

PREFACE**VOLUME 11**

PUBLISHED IN 1865
BY THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON

The Preserver of men has spared us to complete the twelfth year of our ministry in London and to issue the eleventh published volume of our discourses. To Him we offer our joyful tribute of renewed thankfulness, and pray for the continuance of His loving kindness and tender mercy.

We can and must testify to the faithfulness of the God of Israel, who has promised His servant, "As thy days so shall thy strength be." Let others who are the victims of distrust take courage from our cheerful witness that the Lord will not fail His servants or withdraw His hand from helping them. And let believers whose experience agrees with ours, unite with us in extolling the truth and goodness of our covenant God.

It is matter for singular gratitude that our weekly circulation has, during the past year, been fully maintained, and that proofs of usefulness are as numerous and as encouraging as ever. At no time has it been more desirable to diffuse Gospel truth than at present, for we are in the midst of a season of religious mental activity, when the powers of good and evil are awake and energetic.

The sleeping devil of indifference has been to a great degree exorcised, and we have now to deal with the roaring devils of Sacramentarianism, Skepticism, and Popery. Whether we bestir ourselves or no, it is certain that mind is on the march, and if it be not directed in the way of peace, it must surely follow the downward road of error.

The day has gone by for quiet and rest, and the time for conflict has fully arrived. Nor is this to be regretted, for the most fearful storm is preferable to the perpetual calm which harbors and nurtures pestilence. Since matters are so, it is incumbent upon every follower of the Lord Jesus to be well-awake and constantly active.

Shall men remain without the light when they have risen from their sleep? Shall they be left to grope their way until the false guides lure them to ruin? Are we so careless concerning our Master's honor and so cruel to immortal souls that we will not bear the torch of truth to those who sit in darkness?

If every follower of Jesus would make a point of giving away, or lending at least, one printed testimony for the Gospel every day, how much good might be effected, especially if the book, tract, or sermon so circulated, should declare the doctrine of the cross in a clear, interesting, and earnest manner.

Controversy for the truth against the errors of the age is, we feel more than ever convinced, the peculiar duty of the preacher in the present crisis. Our spirit is, we hope, one of genuine love to all the chosen of God, but the rule of modern charity which requires us to keep certain points in the background, we utterly abhor. It is treason to the Lord Jesus to be silent on any point where He has spoken and where the honor of His Gospel is concerned.

It is of course the most easy to flesh and blood to deal in generalities, to denounce sectarianism, and claim to be of an ultra-Catholic spirit. But though rough and rugged, it is required of the loyal servant of King Jesus to maintain all His crown rights and stand up for every word of His laws. Friends chide us and foes abhor us when we are very jealous for the Lord God of Israel, but what do these things matter if the Master approves?

The words of Rutherford, in his letter to William Fullerton, ring in our ears, "I earnestly entreat you to give your honour and authority to Christ, and for Christ. And be not dismayed for flesh and blood while you are for the Lord, and for His truth and cause. And howbeit we see truth put to the worse for the time, yet Christ will be a friend to truth, and will act for those who dare hazard all that they have for Him and for His glory. Sir, our fair-day is coming, and the court will change, and wicked men will weep

after noon, and sorer than the sons of God who weep in the morning. Let us believe and hope for God's salvation."

Silence and temporising will only protract or postpone a struggle which must come sooner or later. And he is wisest who, loving all truth, fears not to publish all, gainsay it who may.

In the matter of conversions, we have good reason for the hope that the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five has been a fruitful one under our ministry, and we know that many have been both aroused and comforted by hearing or reading the discourses contained in this volume. To the Most High be all the glory, since He chooses to use so puny an instrument to so great an end.

We venture to ask yet again for the daily prayers of the faithful, that our word may, through God the Holy Spirit, be none other than the Word of God to many precious blood-bought souls. Brethren, pray for us.

During the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, our magazine, "The Sword and the Trowel," has been commenced and has done great service to the cause which we labor to promote. We beg to bespeak for it the interest and assistance of all our sermon readers.

The College under our care has this year sent out into the ministry some thirty-five young men, and has been the means of commencing and enlarging many churches, holding the truth as it is in Jesus. The Lord moves His people to support us in this work and we trust their prayers for a blessing will be abundantly heard in heaven.

Our new volume, entitled "Morning by Morning," is now ready and will, we hope, command a share of favor with the Christian public. In penning these short reflections upon certain passages of Holy Writ, the author has had in view the assistance of the private meditations of believers. A child may sometimes suggest a consolation which might not otherwise have cheered a desolate heart. And even a flower smiling upward from the sod may turn the thoughts heavenward.

May we not hope that, by the Holy Spirit's grace, as the reader turns morning by morning to our simple page, he will hear in it a still small voice whose speech shall be the Word of God to his soul. The mind wearies of one thing, and we have therefore studied variety, changing our method constantly. Sometimes exhorting, then soliloquizing, then conversing—using the first, second, and third persons, and speaking both in the singular and the plural, and all with the desire of avoiding sameness and dullness.

Our matter also we venture to hope is wide in its range, and not altogether without a dash of freshness. Readers of our sermons will recognize many thoughts and expressions which they may have met with in our discourses. But much is, to the author at least, new, and as far as anything can be when it treats upon the common salvation, it is original.

We have written out of our own heart, and most of the portions are remembrances of words which were refreshing in our own experience, and therefore we hope the daily meditations will not be without savor to our brethren. In fact, we know they will not if the Spirit of God shall rest upon them.

Our ambition has led us to hope that our little volume may also aid the worship of families where God's altar burns in the morning. We know that it has been the custom in some households to read Mason, Hawker, Bogatsky, Smithy, or Jay, and without wishing to usurp the place of any of these, our "Morning by Morning" aspires to a position among them.

Our happiness will overflow should we be made a blessing to Christian households. Family worship is beyond measure important both for the present and succeeding generations, and to be in part a chaplain in the houses of our friends we shall esteem to be a very great honor.

In this brief life, we must live fast and labor hard, or we shall accomplish nothing. And to these we must add fervent prayer or we shall still make a fail of our life-business among the sons of men. Faith in the living God yields strength, and zeal finds force for those who, while they are here below, would spend and be spent for the Lord Jesus. Among the number of these, be it your ambition to be found, most courteous reader, and pray also that such favor may be vouchsafed to

Your servant, for Jesus' sake,

C. H. Spurgeon

Taken from The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit C. H. Spurgeon Collection. Only necessary changes have been made, such as correcting spelling errors, some punctuation usage, capitalization of deity pronouns, and minimal updating of a few archaic words. The content is unabridged. Additional Bible-based resources are available at www.spurgeongems.org.