

**PREFACE****VOLUME 10**

**PUBLISHED IN 1864  
BY THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON**

“I HAVE many books,” said John Newton, “which I cannot sit down to read, they are indeed good and sound, but like pence, there is a great quantity to a little amount. There are however, silver books and a very few golden ones, but I have one Book worth more than all the rest. It is called the Bible, and it is A BOOK OF BANK NOTES.”

It would be utterly impossible to calculate the value of these notes, but experience enables us to say that the store of wealth is inexhaustible. We have been now for ten years spending these heavenly bills of exchange, and have not yet come to the end of one of them. Nay, they all seem to have grown more precious.

There is to our mind, more fulness and richness perceptible in the Scriptures of truth than when we first began to prize them for ourselves, and publicly to commend them to others. What a mercy for minister, that we have such a text book, for there would have been an end to our preaching long ago, if the book had not been an infinite treasury of truth. We marvel more and more at the abiding novelty and power of the Word. The clear flowing stream of Scripture may well sing—

*“Men may come, and men may go,  
But I go on for ever;”*

Ever living, ever fresh, ever refreshing, fertilizing, life giving, the river of God, which is full of water, sparkles in the sunlight of heaven as brightly now as it did a thousand years ago, and is as brimming with holy floods of consolation, as when first it made glad the city of God.

Dipping our pitcher into it so often, we know no regret, except the small capacity of our vessel, and we have no desires but to have our little bucket made large as the water pots at Cana, which held ten firkins apiece, and to have the blessing of the great Master upon all we draw. O that this water might be in thousands a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

As our ministry is not simply that of an evangelist, whose only duty is to preach the elementary truths of revelation, but that of a pastor who has to build up the saints, defend the walls of Zion, and sound an alarm against error. In some of the discourses we have felt compelled this year to consider certain topics which did not appear in former times so needful to be discussed.

More especially we have felt called upon to deal severely with brethren, who are doing much mischief to the morality of thinking persons and to the souls of the ignorant, by the lax manner in which they yield their assent and consent to unsound and dangerous teaching. We have spoken plainly, and the word has not been misunderstood.

On this account we have lost many friends, whom it has cost us very bitter grief to have offended, even though we feel we could not have done otherwise. In reference to the whole matter, the preacher can most solemnly declare that he has not uttered what he liked to say, but what he felt he *must* say, or be forever a man of unquiet conscience.

At the time of the Bicentenary Celebration, we kept aloof from all participation in the affray, because it seemed to us to involve historical questions concerning which there always must be differences of opinion, and it raised from the grave the remembrance of past offences, which it were as well to bury in mutual forgiveness.

We are still of opinion that the Puritans were wrong in being in the State Church at all, and that their expulsion, although in itself most harsh, was a necessity which could not have been avoided, and was

moreover in some degree a retribution for their former repression of Episcopacy, which had as much right to liberty as Presbyterianism itself could claim.

With Puritan theology our heart is as one, and concerning the holy heroism of the expelled ministers, we have no doubt, but we are glad that they were not allowed to remain in a false position and are hardly able to blame the very natural party-consistency which drove them forth, to be infinitely more honored and honorable than they could ever have been, had a temporizing spirit suffered them to remain in a semi-popish corporation.

It appeared to us two years ago and our views are even more decided now, that our main business is with present inconsistencies and sins, rather than with former oppressions. Not that we can judge for others, but the path of historical discussion appeared *then* an insecure one. But in dealing with the present crying sins of the clergy, we see clearly where we are, what we are driving at, and what reasons we have for so doing.

The sale of the sermons in which the matter was touched upon has exceeded three hundred thousand, which is in itself evidence that the blow has been felt. We entered upon this work with much shrinking of the flesh and heaviness of spirit, for we foresaw that the path was overgrown with thorns. We reckoned upon a far heavier cross than we have been permitted to bear. We have lost a few friends, and have gained a host.

The circulation of the sermons we expected would have greatly diminished, but instead thereof, it has largely increased. The results spiritually have been a rich reward. We have had numbers of letters bearing witness that our clear utterance of truth has enlightened the ignorant, decided the wavering, and made others yet more bold to walk in the separated path.

Enough of this. It is our great concern still to preach Christ Jesus, in all the glory of His person, the excellency of His character, the love of His heart, the power of His blood, the prevalence of His plea, and the glory of His advent. Our chief aim is to win souls to Him, and we devoutly bless the gracious Father that the Spirit has abundantly owned these sermons, so that never were our church and congregation in so cheering a state of revival as at the present moment. Brethren, for this let us give thanks.

The frontispiece illustrates the secondary results of our work. The four commodious buildings there represented are some of those which have been erected as the result of the labors of brethren connected with our college. Wandsworth, Stepney, Chelsea, and Bromley have now hopeful and rising churches, which bid fair to become some of the most laborious and useful communities of believers in London.

Help is needed in each case, and as several other buildings are either projected or in course of erection, it will be a great aid to us if brethren would sometimes entrust us with thank offerings, to be used in extending the knowledge of Christ, either in supporting students, or in building meeting houses where they may gather the people.

It is believed that in this volume the errors of the press are less numerous than formerly, and the publishers hope still to improve in this respect.

Let us, in conclusion, beg the earnest prayers of the Lord's people for our support in our terribly arduous work. Without fresh grace, how great our fall, but with it, how much may be accomplished.

Brethren, pray for us.

Yours in Jesus,

**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](http://www.spurgeongems.org).