

FOR HIS GLORY

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I shall never forget one day, when my dear old grandfather was alive, I was to preach a sermon. There was a great crowd of people, and I was late, for the train was delayed, and therefore the venerable man commenced to preach in my place. He was far on in his sermon when I made my appearance at the door. Looking at me, he said, "You have all come to hear my dear grandson, and therefore I will stop that you may hear him. He may preach the gospel better than I can, but he cannot preach a better gospel, can you, Charles?" My answer from the aisle was, "I cannot preach the gospel better, but if I could, it would not be a better gospel." So it is, brothers—others may break the bread to more people, but they cannot break better bread than the gospel which you teach, for that is bread from our Savior's own hands.—CHS



SPURGEON SPEAKS OF ZEAL FOR OUR KING, JESUS CHRIST!

By Charles H. Spurgeon

Everyone here present who is maintained from the King's palace, is bound to fight against every doctrine which insults the King. When I see a man pretending to be a priest, and assuming that he has power to forgive sins, and to dispense pardons and indulgences, I do my best to unmask the deceiver, and to speak against his imposition less I might be accounted accessory to his crime, chargeable with his guilt, and be made partaker of his condemnation!

Therefore, let every Englishman, let every Protestant, and above all, let every Christian denounce priestcraft of every sort, and in every church, whether among Romanists, Anglicans, or Dissenters. Down with it! There is only one Priest, and He is in heaven! And none of us have any power to offer any sacrifice for sin, or any power to absolve our fellow men.

Whether you accuse us of being censorious or not, the profanity appalls us, the duplicity that is taken ill by it amazes us, and the sincerity with which we love the gospel inflames us to make our protest heard! If we do not speak out about this crying perversion of the truth of God, we ought to be ashamed of ourselves!

Then there are some in these days who deny the divinity of Christ, and there can be no terms of peace between us and them. I remember a remark of a Unitarian doctor which I thought eminently correct. He said of a certain Calvinist, who was accused of speaking sharply against Unitarians, "Quite right, and so he ought, because if the Calvinist is right, the Unitarian is not a Christian at all; but if the Unitarian is right, the Calvinist is an idolater, because he worships one who is a man, and is not the Son of God." If what we hold is true, it is not possible that the man who denies the Deity of Christ can be a Christian, nor can there be for him a hope of salvation; he deliberately refuses the only way of escape from the

(See *KING JESUS!* on page 5)

CREEDS AND EGG SHELLS

By Charles H. Spurgeon

"Hold fast the form of sound words which you have heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto you, keep by the Holy Spirit which dwells in us."

2 Timothy 1:13-14.

What was the apostle concerned about? The matter about which he was concerned was this deposit of his—this everlasting gospel of the blessed God! He expresses his concern in the following words—"Hold fast the form of sound words which you have heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto you, keep by the Holy Spirit which dwells in us."

First, *he is concerned for the steadfastness of Timothy*, and as I think, for that of all young Christians, and especially of all young preachers. What does he say? "Hold fast the form of sound words." I hear an objector murmur, "There is surely not much in words." Sometimes there is very much in words! Vital truth may hinge upon a single word. The whole Church of Christ once fought a tremendous battle over a syllable—but it was necessary to fight it for the conservation of the

(See *Don't Step On...* on page 2)

Inside:

Will You Speak Up for Jesus? - Charles H. Spurgeon	4
I Asked the Lord - John Newton (1725-1807)	6
Letters to Mike Gendron of Proclaiming the Gospel	9
A Story of "Amazing Grace" - Submitted by Daniel E. Parks	10

DON'T STEP ON...

(Continued from page 1)

truth of God. Only the unorthodox ridicule words, and with them it is an affectation, for were they not impressed with the importance of words, they would not be so eager to alter them. "Surely we may change our terms." I have no objection if I know that your intentions are honest.

"Surely we may change the form of a creed, however sound it may be." Do so if you like; I will not contend for words to no profit. But as for some of you who ask for these changes, I shrewdly suspect that you would get rid of a phrase that you might be rid of that which the phrase *means*. You gentlemen who say, "Surely you will not stick out for a word," are, after all, neither as innocent nor as liberal as you appear to be. Brethren, it is not a *word* they would amend, but a truth of God they would efface! I intend calling a rose a rose, even though I admit that by another name it might smell as sweet, for I perceive that there is an intent to inflict upon me a rank smelling weed which is no rose at all! When people rail at creeds as having no vitality, I suppose that I hear one say that there is no life in eggshells. Just so—*there is no life* in eggshells—they are just so much lime, void of sensation.

"Pray, my dear sir, do not put yourself out to defend a mere shell." Truly, good friend, I am no trifler, nor so litigious as to fight for a mere shell. But listen! I have discovered that when you break eggshells, you spoil eggs! And I have learned that eggs do not hatch and produce life when shells are cracked! I have come to be rather tender about shells, now that I find that certain rogues are depriving me of chickens by cracking my eggshells! At certain periods when everybody is sound and right at heart, it may be wise to revise expressions, but we will have none of it when the very air is tainted with unbelief! If you walk around certain continental towns you will see bright lawns and gardens where once there stood grim walls. In times of peace we are glad to see fortifications demolished, but, mark you, when the Prussians are around Paris, no Frenchman will tolerate the

ELECTION

By Puritan John Arrowsmith

Election having once pitched upon a man, it will find him out, and call him home, wherever he is. It called Zacchaeus out of accursed Jericho; Abraham out of idolatrous Ur of the Chaldees; Nicodemus and Paul from the College of the Pharisees, Christ's sworn enemies; and Dionysius and Damaris out of superstitious Athens. In whatever dunghills God's elect are hid, election will, by His grace, find them out and bring them to heaven!

**PRAY FOR THE SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF MEN
AND WOMEN IN PRISON—PRAY ESPECIALLY
FOR THE CHILDREN...**

**PRAY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN
IN THE ARMED SERVICES**

proposition to throw down the forts! This is our case, today, and therefore we hold fast the form of sound words.

"We hate your narrowness—your nasty narrowness! You are shut in within your walls of creeds and beliefs!" Yes, gentlemen, so we are. And we mean to remain so, since we see how you hate the gospel. If everything were in peace, and we believed in you, we might, perhaps, think about turning bulwarks into boulevards—but at the present moment we will do nothing of the kind, but rather hear the voice of our old captain from his prison at Rome, crying—"Hold fast the pattern of wholesome words which you have heard from me." Brothers, do not change your posture, nor shift your position! Stand fast on the immutable truth of God, trusting and loving your Lord. Hold the old faith, and hold it in the old fashion, too. We are crossing the stream, and can make no change of horses! Brothers, why should we change? Do these tempting novelties offer any real improvement on the old? Do they offer us anything to die upon? Can these new teachings afford us comfort in poverty, in sickness, in depression of spirit, or in prospect of the Day of Judgment? They are only pretty flowers for the children of this world to play with! They go well with minds that love frivolities, but they are not for men whose life is a warfare against sin! The eternal truths revealed within this Book, and grasped by the hands of our inner life—these are everything to us—therefore we shall stand by them even to the last with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1913, Volume 32—*Confidence and Concern*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeonems.org>.

YOU EITHER LOVE HIM, OR YOU DON'T—THERE IS NO NEUTRAL GROUND!

I would draw your attention to the fact that in this passage and elsewhere in Scripture, men are divided into two classes, and not a word is said of a neutral or intermediate class. John 14:21 says, "He that has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves Me." And the 24th verse says negatively, "He that loves Me not, keeps not My sayings." Evidently there are two sorts of persons in that part of the world which is visited by the gospel—he that loves Christ, and he that loves Him not. If you once hear the gospel, you can never be indifferent to it; you must either be its friend or its foe, its disciple or its opposer. If once the Lord Jesus Christ crosses the orbit of your life, you can never again, be neutral! You must either reject Him, or receive Him—believe Him, or call Him a liar. I would urge home upon each of you that simple but solemn truth of God, lest any person should think himself omitted from the range of my discourse. I would so spread the net that no fish may remain outside its meshes!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1842, Volume 31—*The Private Tutor*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeonems.org>.

WHY ARE THE CHIEF OF SINNERS SO OFTEN SAVED?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

The Lord Jesus Christ, when He went into heaven, took with Him one of the chief of sinners as a companion—the dying thief entered Paradise the same day as our Lord! *After* our Lord Jesus had gone to heaven, so far as I know, He never saved more than one person by His own immediate instrumentality—and that one person was this very Apostle Paul who has given us our text! To him our Lord spoke personally from heaven, saying, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?” To him He revealed Himself by the way, and called Him to be His apostle, even to this man who truthfully called himself the chief of sinners! It is amazing to think that it should be so, but grace delights in dealing with great and glaring sin, and putting away the crying crimes of great offenders!

The Lord Jesus not only saved the chief of sinners, but He was related to some of them by blood. Look through the long line of our Lord’s genealogy. You know that doctrine, the last invention of Rome, concerning the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary? I am going to tell you a doctrine which is about as far apart from that as the east is from the west! In the genealogy of our blessed Lord, we find the names of certain of the chief of sinners. Three women, especially, hold a position in it, who were each notorious for sin. Not many women are mentioned, but among the first is Tamar, guilty of incest. The next is Rahab, the harlot, and a third is Bathsheba the adulteress. This is a crooked pedigree, an ancestral tree whose branches are more than a little gnarled and twisted!

Admire the condescension of our Lord in coming of such a stock! He came *of* sinners because He came *for* sinners. According to the flesh He comes of sinners, that sinners may come to Him! There was mixed, in the veins through which flowed His ancestry, the blood of Ruth the Moabitess, a heathen, brought in *on purpose* that we Gentiles might see how truly He was bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh. I say not that there was any defilement in His *humanity*, God forbid, for He was not born after the manner of men, so as to be polluted in that fashion! But still, I say that His genealogy includes many great sinners in order that we may see how closely He allied Himself with them, how thoroughly He undertook their cause.

Read the roll of His ancestry, and you will see that David is there, who cried, “Against You, You only, have I sinned,” and Solomon, who loved strange women, and Rehoboam, his foolish son. And Manasseh, “who shed innocent blood very much,” and worse men than they, if worse could be! Such sinners as these are in the genealogy of the Savior of sinners! “He was numbered with the transgressors.” He was called, “The friend of publicans and sinners.” It was said of Him, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” He still delights to save great sinners! O my reader, it will delight Him to save *you*!

Why does He do it? The apostle says, in the 16th verse, “For this cause I obtained mercy, that in me, first, Jesus Christ might show forth all long-suffering.” What? Is that His reason for saving a sinner? Is it that He may show, in that sinner, His long-suffering, revealing His patience and forgiveness? In a great sinner like Paul, He shows all His long-suffering, not little grains of it, nor portions of it, but *all* His long-suffering! Is Jesus Christ willing to show forth *all* His long-suffering? Does He delight to unveil *all* His love? Yes, for remember that He calls His mercy, His *riches*—“He is rich in mercy.” I do not find that He calls His *power* His riches, but He calls His *grace* His riches, “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Oh, dear friends, the Lord, who is rich in mercy, seeks a treasury in which to put His riches! He wants a case for the sacred jewelry of His love, and these atrocious criminals, these great offenders, these who think themselves black as hell—these are the very men and women for whom there is space for His rare jewels of goodness! Where sin has abounded, there is elbow-room for the infinite mercy of the living God! Ought you not to be encouraged, if you feel yourself greatly guilty, that God delights to show forth all His patience by saving great sinners? Will you not, at once, seek Him, that all long-suffering may be shown in *your case*? *Believe* on the Lord Jesus and it shall be so!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1837, Volume 31—*A Great Gospel for Great Sinners*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

WHY BETHANY?

By C. H. Spurgeon

In this morning’s meditation, we will start from the Ascension, and if I had sufficient imagination, I would like to picture our Lord and the 11 walking up the side of Olivet, communing as they went—a happy company with a solemn awe upon them, but with an intense joy in having fellowship with each other! Each disciple was glad to think that his dear Lord and Master who had been crucified was now among them, not only *alive*, but surrounded with a mysterious glory which none could disturb. The enemy was as still as a stone; not a dog moved his tongue; His bitterest foes made no sign during the days of our Lord’s after-life below! The company moved peacefully onward towards Bethany which they all knew and loved. The Savior’s happiest moments on earth had been spent beneath the roof where lived Mary and Martha, and their brother, Lazarus. Perhaps it was best for the disciples that He should leave them at that place, where He had been most hospitably entertained, to show that He departed in peace, and not in anger. There they had seen Lazarus raised from the dead by Him who was now to be taken up from them—the memory of the triumphant past would help the tried faith of the present. There the voice said, “Loosen him, and let him go,” and there they might fitly see their Lord loosened from all bonds of earthly gravitation, that He might go to His Father and their Father.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1817, Volume 31—*The Ascension and the Second Advent Practically Considered*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

WILL YOU SPEAK UP FOR JESUS?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

Perhaps you are saying in your heart that the season in which Joseph of Arimathea lived was one which imperatively demanded that he should leave his hiding place, and should go to Pilate, but that you are under no such demand. Listen, friends, many people are not true to their occasions, whatever they may be. They do not consider that they have come to the kingdom of God for such a time as this. The Lord Jesus is not hanging on a cross today, needing to be buried. But other stern necessities exist, and call for your exertions. This hour's necessities imperiously demand that every man who is right at heart should acknowledge his Lord, and do Him service! Every man that loves Christ should, at this hour, prove it by his actions!

A buoy off the Mumbles in South Wales bears a bell which is meant to warn mariners of a dangerous rock. This bell is quiet enough in ordinary weather, but when the winds are out, and the great waves rush in towards the shore, its solemn tones are heard for miles around as it swings to and fro in the hands of the sea! I believe there are true men who are silent when everything is calm, who will be *forced* to speak when the wild winds are out. Permit me to assure you that a storm is raging right now, and it is growing worse and worse. If I rightly read the signs of the times, it is necessary that every bell should ring out its warning note lest souls be lost upon the rocks of *error*! You that have fallen behind because the fight did not seem to require you, must quit your positions of ease; I summon you in the Master's name to the war! The Lord has need of you! If you come not to His help against the mighty, a curse will light upon you; you must either be written across the back as *cowards*, or else you will today solemnly espouse the cause of Jesus!

Shall I tell you why? I will tell you why Joseph was needed, and that was just because *Christ's enemies had, at last, gone too far*. When they hunted Him about, and took up stones to stone Him, they went a very long way. When they said He had a devil, and was mad, they went much too far. When they asserted that He cast out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of the devils, that was a piece of blasphemy! But now, now they have overstepped the line most fatally—they have actually taken the King of Israel and nailed Him up to a cross, and He is dead! And therefore Joseph cannot stand it any longer; he quits their company and joins himself to the Lord Jesus.

Look how far men are going in *these* days. In the outside world we have infidelity of so gross, so brutish a character, that it is unworthy of the civilization, much less of the Christianity of our age! Now, you fearful ones, come out and refuse to be numbered with the unbelieving world! Besides, in the outward Christian Church we see men who, having already taken away every doctrine that we hold dear, are now assailing the inspiration of God's own Word! They tell us plainly that they do not believe what the Scriptures say further than they choose to do; the Bible to them is a fine book, but rather out of date. Now, if you can be quiet, I cannot! The citadel of Christendom is now attacked; let no brave man shrink from its defense! If you can hold your tongues, and see the faith torn to pieces, I cannot! Why, it is enough to make every man gird on his weapon and rush to the fight!

Years ago, when they talked of the French invading England, an old lady grew very indignant, and threatened deadly resistance. When she was asked what the women of England could do, she said they would rise to a man! I have no doubt whatever that they would do their best in any such emergency. Every iron in the fireplace, whether it is a poker or shovel, would be grasped to defend our hearths and homes! And just so, now, when error knows no bounds, we must stand up for the defense of the truth of God! Since they push error to extremes, it becomes us to hold to every particle of the faith. I will not, for my own part, give up a corner of my creed for any man! Even if we might have been prepared to modify expressions had the age been different, we are not in that mood now! A generation of vipers shall have a naked file to bite at; we will modify nothing!

If the truth of God bears a stern aspect, we will not veil it; if there is an offense in the cross, we will not conceal it. This shall be my answer to those who would have us attune ourselves to the spirit of the age—I know no Spirit but one, and He is unchanging in every age! Your extravagance of doubt shall have no influence over us except to make us bind the gospel more closely to our hearts! If we gave you an inch, you would take a mile, and so no inch shall be given you! Our resolve is to live for the Book as we read it, for the gospel as we rest in it, for the Lord as He made atonement, for the kingdom as it rules over all! I beg every trembling Christian to take heart, put on his Lord's livery, and advance to the fray! Come out now, if you never have before! Come out if there is any manliness in you, in these days of blasphemy and rebuke—

*“You that are men, now serve Him against unnumbered foes;
Your courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.”*

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1789, Volume 30—*Joseph of Arimathea*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

**Pray for unconverted spouses
and children of
your Christian friends. Thank our Master
if all of your family know Him.**

“Whoever may go unchastened, a child of God *never* shall—the Lord will let His adversaries do a thousand things, and not punish them in *this* life since He reserves vengeance for them in the life to come. But as for His children, they cannot sin without being visited with stripes.—CHS

KING JESUS!

(Continued from page 1)

wrath to come!

I can understand a man getting to heaven as a Roman Catholic, notwithstanding all his errors, because he believes in the divinity of Christ, and relies on the expiatory sacrifice of His death, with whatever superstitions his creed may be overlaid. But I cannot understand, nor do I believe that any man will ever enter those pearly gates who, in doubting or discrediting the Deity of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, renounces the sheet-anchor of our most holy faith, and dares to face his Maker without a counselor, without an advocate, without a plea for mercy! It is time we said so, and spoke out plainly. This is no theme for trifling. Courtesies are thrown away upon antagonists whose cause is treason! Nor are we the men who should practice reserve, for if we are maintained from the King's palace, we are cowards if we do not stand up for our King!

Then there have been attacks made in modern times upon the doctrine of substitution. If the doctrine of substitution is not true, I am a lost man—therefore, tooth and nail will I fight for it! No other hope beneath the skies have I, except in the expiatory substitution of the Lord Jesus Christ! If He did not suffer in my place, the Just for the unjust, then flames of hell must be my portion. Therefore I can never give up that truth of God, for it is giving up my own salvation! It has been revealed, and I cling to it with the most implicit credit. Do you tell me that “modern thought” assails it? How, and with what weapons, I ask? Is it with argument, with proof, or with any counter-suggestion? Oh, no, it is merely met with vague questions, idle quibbles, and impertinent sneers—a style of answer that affects much, though it affirms nothing!

I pray you, brothers and sisters, wherever you are, defend this fundamental doctrine of our most holy faith—that the Lord Jesus Christ has laid down His life to make atonement for the sins of His people! Or should we be confronted with any other form of false doctrine; or should we be haunted with any kind of skepticism—(skepticism—an anomalous thing which is without form and void)—are we to stand with mealy mouths, and say, “Yes, brethren, you are of that opinion, and I am of the other”? No, for opinion is light as a bubble when judgment is pronounced by the supreme court from which there is no appeal! What do you think? Is there no fact? Is there no truth? Is the Word of God, “yes,” and, “no”? Has it come to this, that it is to be shuffled like a pack of cards, or shaped like a nose of wax as every man may please? Oh, no! By the ever-living God there is truth somewhere, and that truth we will find out if we can!

And having found it, we will hold it fast. Let us, in the day of battle, use our standard—and if our arm is torn off, we hope the standard will not fall, but that others will be found to hold it up as they were in the brave days of yore—when our fathers burned at the stake for these things, or went to the gallows, or perished amidst the Alps sooner than the truth of God's own Word should be without witnesses among the sons of man!

Hear none of these things in your hearts with tolerance, but hold fast to the things which you have been taught, and hold them fast in faith and love to Christ Jesus! Those who have their maintenance from the King's palace ought not to allow the Lord to be dishonored by a neglect of His ordinances. Brothers and sisters, I remind you, you who are believers, the Lord Jesus has given you only two symbolic ordinances. Take care that you use them well! Follow Him in what He did, when He said, “Thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness.” Be baptized in His name! Follow Him to the communion table. He said, “This do you, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Be obedient, I pray you, to His gracious Word, and do not allow the King's precept to be trifled with!

Again, if we are, indeed, His courtiers, let us take care that He is not dishonored by a general decline of His church. When churches go to sleep when the work of God is done deceitfully, for to do it formally is to do it deceitfully; when there is no life in the prayer meeting; when there are no holy enterprises afloat for the spread of the Redeemer's kingdom, then the world says, “That is your church! What a sleepy set these saints are!” O, let not the King be thus dishonored! Brothers and sisters, bestir yourselves! May this church never settle upon its lees, or fall into slumber as it grows older; may God grant it may grow more earnest! May there always be here regiments of stalwart men who shall fight for King Jesus, and not be ashamed; and may the church be full of life and vigor till Christ Himself shall come.

When we sleep with our fathers, may there be others found better than we are to maintain the cause and crown rights of King Jesus. And oh, dear friends, how can we tolerate it that so many should dishonor Christ by rejecting His gospel? We cannot prevent their doing so, but we can weep for them! We can pray for them! We can plead for them! We can make it uncomfortable for them to reflect that believers are loving *them*, and yet *they* are not loving the Savior! If you are fed from the King's palace, it is not right that you see the King's dishonor with dry eyes!

If you hear a man swearing in the streets, mourn and lament it! If you see the Sunday desecrated, grieve over it! If you behold drunkenness, do not laugh at it! If you hear lascivious songs, do not smile at them! Everything that is evil should be painful to a believer, and it ought to be an incessant sorrow to us that souls are perishing! Privileged as you are, beloved, you ought to love your Master so that the slightest word against Him should provoke your spirit to holy jealousy.

Now, I would that every one of you knew what it was to be maintained from the King's palace, but alas, there are some here that have never eaten the King's bread, and will be banished from the King's presence if they die as they are! But, O remember, the King is always ready to receive His rebel subjects, and He is a God ready to pardon! “Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.” That is the way of reconciliation—to put your trust in Him. And if you put your trust in His dear Son, you are reconciled to Him! You shall be maintained out of His palace, and then, I trust you will live to His glory. Amen and amen!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1097, Volume 19—*Good Cause for Great Zeal*—Read/download entire sermon on www.spurgeongems.org.

Study of Ephesians 5:1**LIKE FATHER, LIKE CHILD - 4**

Another implication we can draw from the command to be imitators of God is one which will help us in our mission in this life. God has His people in this world for a reason; He could take His people directly to heaven as soon as they are saved, and become His children, but He leaves us in the world in order that we might represent Him. The Apostle Paul refers to believers as “ambassadors for Christ.” An ambassador is one who represents his true country while living in another country. Believers live in this world, but their true citizenship is in heaven, and while we are here, we are to be pointing the way to others; we are to be living and serving in such a way that will bring others to Jesus Christ.

Now it is true that the world hates believers. Jesus promised that this would be the case; yet when the world mistreats Christians, there is something which nags them. They have a problem; they know that believers have something that is real, and that sustains them. They cannot explain it, but they can see that it is there. No matter what the world may think of believers, believers are living proof of the reality of the true God, and of His Word the Bible. But even if the world should burn every Bible, and make Christianity illegal, they would not be able to remove the influence of God in this world, for God is saving His people, and working through them!

See the way the Apostle Paul put it in 2 Corinthians 3:1-3: “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink, but by the Spirit of the living God; not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.”

Many people tried to put down the Apostle Paul, and say that he was not a true apostle. Paul says here that he didn't need letters from anyone proving who he was, or what his mission was. The proof was in the lives of the Corinthians themselves! They were “living epistles.” In other words, their lives demonstrated that the gospel which Paul had preached to them was the power of God unto salvation, and their lives which were so dramatically changed told everyone that Christianity was the truth!

This reminds us of the great responsibility that comes with being an imitator of God. It means that the world is forming its opinion of the gospel on the basis of the way its representatives live. There are great and sobering questions we must ask ourselves: What view of God are people receiving from my life? Is my life like a beam of light shining in this dark world to point out the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ? Does my life cause any reaction? The world hated Jesus, and Jesus promised that it would hate us if we were truly like He. Holy lives are the best sermons for the kingdom of God.—PF

Conclusion next month, Lord willing.

I Asked the Lord

**I asked the Lord that I might grow
In faith, and love, and every grace;
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek more earnestly His face.**

**‘Twas He who taught me thus to pray,
And He, I trust, has answered prayer;
But it has been in such a way
As almost drove me to despair!**

**I hoped that in some favored hour
At once He'd answer my request;
And by His love's constraining power,
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.**

**Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart,
And let the angry powers of hell
Assault my soul in every part!**

**Yes, more, with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe,
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.**

**“Lord, why is this?” I trembling cried,
“Will You pursue Your worm to death?”
“’Tis in this way,” the Lord replied,
I answer prayer for grace and faith.”**

**“These inward trials I employ,
From self and pride, to set you free,
And break your schemes of earthly joy,
That you may seek your all in Me.”
-John Newton, 1725-1807**

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**PRAY YOUR CHAPLAIN/PASTOR WILL STUDY THE DOCTRINES
AND CATECHISM OF THE
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH TO DETERMINE IF THEY TRULY
HONOR JESUS CHRIST, AND IF NOT, HAVE THE COURAGE TO EXPOSE THEM
FOR WHAT THEY REALLY ARE.**

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FAITHFUL ANANIAS BAPTIZES PAUL

By C. H. Spurgeon

Notice how thoroughly *faithful* Ananias was. He said to Paul, “Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins.” The tendency with many good evangelists is to say nothing upon *that* point. The main thing is to get the man to be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, but to say, “Arise, and be baptized”—is not that far less important? Brothers, we have nothing to do with altering Christ’s message—we are bound to deliver it as a whole—without addition or diminution. The tendency everywhere is to say, “Baptism should not be mentioned—it is sectarian.” Who said so? If our Lord commanded it, who dares to call it sectarian? We are not commanded to preach a *part* of the gospel, but the *whole* of the gospel—and Ananias did this. Is it not written, “He that believes, and is baptized shall be saved”? Why omit one clause? I question whether God’s blessing has not been withheld from some teachers and preachers because they have failed to repeat their message in its entirety.

A brother will write to me next week, and say, “I am sorry that I cannot circulate your sermon because you allude to baptism.” My dear brother, if you cannot circulate the sermon, I must be content without your kind help—but I cannot amend the Lord’s Word to please the best man upon earth! What prominence is given to baptism here! We would greatly err if we believed in baptismal *regeneration*, or even in the efficacy of washing in water for the removal of sin—but, on the other hand—we are *not* to place in the background an ordinance which, by the language of Scripture, is placed in the forefront! Ananias said to Paul, “Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins.” And this tallies with that other text, “He that believes, and is baptized shall be saved.” In both of these passages the Lord puts a special honor upon baptism, and it would be evil for us to neglect that which He so evidently esteems!

Do not make any mistake, and imagine that immersion in water can wash away sin—but *do* remember that if the Lord puts this outward profession side by side with the washing away of sins, it is not a trifling matter! Remember that other text, “With the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”? Faith must be followed by *obedience*, or it cannot be sincere—do, then, what Jesus bids you!

That is not, however, my point. I want to urge upon you that you should always speak the Lord’s Word faithfully, and be true to that which the Lord reveals to you, even to the jots and tittles. In these days there is much talk about, “undenominationalism,” and in that talk there is much to be admired; but the danger is lest we should, on all hands, begin to pare away a little from the Word of God for the sake of an *imaginary* unity!

The suggestion is that one is to give up this—and another is to give up that. But I say to you—give up *nothing* which your Lord commands! —Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1838, Volume 31—*The Good Ananias—A lesson for Believers*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

The Lord HEARS You— Would You Really Prefer He Answer You?

By Charles H. Spurgeon

“My God will hear Me”
Micah 7:7

You notice that in Scripture we do not often find the expression, “My God will *answer* me.” We do read that He answers prayer, but more frequently God is said to be the God that *hears* prayer. It is better for us to have a promise that God will hear us, than a promise that God will always answer us. In fact, if it were a matter of absolute fact that God would always answer the prayers of His people as they present them, it would be a terrible truth. I would shrink from ever praying again if I were absolutely sure that the Lord would answer my prayer, whatever it might be. I might curse myself seven times deep by a prayer within the next seven minutes if there were no safeguards and limits to the promise of prayer being answered!

It is neither desirable nor possible that all things should be left to our choice! So much do I feel this, that if my Lord should say to me, “From this hour I will always answer your prayer just as you pray it,” the first petition I would offer would be, “Lord, do nothing of the sort.” Because that would be putting the responsibility of my life upon *myself*, instead of allowing it to remain upon God. It were, in fact, to make me the master of the house, and to make me my own shepherd—the very first thing I would wish would be to strip myself of such a power. I would cry, “Lord, I will be well content if You will *hear* me.”—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1819, Volume 31—*A Sweet Silver Bell Ringing in Each Believer’s Heart*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

“ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE”?
NO, MY BRETHREN!
RATHER,
“ONE FOOT IN HEAVEN!”
BY HIS GRACE!

AND ANOTHER “INVITATION” FROM BROTHER SPURGEON

You have heard me preach like this before, have you not, a good many times? Yes, and I am sometimes fearful lest God’s people should grow tired of this kind of sermon; but then *you* need it over and over again. How many more times will some of you need to be told this? How many more times must the great mercy of God be set before you? Are we to keep on inviting you, again, and again, and again, and go back with no favorable answer from you? I have been questioning myself in the night watches about this, and I have said, “These people are unconverted. Is it my fault? Do I fail in telling them my Lord’s message? Do I mar the gospel? Well,” I thought, “if it is so, yet I will charge them not to be partakers of my *fault*.” Brothers and sisters, God’s mercy is so rich that even when the story of it is badly told, it ought to influence your hearts! It is so grand a thing that God should be in Christ reconciling the world to Himself by a wondrous sacrifice, that if I stuttered and stammered, you ought to be glad to hear it! Or even if I told you in terms that were obscure, you ought to be so eager to know it that you would search out my meaning! In secret correspondence a cipher is often used, but inquisitive people soon discover it, ought there not to be more interest taken in the gospel? But, my friends, I do not speak obscurely. I am as plain a speaker as one might meet in a day’s march, and with all my heart I set Christ before you, and bid you trust Him! Will you do so this morning? Or will you not? See how dark it is outside, even at noon? God has hung the very heavens in mourning. Never fear, the sun will soon break forth, and light up the day; and even so—

*“Our hearts, if God we seek to know
Shall know Him and rejoice!
His coming like the morn shall be,
As morning songs His voice.
So shall His presence bless our souls,
And shed a joyful light;
That hallowed morn shall chase away
The sorrows of the night.”*

—(Adapted from Sermon #1283, Volume 22—CONVERSIONS ENCOURAGED—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)

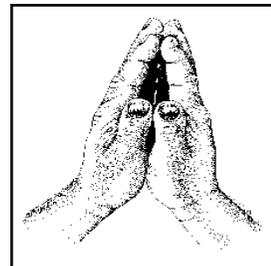
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Pray that God will
make us a
PRAYING
PEOPLE.



**PRAY FOR GRACE TO DO ALL YOU DO
FOR THE HONOR OF JESUS CHRIST.**

“My best advice to you is to get rid of your heart—and as soon as you can, get new ones! Your prayer should be, ‘Lord, take away my stony heart, and give me a heart of flesh.’ But though I cannot address you from this text, I may address you from another. Though your heart is bad, there is another heart that is good, and the goodness of that heart is a ground of exhortation to you. You remember Christ said, ‘Come unto Me all you who labor and are heavy laden.’ And then His argument would come to this, ‘For I am meek and lowly of heart, and you shall find rest to your souls.’”

“Oh, think of His blessed heart! When you go to your chamber, shut your door—you need not be afraid—and talk to that heart so meek and lowly. And though your words are ungrammatical and your sentences incoherent, He will hear and answer you from heaven, His dwelling place! And when He hears, He will forgive and accept you for His own name’s sake.”—CHS—(From sermon #180, Volume 4—HOW TO KEEP THE HEART—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).

Letters to Mike Gendron of Proclaiming the Gospel:

ptg@pro-gospel.org ~ www.pro-gospel.org ~ PO Box 940871, Plano, TX 75094

D. & C. D., Buena Vista, VA, write—We are so thankful for you and your ministry. Please keep speaking up and exposing the lies of the Catholic Church. We were both born and raised Catholic. Thank God we are now born-again, and out of that false religion! Many Christians have said, to us: “Catholics are Christians, leave them alone.” But the time is short, and we must be bold as we have a large family of Catholics who need the gospel.

J. G., Ft Lauderdale, FL, writes—As an Irish Roman Catholic, I thought that salvation was something a person earned by living a good life here on earth. But when I heard the true gospel at age 18, I recognized that this was a different message than I had been taught as a Catholic. At first I rejected it, and was even hostile to it, but after I studied the Bible, I came to realize the message was true, after all. I then transferred my trust from my efforts to merit salvation to Christ alone. By the grace of God, I was delivered from darkness to light. I left the Roman church, and have never looked back. I think your ministry is fantastic.

L. B., Dayton, TN, writes—I just listened to you on “Crosstalk” Radio (www.vcyamerica.org/crosstalk.htm). Yes, there is a disturbing trend in evangelical circles. Many people who once believed in justification by faith are joining Catholic and Orthodox churches. What can Protestant churches do to immunize themselves against people joining these apostate churches? The worship in most Protestant churches is tawdry and irreverent beyond belief. One thing we could do, for sure, is make our worship more reverent.

S.F., Corpus Christi, TX, writes—We were members of First Baptist Church for a few months, then we became weary of several questionable practices. When the pope died, the pastor stated that the pope was a “saint in heaven.” We left the church and two weeks later the church had a local priest preach from the pulpit! As far as I know, no one else has left or asked any questions. Keep up the really great work, Mike.

J. N., Internet, writes—If you believed in an authority higher than yourself for interpreting Scripture, you would not have any difficulty reconciling Tradition with Scripture. When St. Paul says that there is one mediator between God and man, this does not exclude the possibility of subordinate mediators. Christ Himself used His apostles as subordinate mediators. St. Paul understood this just as the Church has understood it for 2000 years. It is you, who place all your trust in your own fallible interpretation of the Bible, who is having the problem. Who has the authority to interpret Scripture? Is it every man for himself? Or is there a higher authority to whom we must look to properly interpret our reading of Scripture? Every apparent contradiction you drag out comparing Catholic tradition with Scripture is in appearance only. In substance there is no contradiction. The error is on the part of your own fallen judgment.

Brother Mike responds—Jesus Christ is the One and only Mediator because He is the only One qualified to reconcile sinful man to Holy God. He is man’s perfect God, and God’s perfect Man. Only through His atoning death can a man’s relationship with God be changed from one of enmity and hostility to one of peace and harmony. Jesus was both the Priest and the Sacrifice. He revealed God’s righteous demands of the law and then provided the means by which man can be reconciled to God. Your attempt to justify Roman Catholic Tradition by introducing “subordinate” mediators is typical of Catholics who refuse to believe the plain and literal meaning of Scripture. When Catholics stand before God, they will not be able to use the excuse: “I believed the Magisterium’s interpretation, therefore I should not be punished.” The Word of God warns us repeatedly not to put our trust in man (Jer 17:5-8; Psa 118:8; 146:3; Acts 17:11). Paul warned us not to trust other interpreters (Acts 20:29-31). He wrote: “[by] declaration of the truth we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God” (2 Cor 4:2). I pray that you will study the Word of God carefully, and reject anything that stands opposed to it. If you choose instead, to reject the Word, and hold to your tradition, the Word will judge you on the Last Day (John 12:48).

B. M., KY, writes—Six years ago, I trusted my Lord and Savior, and renounced the lies of Catholicism. We are very interested in having you back to teach/preach the truth about Catholicism. So many Protestants don’t seem to want to know this because then they would be accountable. But there are some who do want to learn how to evangelize Catholics. I was 29 before someone cared enough about my salvation to **offend me with the truth of God!** Praise God he did. He offended the hell out of me! Thank God for your ministry. It is one of few which addresses the truth about Catholicism. We cannot be tolerant of its lies, and at the same time say we love Catholics.

ASK GOD EVERY DAY TO BLESS THE WORK OF MIKE GENDRON...

A Story of “Amazing Grace”

By Daniel E. Parks, Pastor

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

John Newton is the author of many of the Christian church’s beloved hymns, most notably *Amazing Grace*. He was born July 24, 1725 in London, England. He became a profligate youth, and a wicked sailor. He was engaged in the African slave trade for some years; he also was a slave himself for some time, to a black mistress of a white slave trader on the Plantain Islands near Sierra Leone. In 1748, some time after being liberated, Newton almost perished on board a ship during a horrific storm. This incident resulted in him seeking the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in prayer, which moment Newton later recalled as “the hour I first believed.” He subsequently was taught of his Lord and Savior on Saint Kitts, West Indies, by Alexander Clunie, captain of a ship not engaged in the slave trade. Newton deserted the slave trade, and eventually served as mentor for twenty years to William Wilberforce, member of the English Parliament, who led the political fight in Parliament to change the law, and abolish the slave trade and slavery. Newton ministered the gospel almost sixteen years in Olney. There he became a very close associate of William Cowper, one of England’s most beloved poets, with whom he published *Olney Hymns* in 1779. Newton shortly afterward relocated to London, where he continued his gospel ministry until his death December 21, 1807. He wrote his own epitaph, which he requested might be put upon a plain marble tablet near the vestry door of his church in London:

**JOHN NEWTON,
Clerk,
ONCE AN INFIDEL AND LIBERTINE,
A SERVANT OF SLAVES IN AFRICA,
WAS,
BY THE RICH MERCY
OF OUR
LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST,
PRESERVED, RESTORED, PARDONED,
AND APPOINTED TO PREACH THE FAITH
HE HAD LONG LABORED TO DESTROY.**

~~~~~

This is the story of him who wrote:

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound / That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; / Was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, / And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear / The hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares, / I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, / And grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me, / His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be, / As long as life endures.
5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, / And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil, / A life of joy and peace.
6. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, / The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below, / Will be forever mine.

An unknown poet added these lines:

*When we've been there ten thousand years, / Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise / Than when we'd first begun.*

**PRAY DAILY  
FOR YOUR CHAPLAIN/PASTOR  
AND  
PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY FOR PASTOR DANIEL E. PARKS**

## SIX SHORT RULES FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

By Brownlow North (1741-1820)

1. Never neglect daily private prayer; and when you pray, remember that God is present, and that He hears your prayers (Heb 11:6).
2. Never neglect daily private Bible-reading; and when you read, remember that God is speaking to you, and that you are to believe and act upon what he says. I believe all backsliding begins with neglect of these two rules (John 5:39).
3. Never let a day pass without trying to do something for Jesus. Every night reflect on what Jesus has done for you, and then ask yourself, “What am I doing for Him?” (Matt 5:13-16).
4. If you are in doubt as to a thing being right or wrong, go to your room, and kneel down and ask God’s blessing upon it (Col 3:17). If you cannot do this, it is wrong (Rom 14:23).
5. Never take your Christianity from Christians, or argue that because such and such people do so and so, that therefore you may (2 Cor 10:12). You are to ask yourself, “How would Christ act in my place?” and strive to follow him (John 10:27).
6. Never believe what you feel, if it contradicts God’s word. Ask yourself, “Can what I feel be true, if God’s word is true?” and if both cannot be true, believe God, and make your own heart the liar (Rom 3:4; 1John 5:10-11).

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***“My sins, my sins, my Savior!  
How sad on You they fall,  
Seen through Your gentle patience  
I tenfold feel them all.  
I know they are forgiven  
But still their pain to me  
Is all the grief and anguish  
They laid, my Lord, on Thee.”***

[CHS – Sermon #1016, Vol. 17 – Beauty for Ashes.]

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## THE TINKER OF BEDFORD WRITES ON MARRIAGE

By John Bunyan, 1673

Written while incarcerated in Bedford Prison, England.

One of God’s ends in instituting marriage is that under a figure Christ and His Church should be set forth. There is a sweet scent wrapped up in that relation. Be such a husband to your believing wife that she may say, “God has given to me a husband that preaches Christ’s example to the church every day.” If your wife is unbelieving, you have a duty to perform under a double obligation—for she is liable every moment to eternal ruin. O how little sense of the worth of souls is there in the hearts of some husbands! This is manifest by their unchristian example to and before their wives.

Wives also should be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands. Why? Because otherwise the Word of God will be blasphemed (Titus 2:5). Take heed of an idling, talking, wrangling tongue. It is odious in maids or wives to be like parrots, not bridling the tongue.

It is unseemly to see a woman, as much as once in her lifetime, to offer to over-top her husband. I do not intend that women should be slaves by this subjection—“Let every man love his wife as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband” (Eph 5:33). Abigail would not speak a word to her churlish husband until he was in a sober temper, and his wine gone out of him.—(Bunyan’s *Christian Behavior*, vol. 2, pp. 558-561).

<http://acacia.pair.com/Acacia.John.Bunyan/Sermons.Allegories/Christian.Behavior/>

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For HIS Glory Prison Ministry  
Emmett and Ann O'Donnell  
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✂  
Our prayer for you:

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

(Romans 15:5-6 NKJV)



**JOHN 3:18**

**In This Issue...**

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

## “BRIDEGROOM OF OUR HEARTS, SAY WHAT YOU WILL, AND WE WILL OBEY YOU!”

By C. H. Spurgeon

*“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”*

*John 14:15.*

Listen, my brethren—if you love your Savior, keep His commandments! This is all you have to do, and a great all, too. Among the rest, you may come and be baptized while you are thus earnest to praise your Lord. “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” *There* is the answer to every rapturous inquiry! Jesus is more glorified by a consistent *obedience* to His commands than by the most extravagant zeal that we can possibly display in what is only will-worship, because He has never commanded it. If you wish to break the alabaster box, and fill the house with sweet perfume; if you wish to crown His head with rarest gems, the method is before you—“Keep My commandments.” You cannot do your Lord so great a favor, or, in the long run, bring to Him so real an honor as by a complete, continual, hearty obedience to every one of His commandments!

Our Savior knew, when He bade us try this test, “If you love Me, keep My commandments,” that *it would prepare us for honoring and glorifying Him in many other ways*. Read the context—“If you love Me, keep My commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever.” You can greatly glorify Christ if you are filled with the Holy Spirit; but you cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit if you do not keep Christ’s commandments! The Spirit of God as a Comforter will come only to those to whom He comes as a Sanctifier. By making us holy, He will qualify us for being useful. The Savior says, “If you love Me, keep My commandments,” because we shall then obtain that divine gift by which we can glorify His name! If there is any service which your love would aspire to, obedience to your Lord is the way to it!

Baptism and the Lord’s Supper will never be slighted by those whose hearts are fully possessed with love to Jesus! They may seem trifles, but if the Lord Jesus commands them, they cannot be neglected! To leave off your wedding ring might be no great crime, and yet no loving wife would do it. Even so, none who regard outward ordinances as love tokens will think of neglecting them! Ours is not to ask for reasons; ours is not to dispute about whether the deed is essential or non-essential; ours is to obey right lovingly! Bridegroom of our hearts, say what You will, and we will obey You! If only You will smile and strengthen us, nothing shall be impossible if great, nothing trifling if small!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1932, Volume 32—*Love’s Law and Life*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.