but the very best! Go preach, teach, and instruct with the best doctrine, even that of God’s Word, for depend upon it, though the result is not in *your* hands, yet it very much depends upon *what* you teach! O, Eternal and ever blessed Spirit, guide Your servants into all truth!

Next to this, if you want to win souls for Christ, feel a solemn alarm about them; you cannot make them feel if you do not feel yourself. Believe their danger; believe their helplessness; believe that only Christ can save them, and talk to them as if you meant it. The Holy Spirit will move them by first moving you; if you can rest without their being saved, they will rest too! But if you are filled with an agony for them; if you cannot bear that they should be lost, you will soon find that they are uneasy too. I hope you will get into such a state that you will dream about your child, or about your hearer perishing for lack of Christ—and start up at once, and begin to cry, “O God, give me converts or I die!” Then you will have converts—there is no fear about that; God does not send travail pangs to His servants without causing them to abound in spiritual children!

There will be new births to God when you are agonizing for them! But let me add, *there must be much prayer!* Delight to be at Prayer Meetings where the Brethren will not let the Lord go except He blesses them! When a brother prays, choking as he speaks, tears rolling down his cheeks as he pleads with God to have mercy on the sons of men, I am always certain that sinners are ordained to be blessed when I see saints thus compelled to plead with God for them! In your closets alone, at your family altars, and in your gatherings for prayer, be *importunate*, and the hand of the Lord must and will be with you! Cry aloud and spare not; plead as for your lives, and bring forth your strong arguments, for only by prevailing with God will you be enabled to prevail with men.

Then there must be added to prayer *direct personal effort on the part of all of you*. Great numbers may be saved by my preaching if the Holy Spirit blesses it, but I shall expect *larger* numbers if you *all* turn preachers; if every brother and sister here becomes a witness for Christ. Are you lazy? Are any of you beginning to sleep? I charge you, wake up! By the love you bear to Jesus, and by the love you bear to your fellow men, begin at once to seek the conversion of those who dwell around you. O my beloved, do not become lukewarm! My heart fails me at the very thought! If you are earnest, I live—if you grow slothful, my spirit dies within me!

Last of all, if you want to see many converts, *expect them!*

(See **WE SHOULD** on page 8)

Study of Ephesians 4:31-32

Christ-like Treatment of Our Brethren—Part 1

We have been emphasizing throughout our study of this very practical section of the Epistle to the Ephesians that the particular instructions given here are for believers only. There is a real danger in telling those who are not believers to clean up their lives, for in so doing they may get the impression that the message of Christianity is one of mere improvement or morality.

But in fact, the message of Christianity is that one can have a new life with a new nature. This new life and nature come from God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And when a person comes to Jesus Christ, everything in his life changes. His way of thinking, his way of speaking, and his way of acting are all influenced by the power of the Holy Spirit which is at work within him.

And nowhere should this new life in Christ manifest itself more completely than in the life of the church, for in the church you have the grouping and gathering of those who have believed the gospel and come to enjoy this new life. But in the church, one should also be able to see this new life operating in a very clear and striking manner. If Christians claim to be different, it should manifest itself most clearly when they are together.

That is what the verses before us today are teaching. The last two verses of Ephesians, Chapter 4, show us what it is like for believers to treat one another in a Christ-like manner. Note how the Apostle puts it: "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

Once again in these verses, Paul follows his familiar pattern. We see first of all a type of behavior that is to be put away from us; we are to put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking; this is the behavior which characterized the old man. Then there is instruction to have behavior which comes from the new life of Christ that is operating in the life of the believer. We are to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving to one another. And then thirdly, there is a reason why we are to do these things. That reason is that God has forgiven us in Christ.

Let us look at each part of the verse:

Taking the things which must be put away one at a time, we find **bitterness** listed first. Being bitter often includes being harsh and disagreeable, or even to show hostility. The word used here by Paul is that which has as its basic meaning something that is inedible because it is poisonous. That in itself shows us how harmful bitterness can be. Bitterness stems from a "poisoned attitude," if we may call it that; it is letting our minds become sour, and once the attitude of the mind is sour, everything appears to be sour. When we wear sunglasses, everything we see appears to be colored with the tint of the glasses; in the same way, the bitter person looks at what bothers him about another person, and focuses on it. His attitude does not allow him to see the good, but only the bad in other peo-

ple. A person may even become bitter toward God Himself, but the focus in our verse is in one's attitude toward other people, especially fellow believers.

The next two specifics mentioned go together. If bitterness goes unchecked, it will certainly lead to **wrath** and **anger** which are simply what happens when you allow the "pot to boil." If one allows bitterness toward another person to simmer like a full pot on the stove, sooner or later the pot will boil over. What is particularly bad about wrath and anger is that the person who has them is taking matters into his own hands. Wrath and anger involve seeking revenge; the person may feel he has been wronged and now is getting back at the person by expressing it.

And wherever tempers are flaring, there are usually harsh words that are said. Thus, we have the next two items in this horrible list of things to be put away. **Clamor** is angry shouting; it is what happens to people when they have lost control, and care only to wound the other person with their angry words. How often have we heard those clamorous words in households between husbands and wives? How often have we ourselves been guilty of the voice raised 'way beyond what is necessary, and become like attacking wolves with our cutting and hurting words? How often have meetings of the church turned into shouting matches with those present attacking one another with clamorous words?—PF

More, Lord willing, next month.

WHY GOD SENT HIS SON TO DIE

By J. A. Haldane, 1847

THAT God has mercy on whom He will, that He is sovereign in the bestowment of salvation, is unquestionable. The redeemed were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, out of the mass of mankind, but sovereign grace reigns through righteousness.

The Son of God came to do His Father's will, and we are taught that by this will His people are sanctified **by the offering of His body once and for all**, that He bore their sins in His own body on the tree, that the counsel of peace stood between the Father and the Son, that if He made His soul an offering for sin, He should see His seed, should prolong His days, and should see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied.

Accordingly, He purchased the Church with His own blood. He gave His life a ransom for many, and surely it is no impeachment of the Father's grace that none of the sheep given to the Good Shepherd, and ransomed with His blood, shall perish.

What was forfeited by their guilt is restored by His righteousness! The gospel is the revelation of that righteousness, and is, therefore, the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes the report. It exhibits God as not only Faithful, but Just in forgiving the sins of His people. The law which they had broken has, by Christ's obedience, been magnified and made honorable.

Letters to Mike Gendron Of Proclaiming the Gospel:

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Soneill, Internet, writes—I want to address your hatred of the Catholic Church, and what I saw years ago at one of your presentations—your depicting a priest as a wolf preaching to dazed sheep. What purpose does that serve? I understand the differences regarding justification before God by faith vs. justification by a combination of works and faith. It is a distinction without a difference. Both have the capacity to save. I am sure you disagree, but that doesn't give you the right to denigrate the papacy or the Catholic Church. The church fathers gave you your faith. They chose your gospels.

Brother Mike replies—Religious institutions that deceive people about their eternal destiny are to be hated with a passion. There is only one answer to the question—"What must I do to be saved from the Wrath of God?" To give the *wrong* answer to this sobering question is to propagate the most lethal and deadly lie anyone could ever speak! To point people to the wide road that leads to destruction is a most despicable act, and an abomination to God (Prov 12:22). God will destroy those who speak falsehood because He abhors the man of deceit (Psa 5:6). It is for these reasons that I hate the institution known as the Roman Catholic Church. Is my hatred justified? According to the Psalmist, inspired by the Holy Spirit, it is. He wrote: "Hate evil, you who love the Lord" (Psa 97:10). He hated every false way and despised falsehood (119:128,163). Please know that there is a distinction between the institution that deceives, and the people who are the *victims* of its deceit. I love the Catholic people, and will spend the rest of my life on earth proclaiming the gospel of grace to them. The reason I show a priest as a wolf preaching to dazed sheep is to illustrate the warning Paul gave us. He wrote, "savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day, for a period of three years, I did not cease to admonish each one with tears" (Acts 20:29-31). I am puzzled about your statement on justification—"it is a distinction without a difference." The difference is as wide as the distance between heaven and hell! Those who teach that works are a *requirement* for justification are accursed and condemned by God's infallible Word (Gal 1:6-9; Eph 2:8-9). Please know, also, that the church fathers had nothing to do with my faith. Our sovereign Lord called me through His grace, and gave my "spiritually blind" eyes the ability to see! He granted me repentance from my worthless dead works, and from my participation in the blasphemous representation of a "Eucharistic Jesus" on an altar. When the Spirit of God used the Word of God to reveal the truth of God about the Son of God, I trusted Him, alone, by His grace, to save me completely and forever!

D. B., Mill Bay, British Columbia, writes—It's been a couple of months since you spoke at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. Thank you again for taking the time—we desper-

ately needed the encouragement. Through your presentation, members from our church became thoroughly convinced, and now have a clear understanding of the differences between Catholicism and Protestantism. A lady who came with us had just left the Catholic faith, and she couldn't thank us enough for inviting her. The next time I saw her she was excited to tell me that she threw away her Mary statue because "she didn't need it anymore." She now has a hunger for the word, and is witnessing to others! We meet once a week to study the Word of God. Since finding your web site, and studying your resources, I have been strengthened to speak out in our church whenever someone brings up the subject of Catholicism. Our pastor is listening, and asking for more information; this is the first time that a pastor has taken the subject seriously. Thank you for the "life line."

J. R., Santa Ana, CA, writes—Thank you for your fair and thoughtful article on *The Passion* on your web site. It absolutely amazes me how Christians can embrace what is nothing more than a Roman Catholic apologetic. You accurately point out many RCC falsehoods in the movie. We live in a cesspool of lies and deceptions, too many of which have infiltrated good churches, and weakened them. I'm glad the Lord has opened an effectual path of ministry for you. Like a voice crying in the wilderness is one who preaches and teaches the truth of God, and most importantly, thank you for doing it in His Love, without which we are no more than clanging cymbals.

C. & R. S., Wood Ridge, NJ, write—We are seeing more and more of the churches in our area *entertaining* people for the sake of numbers. The world has entered the church, and it is hard to find a [doctrinally sound] church in these times. The music is worldly and shallow, preaching is weak, and the people who really love the Lord are suffering in the Spirit. We have to remind ourselves that our Lord Jesus is still on the throne, and His perfect will will be done. He is worthy to receive all glory, honor, praise, and thanksgiving for Who He is, and what He has done.

L. S., Small Meadows, CA, writes—Our prayers and support are with you in your labor of God for the countless Catholics who remain in darkness—some by following their traditions, others by willful ignorance—refusing to accept the Bible as the only authoritative Word from God. I have many relatives who refuse to listen. They are spiritually deaf and blind, refusing to even open the Bible! May God continue to strengthen, guide, and protect you, your family and ministry from harm. I see how vicious some Catholics can be through the many evil-spirited and hateful letters you receive. Keep pointing them to Christ and away from the eternal flames of hell. Thank you Mike, for suffering insults and persecutions from these stubborn Catholics.

**PRAY DAILY FOR BROTHER MIKE GENDRON
AND HIS WORK FOR THE TRUTH OF GOD!**

WAS JOHN BUNYAN WRONG?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

I have been speaking about the devil throwing some down, and tearing or convulsing them when they are coming to Christ. Are there any of you who do not know anything about it? Well, I am glad that you do not. If you come to Christ without being thrown down and convulsed, I am glad of it. I have endeavored to help those that are terribly tormented—but if you are not so tried, do not wish to be!

There were here, this morning, two or three of the good fish people from Newhaven, and when I saw them in their picturesque costumes, they reminded me of a story that I heard about an old fishwife who used to live near Edinburgh. A young man visited her, and began speaking to her about her soul. She was going out, and she took up her great load of fish to carry on her back—much more than most men would like to carry.

The young man said to her, “Well, you have got a great burden there, good woman. Did you ever feel a spiritual burden?” She put down her load, and said, “You mean that burden which John Bunyan speaks about in the Pilgrim’s Progress, do you not?” “Yes,” he said. “Well,” she said, “I felt that burden before you were born, and I got rid of it, too! But I did not go exactly the same way to work that John Bunyan’s pilgrim did.”

Our young friend told her he thought that she could not be up to the mark to talk so, for he fancied that John Bunyan could not make a mistake. “Well,” she said, “John Bunyan says that Evangelist pointed the man with the burden on his back to the wicket gate, and when he could not see the gate, Evangelist said, ‘Do you see that light?’ And he looked till he thought he saw something like it. ‘You are to run that way—the way of that light and that wicket gate.’

“Why,” she said, “that was not the right direction to give a poor burdened soul! Much good he got out of it, for he had not gone far before he fell into the Slough of Despond, up to his neck in the mire, and was almost swallowed up! Evangelist ought to have said, ‘Do you see that cross? Do not run an inch, but stand where you are, and look to that—and as you look, your burden will be gone!’ I looked to the cross at once, and lost my load.”

“What?” said the young man, “Did you never go through the

Slough of Despond?” “Yes,” she said, “I have been through it far too many times, but let me tell you, young friend, that it is a deal easier to go through the Slough of Despond with your burden *off* than it is with your burden on!”

There is much blessed truth in this story! Do not any of you be saying to yourselves, “How I wish I could get into the Slough of Despond!” If you say that, you *will* get in, and then you will say, “How I wish I could get *out* of the Slough of Despond!” I have met with persons who fear that they never were saved because they have not experienced much terror. I meet with others who say that they cannot be saved because they experience *too much* terror! There is no pleasing people; oh that they would look to Jesus!

After I was preaching Jesus Christ from this platform once, there came a man into the vestry who said to me, “Blessed be God that I entered this Tabernacle. I come from Canada, sir. My father, before he found true religion, had to be locked up in a lunatic asylum, and I always thought that I must undergo a similar terror before I could be saved.” I said, “No, no, my dear friend, you are to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and if you do that, despair or no despair, you are a saved man.”

This is the gospel I preach to you! Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ! Trust Him quietly, humbly, simply, immediately! Trust Him to make you a holy man or woman—to deliver you from the power of the devil, and the power of sin—and He will do it! I will be bound for Him that He will keep His word. Jesus is truth, itself, and never breaks His word. He never boasts that He can do what He cannot do! He has gone into heaven, and He is, therefore, “able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever lives to make intercession for them.”

Only trust Him! God bless you, everyone, and may we all meet in heaven to praise the Son of God forever and ever! Amen.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1746, Volume 29—*The Devil’s Last Throw*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

THE GOSPEL FOR POOR NEEDY SINNERS!

By William Gadsby, 1842

NOW the gospel of Jesus Christ is the mystery of God, and was designed of God to be fitted for poor, perishing, guilty sinners. It was intended only to suit poor, needy, ruined, guilty, wretched creatures, as we are, because if it were not for poor sinners, it would not belong to us! Why, bless your poor hearts, it was never designed for anyone else! And if you search the Word of God throughout, you will find it is only adapted for poor, needy, crawling worms—for the sick, the lame, the blind, the burdened, the defected, and such as are ready to perish! As for those who can get light and power when they please; who can manufacture a religion for themselves; who can get access to God, feel happiness and light—but do not sigh and pant after Christ, and entirely depend upon Him to do everything for their souls—they do not need such a remedy as this! But when God lays the axe to the root of the tree, and cuts down self-importance—when He lays it prostrate in the dust, and they are brought to feel they are without God—it makes a wonderful difference!

And if God should give any of you a solemn cut or stab, you will feel yourselves as dead as possible, without any help of your own. And when thus brought to ruin, you will lay low as a perishing sinner at the feet of Christ, till He is revealed in your heart as the hope of glory. And when His blessed Majesty is thus made known as your salvation, O how you will triumph in the glorious “*mystery of Christ!*”

The Doctrines of Grace

Their Fourth Point—Irresistible Grace (2)

By Daniel E. Parks, Pastor

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, 74 Cane Carlton, Frederiksted, US Virgin Islands, 00840

The five points of the doctrines of grace are generally identified by the acrostic, **TULIP**:

Total depravity **U**nconditional election **L**imited atonement **I**rresistible grace **P**erseverance of the saints

We here will conclude the doctrine of the fourth point.

2. The gracious work of the Holy Spirit in the salvation of God's redeemed elect, is indeed irresistible.

i. The grace of the Holy Spirit is irresistible because He is God—and God is irresistible. “But He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does” (Job 23:13). “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases” (Psa 115:3). “For I know that the Lord is great, and our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places” (Psa 135:5f). “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isa 55:1). “All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” (Dan 4:35). He who believes God the Holy Spirit can be successfully resisted denies His Deity and is worshipping a false god, and an idol of his imagination.

ii. The grace of the Holy Spirit is irresistible because it always causes the regenerate to willfully obey its call. The Holy Spirit does not force or drag men to Christ against their will. Rather, He changes them so drastically that they *willingly* flee to Christ for salvation, and cannot be persuaded to do otherwise.

1) The Holy Spirit turns rebels against God into volunteers for God (Psa 110:3): “Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power” (see Saul in Acts 9:1-6; 26:19).

2) The Holy Spirit replaces the rebellious heart of stone with an obedient heart of flesh (Ezek 36:26f): “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them” (cp. Deut 30:6).

3) The Holy Spirit opens that new obedient heart so that it may obey the gospel (Acts 16:14): “The Lord opened [Lydia’s] heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”

4) The Holy Spirit graciously gives the repentance and faith with which the opened heart may obey the gospel, and embrace Christ in salvation.

Repentance is a gift of God. “[Christ] God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31). “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life” (Acts 11:18). gospel ministers are always to be “in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God, perhaps, will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses, and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will” (2 Tim 2:25f).

Faith is a gift of God. The regenerated are told, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph 2:8f). “For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ...to believe in Him” (Phil 1:29). Gospel ministers, therefore, have “greatly helped those who had believed through grace” (Acts 18:27).

These truths of God are denied by those who are devoid of the Holy Spirit, but cherished by all who have, by His grace, received Him (1 Cor 2:6-16).

Have you prayed for your pastor/chaplain today?

**CHRIST DIED
FOR THE UNGODLY!
ROMAN 5:6.**

PRAY FOR YOUR
FAMILY...

PRAY FOR
YOUR
CELLIE...

PRAY FOR
CONVERSION
OF MUSLIMS...

PRAY FOR GRACE TO BE USED BY OUR LORD...

WE SHOULD ALL EXPECT CONVERSIONS!

(Continued from page 3)

“According to your faith so be it unto you.” Look out for them; believe that God will bless every sermon, and go hunting after the sermon, to see where the converts are. As a company of butlers and camp-followers generally follow every army—and after a battle go up to strip the slain—so if you cannot preach, I would have you follow after the warriors to gather in the spoil. No one needed to urge the voracious spoilers to prowl over the field of Sedan or Gravelotte, but now it even seems necessary to persuade you to collect a far nobler prey! Come up! Come up, you servants of the Lord, and divide the spoil with the strong! Christ has fought your battle; His arrows have been sharp in the hearts of the King’s enemies; His two-edged sword has struck right and left—come up, you sons of Jacob, to the prey, and gather in the converts as your spoil! Speak with the young converts; cheer the broken hearts; comfort the seekers, and bring into His palace trophies for your Lord! Verily, I say unto you, if you look not for conversions, neither shall you obtain them! And you cannot blame the Lord—you are not straitened in Him—but in your own hearts!

God bless you, beloved, and may we have a larger increase to this church during the next month than we have had for years past, that our God may have greater praise!—(Adapted from Sermon #1282, Volume 22—CONVERSIONS DESIRED—by the grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and 574 Spanish translations, all free of charge, visit: www.spurgeongems.org)

WILL YOU GIVE YOUR ALL TO JESUS?

(Continued from page 2)

Jesus! Brand, if not in your flesh, yet in your souls, for from now on you are servants of the man of sorrows! Write this on your wealth! Bind this inscription on all your possessions—“This belongs to the man of sorrows.” Give your children to the “man of sorrows,” as men of old consecrated their sons to patriotism, and to battle with their country’s foes! Give up each hour to the “man of sorrows!” Learn, even, to eat and drink, and sleep for the “man of sorrows,” doing all in His name. Live for Him, and be ready to die for Him, and the Lord accept you for the “man of sorrows” sake. Amen.—(Adapted from Sermon #1099, Volume 19—THE MAN OF SORROWS—By the grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and 574 Spanish translations, visit: www.spurgeongems.org).

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GOOD FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why should we not, as the Accepted of the Lord, do His will on earth as it is done in heaven? “Yes,” says one, “but heaven is the place of perfect service, for His servants shall serve Him.” But is not *this* the place, in some respects, of a more *extensive* service? Are there not many things which perfect saints above, and holy angels cannot do? If we had a choice of a sphere in which we could serve God with the widest range, we should choose not heaven but earth! There are no slums and overcrowded rooms in heaven to which we can go with help—but there are plenty of them here. There are no jungles and regions of malaria where missionaries may prove their unreserved consecration by preaching the gospel at the expense of their lives! In some respects this world has a preference beyond the heavenly state as to the extent of doing the will of God. Oh, that we were better men, and then the saints above might almost envy us! If we did but live as we *should* live, we might make Gabriel stoop from his throne, and cry, “I wish I were a man!” It is ours to lead the van in daily conflict with sin and Satan, and at the same time, ours to bring up the rear, battling with the pursuing foe! God help us, since we are honored with so rare a sphere to do His will on earth as it is done in heaven!—CHS, 1884

READ THIS PRAYERFULLY, AND SLOWLY—AND REJOICE YOU ARE A SINNER!

By Charles H. Spurgeon

“Talk no more so exceedingly proud; let not arrogance come out of your mouth, for the Lord is the God of knowledge, and by His actions are weighed.”

1 Samuel 2:3.

If God weighs our actions, and we are thereby found wanting, and can only cry, “Guilty” in His sight, what then? Then we are in God’s hands! That is where I wish every one of my Readers to feel himself to be. But who is the Lord? First, according to Hannah, He is the God of salvation! “My spirit has rejoiced in Your salvation.” Salvation for sinners, salvation for the guilty, salvation for those that are weighed in the balance, and found wanting! Free pardon, full remission, gracious acceptance even for the worst and vilest—this is the gospel of the blessed God! How sweet to be in the hands of a God who is able to save—and *delights* to save—and makes it His glory to save!

Next, according to Hannah’s song, He is the God who delights in reversing the order of things. He throws down those who are high, and sets up those who are down. “He has filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He has sent away empty.” Is not that a hint to you to be empty, to be hungry, to be poor and needy? If God is going to pick men from the dunghill, and set them among princes, even the princes of His people, then the surest road to princely preferment is *consciously* to take your place on the dunghill! If the shields of the mighty are broken, but the weak are girded with strength, then it is wise to be weak before the Lord! Down, pride! Down! Down! Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, and He shall exalt you in due time!

Once more, this God is One who delights to carry on strange processes in the hearts of His people. “The Lord kills, and makes alive: He brings down to the grave, and brings them up. The Lord makes poor, and makes rich; He brings low, and lifts up.” This is God’s way of making men live—He kills them! This is God’s way of giving them resurrection—He brings them to the grave! This is God’s way of making men rich—He first makes them poor! This is God’s way of lifting men up—they are first brought down! Are you brought down this morning? Be of good courage—this is the royal road to comfort in Christ Jesus! Is the Holy Spirit making you conscious of sin? He does so that you may be conscious of His pardon! Do you feel condemned? The Lord condemns you, now, that you may not be condemned with the world! Are you evil, foul and vile in your own sight? It is that you may wash, and be whiter than snow through the Lord Jesus!

Oh how I rejoice to meet with a real sinner! Sham sinners are a vexation, but those who are really and truly so are precious in our sight! We hear of the bona fide traveler—give me the bona fide *sinner*—

“A sinner is a sacred thing

The Holy Spirit has made him so.”

He who is made to feel that he is truly lost is well-near saved! Christ died for such. “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” O you who are really a sinner, catch at that word! God grant you may find salvation now, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1736, Volume 29—*The King’s Weighings*—By the grace of God, read/download all 63 volumes, and 574 Spanish translations of C. H. Spurgeon sermons at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.



Attempt no offering of your own works to appease God, for unpardoned sinners bring unaccepted offerings! First, let the blood of Jesus Christ be recognized, and let the full atonement be rejoiced in. Service rendered to God with a desire for personal merit is abominable in His sight. But when our merit is found in the Person of His Son, then will God accept us, and our offering, too, in Christ Jesus! God grant unto you, dear Reader, to be accepted in the Beloved.—CHS, 1884.

**PRAY FOR GRACE TO BE
SEXUALLY PURE.**

**PRAY FOR OUR
PRESIDENT.**

PRAY FOR GOD’S ELECT IN PRISONS.

**PRAY THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL USE
THIS PUBLICATION TO
BRING MANY TO A
SAVING KNOWLEDGE
OF JESUS CHRIST.**

**Do you love Jesus Christ? ~ Would you *die* for Jesus?
TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO DIE IS GAIN.—PHIL 1:21.**

IT MATTERS NOT YOUR RELIGION OR WHO YOU ARE—IF YOU LOVE NOT JESUS CHRIST, YOU ARE A CHILD OF SATAN!

By Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, you would love Me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of Myself, but He sent Me.”

John 8:42

I pass the question around again, is there anyone here who dares *not* say, “I love the Savior”? Then, my dear friend, I beseech you to look that matter in the face, for if you do not love Christ heartily and sincerely, you are none of His! And you are none of God’s—you are a child of Satan!

“Well,” says one, “it would not yield me any comfort to know that.” No, and I do not want you to find any comfort, for comfort now would be deadly to you! A good physician does not always look to the immediate ease of his patient—he has his eyes on the cure. I want you to be uncomfortable till Jesus comforts you; I want you to be ashamed of not loving Christ until you become unhappy about it.

I beg you to stand at the foot of Calvary’s cross, and look up and see Jesus bleeding and dying, and then say, “He has done all this, and yet I do not love Him.” I wish you would go into the Garden of Gethsemane, and see the bloody drops of sweat fall upon the frozen ground, and hear His cries and groans for sinners, and then say, “And yet I do not love Him.”

I beg you to look at Him taken down from the cross, and laid in the tomb with the image of death stamped on His glorious face—a death which He endured out of pure love to His enemies—and then I would have you see if you are vile enough to say, “And yet I do not love Him.” I beg you in spirit to follow Him in His resurrection, and to see Him as He breathes peace over His disciples, and then see if you dare say, “I do not love Him.”

I would wish you to see Him by faith rising as He ascends

into glory, and a cloud receives Him, and then I would like you to put your hands to your brow, and feel as if your heart must burst while you say, “Yet I do not love Him.” I would have you see Him sitting on His throne in all His glory, adored by myriads of the blessed with every harp string in heaven thrilling out His praise as He sits at the right hand of the Father, and the Father takes delight in Him! Amid that splendor I would wish you to stand and begin to smite upon your breast, and say, “And yet, alas, this hard heart does not love Him.”

How I wish you would get to your chamber, and pour your soul out in a flood of tears, to think that, by-and-by, He will come to judge the world in righteousness, and to be admired of them that believe, and you, unless you are renewed in heart, will have to stand among that mighty throng that shall surround His great white throne and weep and wail, and wish you never had been born, while the dire thought will flash through your mind, “I do not love Him! He is come to judge me, and I am far off from Him, unsaved, uncleansed in His blood.”

I entreat you to think of it *now*, that you may not have to realize it later! Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, O you unloving heart, and you shall be saved from your unloving spirit, and taught to esteem Him whom to love is the best evidence of eternal life!—(Adapted from Sermon #1257, Volume 21—LOVE TO JESUS THE GREAT TEST—by the grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and 574 Spanish translations, all free of charge, visit: www.spurgeongems.org)

THE LORD GAVE AND THE LORD HAS TAKEN AWAY

By Pastor Henry Mahan

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

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

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

JOB DECLARED THAT IN ALL THINGS, AT ALL TIMES, GOD IS TO BE PRAISED! “Blessed be the name of the Lord.” To be able to praise God equally in the valley of trial, as on the mountain of joy ought to be the desire of every believer (1 Cor 16:13-14). Paul sounds this note in 1 Thess 5:18. “In everything, (loss or gain, sickness or health, success or failure, summer or winter, life or death), GIVE THANKS! For this (whatever it is if you are in Christ) is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”—Gleaned from Bulletin of ZEBULON BAPTIST CHURCH—Tom Harding, Pastor, 6088 Zebulon Highway, Pikeville, KY 41501~ E-Mail: taharding@Mikrotec.com ~ Web-Sites: www.henrytmahan.com/zebulongrace.htm www.zebulongrace.com/zebulon.htm



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

ON DEATH AND DYING

We spend our years with sighing—it is a valley of tears—but death is the funeral of all our sorrows.—Thomas Watson

He may look on death with joy, who can look on forgiveness with faith.—Thomas Watson

Pray that your last days and last works may be the best, and that when you come to die, you may have nothing else to do but die.”—Vavasor Powell

Two things are best to be set in order—the house and the heart. The house, by settling our worldly estate. We shall die none the sooner, but we shall be readier for death (Isa 38:11). The heart, by settling our spiritual estate. That is, making our calling and election sure; repenting of sin, receiving Christ Jesus the Lord, walking blameless in all His commandments. He who has done this is ready for death.”—Philip Henry —Adapted from A Puritan Golden Treasury Compiled by I. D. E. Thomas, Published by The Banner of Truth Trust Carlisle, PA, 1975.

OUR THOUGHTS REVEAL WHAT WE ARE BECOMING

...If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8

The Bible has a great deal to say about our thoughts; current evangelicalism has practically nothing to say about them. The reason the Bible says so much is that our thoughts are so vitally important to us; The reason evangelicalism says so little is that we are overreacting from the “thought” cults, which would make our thoughts to be very nearly everything, and we counter by making them nothing. Both positions are wrong!

Our voluntary thoughts not only reveal what we are—they predict what we will become. The will can become the servant of the thoughts, and to a large degree even our emotions follow our thinking. Thinking stirs feelings, and feelings trigger action; that is the way that we are made, and we may as well accept it.

Thinking about God and holy things creates a moral climate favorable to the growth of faith and love, and humility and reverence. We cannot by our thinking regenerate our hearts, nor take our sins away, nor change the leopard’s spots, but we can by Spirit-inspired thinking help to make our minds pure sanctuaries in which God will be pleased to dwell.

The best way to control our thoughts is to offer the mind to God in complete surrender. The Holy Spirit will accept it and take control of it immediately; then it will be relatively easy to think on spiritual things, especially if we train our thoughts by long periods of prayer, even talking to God inwardly as we work or travel.—A. W. Tozer from Renewed Day By Day, Compiled by G. B. Smith, Published by Christian Publications, Harrisburg, PA 1980, May 14th Reading

Gospel Kingdom

And He has His royal scepter—Psalm 110:2, which is called. “the rod of His strength.” And He has His subjects, and they are called the saints—Revelation 15:3—King of the saints. “And He has His laws and constitutions. We read of “the law of faith,” and “the law of liberty.” And in this kingdom there are privileges and royal immunities. There is freedom from the curse of the law, and from the power of sin, and from the destructive influence of Satan and the world. And here are punishments and rewards both for body and soul—there is hell and heaven. Now, because all these things do so fitly suit, therefore is the gospel called a kingdom. It will not be amiss to insist upon some of these.—Adapted from Thomas Manton’s (1620-1677) Works Volume 1, Published by The Banner of Truth Trust, 1993, Great Britain.

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

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✂
Our prayer for you:

⁵ Now may the God of
patience and comfort
grant you to be like-
minded toward one an-
other, according to
Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you
may with one mind *and*
one mouth glorify the
God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6 (NKJV)



THANK GOD FOR YOUR SALVATION!

In This Issue...

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

“He, Being Dead, Yet Speaks”

**Spurgeon Speaks to His Brother Ministers
In 1884—And Perhaps, in 2015?**

We do not know what troubles we shall yet experience, but we do know that He who has helped us, bears us through, and makes us more than conquerors! The testimony of God’s mouth is our shield in the day of battle. We cannot put on Saul’s armor, for we have not proved it, but we have proved the panoply which God provides for us in His word, and therefore, we wear it daily, by His grace! That future, which extends in endless vista far beyond our mortal life, demands faithfulness of us. If we are traitors to the truth of God, today, what will become of the next generation, and the next, and the next? At this hour we suffer for the negligence of our ancestors—error has been established by a long continuance of perversity—shall we persevere in maintaining falsehood?

Today will you rebuild the Jericho which the Reformers threw down? Will you pull down the Jerusalem which they have built up? If so, our sons shall curse the memory of their fathers! This poor world may experience great delay to her grand hope if Christian men in the present are unfaithful to the truth of God. Ages hang upon the conduct of the church of today! Speak out the truth of God while you live, so that when you leave this life it may be said, “He, being dead, yet speaks.” Let us, today, anchor the church to sound doctrine, lest she drift further and further in years to come. Speak God’s Word faithfully, for that word shall live and conquer when you are gone. He that sows the seed of heresy and evil doctrine entails upon succeeding generations an evil and a plague—and his very name shall rot! But he that sows the good Seed shall be the father of 10,000 successive harvests!

Today we may seal the coming centuries unto the Lord, setting the impression of the truth of God upon them. Be steadfast for the truth of God in your own day, for you know not what perilous times will come before the advent of the Lord Jesus! Your words and acts, today, will affect eternity itself! A word spoken today, barbed with ill intent, and envenomed with the poison of falsehood, may make souls to smart throughout a dread eternity! Tremble, therefore, lest in any way you cease to keep the testimony of the mouth of God!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software,—Sermon #1779, Volume 30—*Grappling Irons*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org> .