

THE NEW PARK STREET PULPIT SERMONS

VOLUME 5

WRITTEN BY C. H. SPURGEON
AT THE NEW PARK STREET CHAPEL, SOUTHWARK
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PREFACE

THE times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord have at last dawned upon our land. Everywhere there are signs of aroused activity and increased earnestness. A spirit of prayer is visiting our churches, and its paths are dropping fatness. The first breath of the rushing mighty wind is already discerned, while on rising evangelists the tongues of fire have evidently descended.

In the midst of these new displays of divine love, it is very pleasant to see the spots which have long been favoured retaining their wonted fruitfulness and rejoicing with joy unspeakable in progressing prosperity.

Such is the case with the church to which these sermons were addressed from the pulpit. Her bow abides in strength. The bounds of her tent are ever enlarging, and her children are multiplied exceedingly. For six years the dew has never ceased to fall, and the rain has never been withheld. At this time the converts are more numerous than heretofore, and the zeal of the church groweth exceedingly. The Lord our God is in the midst of us, to deliver us out of all evil, and to give us the increase which maketh his people glad.

The simple preaching of Jesus cannot fail under the hand of the Holy Spirit to produce the very best effects. No fine words are needed, no swelling periods, simplicity and earnestness will win the day. Sound doctrine and loving invitation make a good basis of material, which, when modeled by the hand of prayer and faith, will form sermons of far more value in the saving of souls than the most philosophic essays, prepared elaborately, and delivered with elegance and propriety.

No excuse is offered for the roughness and rusticity of the language, since this the better adapts them for humble readers, but the preacher begs the large indulgence of his brethren in Christ for the faults of which he is sorrowfully conscious, but which have not restrained the Spirit of God from working by His Word.

These sermons have been spread over America, not only by legitimate publishing, but their large circulation has excited the cupidity of the dishonest, and thus piratical editions have appeared in newspapers of a character far from commendable. In the midst of a mass of frivolity and romance the weekly sermon stands like an ambassador in bonds, hopeful nevertheless, that its free voice may overcome the discordant cries which seek to drown its utterance. Unhappy in its association with the frivolous and fictitious, may God be pleased to make it like a Samson in the temple of the Philistines, that while it makes them sport it may hurl their building of iniquity to the very ground.

Very numerous instances of conversion through these sermons have come to our ears, again has the Holy Spirit set His own seal upon the Word. The sermon entitled "Compel them to come in" has been so signally owned of God, that scarcely a week occurs without some case of its usefulness coming to light. The violent, rigid school of Calvinists will of course, abhor the sermon, but this is a very small matter when the Holy Ghost works by it in the salvation of men. Would to God that such a prolific discourse could be preached every day in the week, or rather, would that every effort had a like benediction resting upon it!

"The Shameful Sufferer" was the means of a great awakening in very many, and still brings forth continual fruit. Christ bleeding always makes the heart bleed, and His shame makes men ashamed of sin.

Let but the Holy Spirit open the eyes of men to behold a sorrowing Saviour and they will at once sorrow for sin.

Others which have been very greatly blessed are those bearing the following titles—"The Blood," "Faith in Perfection," "The Bed and its Covering," "Mr. Fearing Comforted," "Who can tell?" "Come and Welcome," and "The Chaff Driven Away."

Should there be any reader who would desire to distribute to the poor a large number of any one sermon which may have engaged his attention, I shall be very happy to assist him, so that the Word may have a wider and freer course. It seems but wise that when the Lord has owned any tract or sermon, we should be led to a larger employment of the chosen instrumentality. With this view, I shall greatly rejoice to afford aid to Tract Societies, and to private brethren who wish to circulate these sermons gratuitously in large numbers.

And now, praying that this volume may receive the smile of the Great Head of the church, I prayerfully commend it to the people of God, hoping that they will overlook all mistakes of fallible man, and feed upon the pure Word of God. Brethren, accept the sincere love of one who is a debtor to you all, and who longs to be more and more *the servant of all*.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

C. H. SPURGEON

December, 1859

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