

CHRIST, THE GLORY OF HIS PEOPLE

NO. 826

A SERMON
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AT THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, NEWINGTON.

*“A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”
Luke 2:32.*

WE must read this passage literally, for so Simeon intended it. The Lord Jesus Christ, though once despised and rejected by His own countrymen, is the great honor and splendor of God's people, Israel; it is reckoned an honor to a nation when eminent persons are born of its stock and lineage; but Israel can claim the palm above all lands, for she can say that our Lord sprang out of Judah. Put together all the heroic and famous names of Greece and Rome—add all the literary splendors of Germany, and the flashing beauties of France, combine with these the blazing fame of Milton and Shakespeare, of Bacon and of Newton in our own land, and all countries put together cannot compass so great a glory of manhood as can the nation of the Jews, for they can claim not so much Moses, and David, and the prophets, as Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews, in whom dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily! If mention is made of Egypt and Babylon, or Philistia and Tyre, saying, “This man was born there,” the answer shall be concerning Zion, “The Son of Man was born in her.” It ill behooves us ever to speak slightingly of the Jew; it ill behooves the Christian church to despond concerning the conversion of the seed of Israel, or to be so indifferent as she sometimes is as to the conversion of Israel. Brothers and sisters, the day will come when the veil shall be taken from the eyes, and the hardness from the heart, and Abraham's sons shall behold the true Messiah, and accept Him as their glory and their all. In that day, after the long time of winter, how bright the summer will be! If their casting away brought the Gentiles so much blessing, what will their gathering together be but life from the dead! After so long alienation, how ravishing and delightful will be the reconciliation between the Bridegroom, and His ancient spouse! How will the earth ring with joy, and every river in Judea's land flow to the tune of heaven's own music, when Jesus and the Jew shall be reconciled, and He shall be, as He is prophesied to be, the glory of His people Israel!—

*“The hymn shall yet in Zion swell
That sounds Messiah's praise,
And Your loved name, Immanuel!
As once in ancient days.
For Israel yet shall own her King,
For her salvation waits,
And hill and dale shall sweetly sing
With praise in all her gates.
Hasten, O Lord, these promised days,
When Israel shall rejoice;
And Jew and Gentile join in praise,
With one united voice.”*

It would have been wrong to use the text as I am going to use it if I had not first given you its primary meaning. We have no right to use texts for other purposes without, first of all, giving the literal meaning, and saying, “Such-and-such is originally the mind of the Holy Spirit.” It is doubtless the mind of the Spirit speaking here by Simeon, that the Lord Jesus shall be a light to lighten the once darkened Gentiles, but peculiarly the glory of the Jewish nation.

We shall now employ the *natural* Israel as a type of the Lord's elect ones, and surely there is no straining of the text when we say that Jesus Christ is the glory of the *spiritual* seed, the *redeemed* people, who stand to the Lord *actually* where Israel of old stood in the *type*. Jesus Christ is the glory of His people, His *spiritual* people Israel.

And why, with evident propriety, may the saints of God be compared to Israel? Surely because God has made a covenant with *them* as He did with Jacob. Jacob at the foot of the ladder saw a way which led from earth to heaven; we at the foot of the cross have beheld the same vision; we see a way from our poor fallen estate up to all the glories of the place where Jehovah dwells. That night a covenant was made with Jacob, and between God and our own souls—in the person of the Lord Jesus, there is a blessed compact made which shall stand secure though earth's old columns bow. He will be our God, and we shall be His people; He has made with us a covenant ordered in all things and sure; this is the great fountain of all our mercies, the ground of all our hopes! Our covenant God is the delight of our inmost souls, our castle and high tower, our sun, and our shield—

*“He by Himself has sworn.
I on His oath depend.
I shall, on eagles' wings upborne,
To heaven ascend:
I shall behold His face,
I shall His power adore,
And sing the wonders of His grace
Forevermore.”*

We may be compared with Israel, again, because if we are the children of God, we have learned to wrestle with the angel and prevail. It is one mark of the heir of heaven that he understands the value of secret prayer, and that he exercises himself in it; that is to him as stern a reality as wrestling is to the athlete when he seeks to hurl his antagonist to the ground. Not a mumbling of words, but a marshalling of all the powers of manhood to come into contest—loving, blessed contest with God Himself! Well may they be called prevailing princes who are so. Dear friend, if you are a man of secret prevailing supplication, why need you doubt that you are one of the Lord's Israels?

It may be that you have another likeness to Israel in the fact that you are much tried. It is not so sure a token of salvation as some would make it out to be, but yet it is written, “Through much tribulation we must enter into the kingdom of God.” Poor Israel said, “All these things are against me,” when one after another his beloved children were taken from him, and famine was in the land. Perhaps you may be tempted to say the same, and in this you have a likeness to Jacob, from which I could wish you to escape, for it were better far, if taking all these evils as they come, you could believe the heavenly declaration, “All things work together for good, to them who love God.” Faith must be tried. God had one Son without sin, but He never had a son without the rod. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.”

I hope we shall always be like Jacob in our faith, for though he may have occasionally distrusted, yet he was a man of giant faith, and has a place in that roll call of heroes in the Epistle to the Hebrews. He blessed the sons of Joseph leaning upon his staff, and gave commandment concerning the taking away of his bones. He was not content to allow his body to rest in Egypt—he looked for the Promised Land and there, there only, would he have his aged body laid in the grave, as if in death he would take possession of the heritage which the Lord had promised to him, and to his seed forever. May you and I have a faith that cannot be satisfied with all the green plains of Goshen, nor the granaries of Egypt, but which longs for the better state—the Promised Land—which to the eyes of our body may be invisible, but which to the eyes of our faith is clearly revealed!

Now, the true Israel, which is spiritually the church of Christ, *is* said, according to the text, to be the Lord's people. “The glory of Your people Israel.” Briefly let me remind you, my fellow believers, of the ties which make us the Lord's. Are we not His, tonight, by His eternal choice? “You only have I known of all the nations of the earth.” The eternal Father has selected us from among the ruins of the Fall, and given us into the hands of Christ, that we may be His portion, His bride, His jewels, “according as He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world.” We are Christ's, next, by redemption. He has redeemed us from among men by a special and *particular redemption* which is peculiar to ourselves. A price has been paid for us—an *effectual* price which will not permit, for a moment, that the objects so purchased shall ever be lost. “You are not your own, you are bought with a price.” The saints are redeemed from among men; thus are you Christ's by double bonds—the gift of the Father, and the purchase of His own blood. The Father gave you to Jesus, and none shall pluck you out of His almighty hands! You are His, too, this night, by *conquest*. Admit it; He has struggled with your sins, and overcome them; the Spirit of the living God has taken you, as it were, like a lamb from the jaws of the

lion; you were led captives by Satan, but Christ met the devil, and overcame him in a terrific duel, and you, the once willing captives of the powers of darkness, are now Christ's portion made free and blessed! You are now the possession of your Conqueror, for He took you out of the hand of the enemy with His sword, and with His bow; you *belong* to Christ as the spoil which He has won from death and hell.

You are His, again, by the voluntary dedication of yourselves to Him. Come, beloved, is it not so? Will you not confess—

*“’Tis done! The great transaction’s done!
I am my Lord’s, and He is mine!
He drew me, and I followed on,
Charmed to confess the voice divine?”*

If you feel aright, you will confess that there is not a drop of blood in your veins which does not belong to Jesus, nor a hair on your head which is not His. All the Isle of Man now belongs to Jesus, and you will count it foul scorn that sin should have a lodge within the territories which belong to your liege Lord and Master! From within the triple kingdom of your spirit, soul, and body, you will to the best of your power, hunt out every rebel against the dominion of your Lord Jesus. You are His tonight, you know you are! You rejoice to confess the blessed impeachment, and are willing before men, angels, and devils, to renew the dedication of yourselves to Him.

And, once again, you are His in conjugal bonds—married to Him as chaste virgins; His unbounded love espoused you before time began, and it has not diminished; He claims you as His own bride, and you call Him the Husband of your souls, and delight to have it so. More than that, you are His in vital union as the members belong to the head; you are in personal, vital, actual *communion* with the Son of God! You are thus His in the fullest, and most absolute sense; oh, you will not start back from being altogether His, but come closer and closer to a full surrender, and desire to feel more powerfully the fact that you are Christ's people, wholly belonging to Him, not in part, not held by a kind of mortgage—but Christ's freehold, Christ's absolute property! You bear in your body the marks of the Lord Jesus, and desire to be His now, and His world without end. Now, it is to such as these, who are like Israel, and who belong to Christ, that the text shall be addressed tonight; Jesus Christ is the glory of such. We will pause a moment, and then let us plunge into the center of the text.

I. When we say that Christ is our glory, we mean that **WE GET ALL THE GLORY WE HAVE THROUGH HIM.**

Some men go to schools for glory, others to the camps of war; in all kinds of places men have sought after honor, but the believer says that Christ is the mine in which he digs for this gold—Christ is the sea in which he fishes for this pearl—he gives up all other searches, and looks for glory in Jesus, and nowhere else. Now, beloved, we find our adorable Lord to be our glory tonight, but in what respects? Well, we have the glory, first, of *election*—of being chosen by God out of the rest of mankind, to be a separated people before which imperial pomp grows pale! And this comes to us altogether through Jesus Christ. “According as He has chosen us in Him from before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy.”

Our next glory is that we are *redeemed*; it is no small honor for a man to know that God loved him so well that He gave a price so costly that all heaven and earth could not match it with another—that He gave His only-begotten Son that we might be redeemed. Now, beloved, we are not redeemed except through Jesus Christ, and if it is our glory that we are emancipated today, that our fetters are all broken, that we are the Lord's freemen, we know with what a price we gained this liberty, for we were not free-born. Yes, the glory of the Lord's freeman must be only in the Lord Jesus, who is the Son, who by His blood makes us free, indeed.

It is the glory of a *Christian that he is adopted*, that he is a son of God, but this, again, is only through Jesus Christ. We are joint-heirs with Christ. We have no relation except through His standing at the top of the page in the family register. He is a Son, and we become the many brothers and sisters, but only because He condescended to take upon Him our nature, and become the first-born among us.

Brothers and sisters, it is a great joy to know, and a great glory to say, “I am *justified*.” We can stand upright tonight and say, “Who shall lay anything to my charge? Before the court of King's Bench of heaven, before the Chancery of the universe, who dares condemn me?” To be pardoned and accepted of

God is a matchless privilege. Now, no man can claim justification of a truth except through Jesus Christ, for here is the top and the bottom of a man's justification—that the righteousness of Christ has been given to him, and that the blood of Christ has washed him. “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes, rather that has risen again; who sits at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.” Remember this, my brothers and sisters—we are accepted, but we are accepted *in the Beloved*, and we are justified, but we are justified *in His righteousness*. We are a people dear to God, and near to Him, but all this lies in Jesus Christ; we are comely with the comeliness which He puts upon us, and secure in God's sight because we are preserved in Christ Jesus.

One part of the Christian's glory, and for my part one which I sigh for more and more, is the glory of *sanctification*. It is a great glory to have a new heart, and a right spirit, and to pant after holiness, but this also comes by the same royal road—for we are sanctified through the *blood of Jesus*, which the Holy Spirit applies to us. There is not a particle of true sanctity in the entire world which does not spring from the cross! Everything which makes us like Christ first comes from Christ, *not* from the works of the law, nor from the strivings of the flesh, nor the teachings of philosophy, but altogether—

*“From the water and the blood
From the riven side which flowed.”*

If we glory, then, in sanctification, we dare not glory except in Christ Jesus, whose blood has made us priests and kings unto God.

And, brothers and sisters, it is a great glory to a man to know that he is *safe*. I love our Arminian friends very heartily, but I should not like to be one of them, for they have such a precarious salvation that they do not know whether it will ultimately save them or not! It will save them *if* they are faithful, but ah, that unhappy thought is the one dangerous link in the chain, and I dare not trust *my* poor unfaithful soul to such a frail support. They are traveling in a carriage, the axles of which may break before they reach their journey's end! I bless God I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him until that day. But if a man knows himself, by faith, to be saved, his knowledge is baseless presumption if he rests his safety anywhere but on the immovable rock of the finished work of Jesus Christ! He who can say, “Yes, I trust Christ to save me not only today or tomorrow, for He has worked out for me an *everlasting* salvation; I believe that He will be with me, and acknowledge my name at the bar of judgment”—such a man knows that he is resting only in Jesus, and then his glory as to his safety is a glory in Christ, and in Christ alone.

Thus I might continue showing you that there is not a single treasure which a Christian possesses which does not come to him but through Christ. He has nothing in which he can glory, but what he is sweetly compelled to say of it, “I gained this in the market of Calvary; I found this in the mines of a Savior's suffering; all this came to me through my bleeding, buried, risen, coming Lord, and He shall have the glory of it as long as I live.”

II. There is a second meaning to the text, namely this—WE SEE A GLORY IN CHRIST which swallows up all other glories as the sun's light conceals the light of the stars.

True believers see glory, first, in Christ's person; they are often overwhelmed as they contemplate His Godhead and His manhood divinely blended; all His attributes strike them as glorious; they cannot think of His character as He manifested it while here below, or as it is revealed before the throne above, without falling into raptures of adoring wonder, love, and praise. If others tell them of the glory of such-and-such philanthropists and able men, the saints reply, “We have perceived no glory anywhere comparable with that which gleams in the character of Christ.” Oh, how deeply was Rutherford in love with his sweet, unutterably sweet Lord Jesus; would to God I were as far gone as he in that heavenly union, communion, and rapture! What expressions he uses; how deep he dips his pen; how glowingly he writes, and yet he never exaggerates; it is impossible! Christ is too lovely for us ever to say a word that shall approach half-way to the fullness of His unspeakable excellence and boundless worth! Much less need we ever fear lest we shoot with a bow that shall pass the mark; no, beloved, our Lord's person is the admiration of the highest intellects that God has ever made, and though angels have been educated in the great science of Christ crucified these many years, yet—

*“The first-born sons of light
Desire in vain its depths to see!
They cannot reach the mystery,*

The length, the breadth, the height.”

Incarnate God is yet beyond them, and still, instead of being wearied with their pursuit, they are yet students, sitting at the feet of the church of God, that there may be made known among principalities and powers the manifold wisdom of God! Oh, you shall never see anything so glorious as the person of the beloved if your eyes are but once favored to gaze upon Him, and your heads but once permitted to lean upon His loving bosom! Brothers and sisters, the moon is a blot, and the sun a burnt-out coal compared with our Immanuel!

The saints see a great glory in the sufferings of Christ. When a base world turns away from the Despised and Rejected, it is then that the regenerate heart clings fastest to Him, oh, how divinely the scarlet of His blood becomes Him! Was ever Caesar’s purple half as glorious? He is bright in heaven; be You worshipped forever, Sun of our souls! But if there is a place where above all others we would kiss His feet, and wash them with our tears, and love Him best of all, it is Calvary’s cross. How our hearts burn when we think of His bearing the load of guilt for us—groaning, sweating, bleeding and painfully yielding up His life! A root out of a dry ground He may be to this blind-eyed world, but to us, beloved, who have been admitted into the mystery of His inmost heart; all over glorious is our precious Lord, a miracle of love, the astonishment of earth, the marvel of heaven, the all in all of our souls!

If there were time, we might say that He has been glorious to us in His resurrection, especially since He has taught us to rise with Him in newness of life—glorious in His ascension, now that He is sitting at the right hand of the Father, especially now that we have been raised up together, and made to sit together in heavenly places in Him. He is glorious in His *intercession*; what a comfort it is to us to think that our name is on one of the stones of that glorious breastplate! He is glorious, too, in His *second advent*. We expect Him to come soon; it is earth’s highest hope, the church’s most fervent prayer! Come quickly Lord Jesus! To see You we would gladly give up the sight of everything beneath the stars! To see You in Your beauty come riding through the streets; to behold You with the rainbow wreath, and robes of storm, yes, to have one glimpse of that great white throne, though it were but a distance, and to hear You say one word—would be a kind of everlasting heaven! But for once to have seen Him; but for once to have heard Him; it might make men content to bear a thousand trials but for once, with heart, and eye, and soul, to drink a full draught of the glory of Christ! Brothers and sisters, our soul fires as we proceed, and we long to praise and sing—

***“King of kings! Let earth adore Him,
High on His exalted throne!
Fall, you nations, fall before Him,
And His righteous scepter own—
All the glory
Be to Him, and Him alone!”***

But we must not stop, nor need we tarry. It is enough to have proved it to every Christian heart, though indeed, it needed no proof, that Jesus Christ is the glory of His people Israel, in the sense that they shall glory in Him.

III. In the third place, the text is true in the sense that WE GIVE GLORY TO HIM.

Alas! Alas! It makes a Christian’s blood boil to see glory given in a professed place of worship, yes, and in a professed Protestant church, too, to a pack of scamps who call themselves “priests”! I would not call them by such a name if they were honest enough to go off to the Church of Rome, where they ought to be, but having the impudent effrontery to attempt to palm themselves off in this country of ours for what they are not, I know of no words bad enough for them! What reverence or respect is to be paid to those gentry inside those brass gates, around the thing they call an altar? I suppose those gates enclose a sort of holy place into which the poor laity must not go! If these priests had their way, we should have to go down and lick the soles of their feet as our benighted forefathers aforesaid bowed before the hirelings of Rome! Does it not make a man feel when you see pictures of “his holiness,” and the cardinals, and so on, scattering their benedictions at the Vatican, or at St. Peter’s, while admiring crowds fall down, and worship them, that it were infinitely better to bow to *Satan* himself? We give glory unto *God*, but not a particle of glory to anything in the shape of a man, or an angel, either. Have I not stood and seen the crowds by hundreds fall down and worship images and dressed-up dolls? I have seen them worship bones and old teeth; I have seen them worship a skeleton dressed out in modern costume—said

to be the skeleton of a saint; and I have marveled how we could, in this 19th Century, find people so infatuated as to think that such idolatry was pleasing to the Most High God! We, beloved, the people of God who know Christ, can give no glory to this rubbish, but turn away from it with horror! Our glory must be given to Christ, and to Christ, alone. Now, here is the touchstone to try your religion by; when you pray, *to* whom do you pray? *Through* whom do you pray? When you sing, *for* whom is the song meant? When you brothers preach, to whose honor do you preach? To whom do you intend to do service? When you go out among the poor, when you distribute alms, when you scatter your tracts, when you talk about the gospel—for whom do you do all this? For, as the Lord lives, if you do it for *yourselves*, or for *any* besides the Lord Jesus, you do not know what the vitality of godliness is! Christ and Christ only must be the grand objective of the Christian! The promotion of His glory must be that for which we are willing to live, and for which, if necessary, we would be prepared to die. Oh, down, down, down, with everything else—but up, up, up, with the cross of Christ! Down with your baptism, and your masses, and your sacraments! Down with your priestcraft, and your rituals, and your liturgies! Down with your fine music, and your pomp, and your robes, and your garments, and all your ceremonies! But up, up, up, with the doctrine of the naked cross, and the expiring Savior! Let the voice ring throughout the whole world, “Look unto Me and live!” There is *life* in a look at the Crucified One! There is life in simple confidence in Him—but there is life *nowhere else!* God send to His church an undying passion to promote the Savior’s glory, an invincible, unconquerable pang of desire and longing that by any means King Jesus may have His own, and may reign throughout these realms! In this sense, then, Jesus is and must be the glory of His people.

IV. But there is another sense, namely, FROM JESUS IS REFLECTED ALL THE GLORY WHICH IS PUT UPON HIS PEOPLE.

Whatever glory they have, and they have much in the eyes of angels, and much honor in the eyes of discerning men, it is *always* the reflection of the Savior’s glory. I know some holy men and women for whom I cannot but feel the deepest and keenest respect, but the reason is because they have so much of my Master about them; I think I would travel many miles to talk with some of them because their speech is always so full of Him, and they live so near to Him. If you take down some of the old books of the Puritans, and others, I know which you will love the best if you love Christ. Why, those who speak of Him! And when you get into the middle of the chapter where some holy man of God is extolling Him, then you will say, “He being dead yet speaks, and speaks just that to which my ears would listen.” If there should ever be any glory about you, young man, it will have to come through your having much of Christ in you! Believe me, the true path to glory for a Christian is never to try to excel in literary attainments apart from Jesus! He may lawfully try for that in subservience to the higher aim—still, that must not be his glory as a Christian. It never ought to be the glory of the Christian that he is a good business man—he should be a good business man, but still that is not to be the *object* of his glory. If you make anything to be your glory except Christ, God will prepare a worm to eat the root of it, for He will have you; if you are His, He will have you chaste to Himself, and you shall never have anything to glory in but Christ. You know, beloved, this is a trying point with many of us, for I am afraid that sometimes we even get to glory in our ministry—and if we do, it will be all over with our usefulness. We must glory in Jesus, and not in our ministry, “Oh,” said those disciples as they came back with excited hearts—“Lord, Lord, even devils are subject to us!” “Ah,” said Jesus, “Nevertheless, rejoice not in this, but rather rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” *That* is the point! You must come back to that—rejoicing in your own *personal salvation* through the precious blood of Jesus Christ! You must rejoice in Him, and then you will think thus: “Well, even if my ministry should not prosper, though I hope it will, yet if I have glorified Christ, it shall be enough reward for me. If He is lifted one inch higher, it does not matter if I am trod like mire in the streets; if His dear name is but made illustrious, I will be nothing; if no one shall ever lisp my name with approbation, then so be it; let Your servant be a dog, and let him be buried and forgotten as long as King Jesus wears the crown, and men cry, ‘Long live the King!’” Oh, this is the Christian’s great desire—that he may win Christ! And this it is which gives glory to him, and makes him esteemed of God, to have lived with an unselfish passion for Jesus gleaming in his breast, to have lived with so heavenly a brightness shining from his brow, and glittering through his entire life! Thus the true glory of every Christian is His Master’s, and comes from Him.

V. But now once more. The text may be read in this sense—Christ is the glory of His people, that is to say, **THEY EXPECT GLORY WHEN HE COMES.**

“It does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like He is.” Our glory is laid up; we are not wearing our Sunday clothes yet; all this is but the weekday garb, and it is very dusty and commonplace, and with many, the poor body is getting very worn out, too. You may well—

*“Long for evening to undress
That you may rest with God,”*

for when you wake up, what a bright suit will be ready for you! Oh, such garments of glory and beauty, that you will scarcely know yourselves in them! You will not be like your present selves, you will be like Christ—

*“Since Jesus is mine
I’ll not fear undressing,
But gladly put off this garment of clay;
To die in the Lord is a covenant blessing
Since Jesus to glory through death led the way.”*

When you follow Jesus in resurrection, what glory! But we must not begin to speak of that, for we should never leave off at all if we began to talk about that glory—the glory of perfection, the glory of being delivered from sin, the glory of conquest, having trod Satan under our feet! The glory of eternal rest, the glory of infinite security, the glory of being like Christ, the glory of being in the light and brightness of God, standing, like Milton’s angel, in the very sun itself! If you want to know what heaven is, you can spell it in five letters! And when you put the five letters together they sound like this—JESUS! That is heaven! It is all the heaven the angels round the throne of God desire to know. They need nothing better than this—to see His face, to behold His glory, and to dwell in it world without end!

VI. Thus far have we been led into many precious truths of God; we have now done with the *doctrinal* part of the text, but we must prolong our meditation two or three minutes to speak a little upon **THE PRACTICAL DRIFT OF THE SUBJECT.**

We have just two or three things to say. We would give a word of warning to those of you who seek your glory anywhere else, because as surely as you do so, even if you meet with honor for a time, you will lose it. It is always ill to put your treasure where it will be stolen from you. Now, suppose you seek your glory in your learning. Well, well, well! Let the sexton take up your skull after you have been dead a little while, and what learning will there be in it? What show of wisdom will be found in it when it is resolved into a little impalpable brown powder? What will your science, and your mathematics, and your classics do for you in death and judgment? Suppose you seek your glory in fame, and become the favorite of the nation as a great soldier. When the grave-digger rattles your old bones about, what will that signify? You will have great fame, you say, and men will talk about you. Well, will that stop the worms from eating you? Will it give you a single moment’s repose, if you are found in hell, to know that there are those on earth who say that you were a famous man? Great men in hell look very small! Great men in the pit of hell have to suffer as well as others—yes, they endure more of anguish because they were so great, and had so many responsibilities. When you wake up in the Day of Judgment, you graspers of earthly honors will get to reaching for your glory, and trying to find it, you will be like the sleeper who dreamed that he had much gold; he was gathering it up by handfuls, but when he woke, he was in a narrow attic in the abode of poverty, and as penniless as when he fell asleep! Ah yes, if you seek your glory anywhere on earth, you will lose it, even if for a while you win it. But he who has his glory in Christ, when he opens his eyes in the next world will see Christ, and so behold his glory safe and firmly entailed upon Him! “There,” says he, “is my treasure, and I have it, have it forever.” This is security which no bolts, and iron safes, and Chubb’s locks can ever give you! Do but put your treasures into Christ, and they are all safe! Even infernal pickpockets shall not be able to take Christ from you! If you win Christ, and put your treasure in Him, you are secure! God grant, brothers and sisters, that we may be wise for eternity, for all other wisdom is but folly.

Another word and that is a word of rebuke. There are some preachers we know of, and I suppose there will always be some of the form, who preach, preach, preach, but they never preach what is Israel’s glory. They talk of *anything* but Christ! Oh, how often have I heard the complaint from

Christian people, “Sir, our minister is a talented man; he is, on the whole, a sound man doctrinally, and he preaches to us a great deal *about* the gospel, but oh, we wish he would preach the gospel, not preach *about* it, but preach the thing itself! O that he would preach Christ!” The best sermons are the sermons which are fullest of Christ! A sermon without Christ is an awful, a horrible thing; it is an empty well; it is a cloud without rain; it is a tree twice dead, plucked by the roots! It is an abominable thing to give men stones for bread, and scorpions for eggs, and yet they do so who preach not Jesus! A sermon without Christ? As well talk of a loaf of bread without any flour in it! How can it feed the soul? Men die and perish because Christ is not there, and yet His glorious gospel is the easiest thing to preach, and the sweetest thing to preach—there is variety in it, there is more attractiveness in it than in the entire world besides! And yet so many will gad abroad, and make their heads ache, and turn over those heavy volumes to get something which shall be nothing better than a big stone to roll at the mouth of the sepulcher, and shut in Christ as though He were still dead! O brothers, let us, if we cannot blow the silver trumpet, blow the ram’s horn—but let the blast always be Christ, Christ, Christ! Always let us make the walls ring with the dear name of the exalted Savior, and let us tell men that there is salvation in no other, but that there is salvation *and* life for them in Jesus—life for them *now*, life for every soul that looks to Jesus—depending, alone, in *Him!* Dear teachers in the school, continue always telling the children about Jesus! Dear friends who work in any way for the Lord’s glory, here is your one topic! The old proverb is, “Cobbler, stick to your last,” so, Christian, “Stick to your text,” and let the text be Jesus Christ! Let no glitter or show tempt you away from that. This cool snow of Lebanon—be not taken away to drink of the tepid streams that mock the thirsty soul! This gold of Ophir—there is none like it, seek no other! This is the grandest pasture to wander in—this glorious subject, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Let Him be preached, since HE is the GLORY of Israel!

There are some of you to whom I have a last word to say, and that is, some of you love Jesus Christ, but you are ashamed to say so. Now, since He is the glory of His people Israel, I shall be afraid of you, and *for* you, if you do not make Him your glory. Instead of being ashamed to confess Him and His cause, why, surely you will count it to be your shame that you are ashamed, and you will come forward, and say, “Yes, I cast in my lot with His people; He is such a blessed Christ; I will never turn my back on Him, if He will but have me, here I am. Put my name down in the church roll—by all means let me be baptized as He was! Let me come to His Table, and let me do this in remembrance of Him. He is a dear Lord, and I should not like it to be thought that I was ashamed of Him.” I shall not press it on you, because a word is enough for a heart that is tender, and if you truly love Him, you will not need any drawing forward. You will say, “Oh, may He only keep me, and make me faithful; I am all too glad to have the opportunity of saying that I am on His side—for Him I am resolved to live, and if necessary, by His grace, for Him I would be resolved to die.” Do not put it off, then; come and see the elders of the church; they will be glad to see you upon the matter, that is to say, if you belong to Christ. If you do not, do not profess to be what you are not! Mind you, do not come forward and say you are Christ’s if you are not! To you who are not His, let me say, Jesus is to be had for the asking; if you seek Him, He will be found of you; go not to your rest tonight till you have said, “Lord, you are the glory of Your people; be my glory! Give me Yourself! Help me to trust You.” And after you have done that, then trust Him, and God bless you, for His own name’s sake. Amen.

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