

The Sermons of Evangelist Rolfe Barnard

by



Rolfe Pickens Barnard
(1904-1969)

Edited by
Eulala J. Bullock

With The Addition of Selected Short Articles

A Short Biography Of Rolfe Barnard

(1904-1969)

by

John Thornbury

Compiled from his own personal recollections and taped sermons, especially "Saved from Infidelity" and "Watching Men Die," Barnard's Sermon Notes, and from correspondence with his daughter, Mrs. R. C. Moser, of Clemmons, North Carolina

I well recall when Rolfe Barnard first came to my hometown, Ashland, Kentucky. It was the spring of 1950. I was a teenage boy and attended, along with my mother, younger sister and brother, a large Baptist Church. It was one of the most influential churches in Eastern Kentucky with a membership of about 1,000. Some way, I do not recall how, they scheduled Rolfe Barnard to come and speak.

In those days evangelistic services were conducted annually, sometimes more often. They were known as "revival meetings." Some of the most prominent evangelists in America came to our church. Evangelistic services were extravaganzas: there was almost a "show biz" atmosphere. They featured fancy musicians, former boxers, convicts and entertainers as speakers, and all kinds of gimmicks and goodies for the youth. Aeroplane rides were offered for those who brought enough people to church and there were rewards for those who induced others to walk down the church aisles after the sermons. It was the big boom and everyone seemed to enjoy it. I do not recall there being much permanent good effect of these "revivals." After all the excitement died down, people usually went about their sinful ways of living as before.

Like all the guest-evangelists who came, the picture of Barnard was placed on posters and nailed all over town. Beneath his picture was an interesting slogan. It said, "The evangelist who is different." Exactly what was different about him the posters did not say. The man looked to be in his late forties. The only thing noticeably different about his appearance was that he came across as somewhat sombre—there was a slightly menacing look on his face. Normally, evangelists had broad smiles and shining faces

advertising the jolly good fellows they were.

After a few sermons in the church, folk knew just how different Rolfe Barnard was from the evangelists who had visited the church before. There was none of the flashy demeanor, but a grave and dignified bearing like one who had been sent on a mission. One soon got the impression that he was not there to whip up religious excitement, but to deliver a message from God.

The message was as startling as it was different. It centered around the character of God, a God about whom most had never heard before. The deity most were acquainted with was a nice sort of fellow who did his best to save people, but was often frustrated in the attempt. Many times I have heard preachers say, "God has done all He can for you, now it is up to you." I used to listen with astonishment to this statement, for I wondered why I should seek help from a being who could not help me. Barnard, on the other hand, preached a God Who was sovereign and omnipotent, One Who dispensed His mercy according to His own discretion. He preached that sinners were not to come to God with the idea of helping Him out of His dilemma, but they were to come as guilty sinners, suing for mercy. He exalted the holiness of God and the strictness of His Law. This, you can be sure, was different.

Rumors began to spread all over town that a Calvinist had come to Ashland. Some reacted with amazement, some with confusion, others with down-right anger. But a small group rejoiced and said, "We have been wanting to hear this for years." My father, who believed in the doctrines of grace, started attending the services and announced to all of us that there was one at the church preaching the theology in which he believed.

The pastor, after much heart-searching and Bible study, came to believe in the doctrines of grace as a result of this meeting, and invited Barnard back in the summer of 1951 to hold a tent meeting in a large park downtown. In the intervening months a division developed over the so-called "five points" of Calvinism with the majority becoming more hostile. The pastor was a very talented and gracious man with a winsome personality, and he tried to woo as many as possible to the "new" view, but most stiffened and gave him

trouble.

The church had a very active youth group, including a choir. I was a member of this choir and also sang in a quartet with others about my age. I had been baptized at the age of 12, but was utterly without any vital relationship with God in my life. There was in fact a terrible, aching void in my heart which I could not understand. Still, I did not even want to consider that I was not a Christian.

The two-week meeting in the park was a memorable event. The crowds were fairly large, considering the type of preaching which was sounding out. Barnard boldly preached the Gospel as he understood it, often denouncing the superficiality of modern religion. We were all fascinated with his style, though he seemed awfully stern and rough. Plain truths of the Word of God were set forth, even the harshest, in their naked reality. One of his favorite texts was "God will have mercy upon whom He will have mercy," Romans 9:15.

Shortly after the meetings started, there began to be a breaking up. Many, mostly adults, began to go forward after the messages and state publicly that they were lost and wanted prayer. These, and others who sat trembling in the audience, were under "conviction of sin." The amazing thing is that most of them were church members. I remember one night the piano stopped playing during the invitation and the pianist went to the front seat and sat down sobbing. We all knew she meant that she wanted to be saved. Prominent church leaders such as deacons, Sunday School teachers, and youth workers began to acknowledge that they had been false professors or deceived about their state before God. Our male quartet was singing each night under the big tent, and as it turned out later, not one of us was converted at that time. One night Don, one of the members of the quartet, went to the front where the pastor and evangelist were standing and asked for prayer. It was announced that he was lost and needed Christ. It was at this point that I became involved in the picture. God was about to set me straight.

At that time I had the notion that anyone who had any religious feelings such as "seeking after God" was a true Christian. I misunderstood the text in Romans which says that there is none that

seeketh after God (Romans 3:11). At any rate, it rankled me somewhat that my friend had been disturbed by the evangelist. At this very time my own soul was torn asunder because I had no real assurance of salvation, but I had a reputation of being a young theologian who believed in Calvinistic doctrine. I thought this would be a good time for me to show my skill in counselling and to help my friend who was in trouble.

I went to the front of the tent where Barnard and the pastor were talking to Don. Butting in like the immature, upstart youth I was, I said to him, "Don, you do not need to worry. You are seeking God. The lost man does not seek God. Therefore you have the life of God in you, you are saved," or words to that effect. Never, till the day I die, will I forget what Rolfe Barnard said to me. Looking straight at me with his piercing eyes, he said, "Young man, a believer is not seeking Christ, he has found Christ!"

Ten pointed arrows piercing my body, or a jolt of electricity would not have shaken me more than those words. Barnard had not only corrected a false notion which would have led Don astray, but also he put his finger on a raw nerve in my own life. With this statement, through the work of the Holy Spirit in my heart, he stripped aside the shroud of pseudo-religion in which I had been hiding, and left me standing exposed to my true condition. I did not know Christ!

I was angry. As my parents drove home, I said little, but within I was seething as I resisted the prickings of the Holy Spirit on my conscience. Was this abrasive preacher right? Was it true that seeking is not enough, one must actually find Christ? If so, I knew I was lost, a fact I did not want to face. That night, I told my mother that I wanted her to pray for me, because I thought I might not be saved. I expected her to have some words of comfort, for after all I was a good boy, supposedly, one of the model young men in the church. She had no soothing balm for me, but only said, "Son, I'll pray for you."

What went on in the next 24 hours would take many pages to tell, but briefly I will say that I spent the most miserable night of my life that night wrestling with the condition of my soul. The next

morning, somewhat humbled, I told the pastor and the evangelist (there were morning services) that I was lost. I recall well the pastor's words. He said, "John, this is not surprising, since most of our best young people are coming to realize that they have never had a real experience of grace." There were no words of counsel given me except these, "God saves sinners." This is all that was said to me about how to get relief. This seemed like a brush-off, but I went away. Before the day was over, God used the words of the song, "Jesus Paid It All," to bring peace to my heart. Through this song, Christ and His substitutionary work came before my mind. The Holy Spirit seemed to be telling me that it was for me that Jesus had died, and that all my sins were put away forever. That night I joyfully confessed Christ to the crowd and later was baptized, along with twenty or so others who were converted in the tent meeting.

I have given this firsthand account of Barnard's ministry in one city because it illustrates in a capsule way the leading elements of his evangelistic preaching. What happened in the church in Ashland is a sample of what occurred in dozens of places throughout America and parts of Canada. While different churches and communities responded differently to Barnard's preaching, there were many instances, in the 1950's and 1960's, especially where churches were claimed for truth, and many sinners were converted.

Rolfe Pickens Barnard was born on August 4, 1904, to James and Julia Barnard in Gunterville, Alabama. He often stated that his father and mother gave him to God to be a preacher while he was still in his mother's womb. He grew up in a Godly home and was taken to a Southern Baptist Church and Sunday School during his youth. Like so many children, he made a decision to be baptized and join the church when very young, but without being truly converted. When he was eleven years old, a missionary visited the church in the little town where he lived and asked all who were willing to go to come forward. Soon Rolfe was walking down the aisle and made this commitment. He seemed to sense from that time that God's will for him was the Christian ministry.

In a remarkable sermon entitled "Saved From Infidelity," Barnard explains how he struggled with the seemingly inevitable

course to which he was destined: preaching the Gospel. He was evidently a precocious youth for he entered Hardin Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, at the age of 15, to study for a legal career. While in college, he sought peace with God for his troubled conscience, but whenever he thought of God he thought of preaching, and this he had rejected. He was willing to do anything but that. He evaded the issue by long hours of weeping and praying. He "rededicated himself to God," in fact, he did "everything he knew to do." But the storm within continued to rage. Rolfe was in a terrible agitated state.

Then his rebellion reached a point where he said, "God, keep Your hand off me!" His heart hardened, and he turned to infidelity. This, as he said, gave him an "alibi" or "hiding place," and enabled him to sleep. His determination to avoid the ministry led him to abandon the evangelical faith (outwardly, at least). He became an outspoken infidel on the college campus, and his bold disposition and intellectual acumen made him a natural leader of the unbelievers. An infidel club was organized and he was its president. Rolfe Barnard had declared all-out war on God!

On Friday nights, 300 young rebels gathered to poke fun at the Bible, and dare God to do anything about it. Leading them in their blasphemy was a tall, angular youth who had been dedicated to God as a minister from his mother's womb. When this young man was leading the skeptics he was haughty and presumptuous, but at night, when alone, the God of his parents loomed large before him, and the gathering clouds of His wrath frightened him. Remarkably, he would curse God during the day and pray to Him at night. These are his own words, "I say to you, and this is the truth, before I could sleep at night I'd get down on my knees and say to God, 'If You'll not kill me tonight, I'll surrender to you tomorrow.' " Rolfe Barnard became, literally, one of the most miserable men walking the face of the earth. He was a hard and bitter young man, determined never to serve God or even darken the doors of God's House.

On graduating from law school, he was offered a junior partnership in an outstanding Texas law firm, but instead he decided to move to the Panhandle area of Texas to teach in a school. He did

not explain this move. In Texas, at that time, one had to be a church member in order to teach in a school, so he joined the church the first Sunday after moving to town.

Although he was now a church member, he never attended. In fact, he remained a confirmed infidel. "For years," he said, "I blasphemed everything high and low, but they kept me on the church roll." When he moved from one place to another, he moved his letter of membership, but never participated in church activities. Then a remarkable thing happened. A church elected him to teach a men's class, shortly after he had joined, and he felt that to keep his reputation he should accept.

The incredible situation existed of Rolfe Barnard moving into a new community and being elected to teach a men's Bible class while he was shaking his very fist in the face of God. This type of situation is perhaps more common than one might suspect, especially in some parts of America where membership in a church is essential to social status, and in some cases one's occupation depends upon it. As a Bible teacher, Barnard was a big success. The people were impressed with his knowledge of the Bible and ability to communicate. After he became an evangelist, he described himself during those days as a "hypocrite" and "devil."

Then the event occurred which forced Barnard's hand, as it were, in the great issue between him and God: whether he would surrender to preach. The pastor of the church resigned, and Sunday after Sunday the people simply went home. Given the battle in his heart he had been fighting for so many years, this created a dilemma in Barnard's mind too great for him to bear. One Sunday he went home to his boarding-house, entered the bathroom and locked the door. There, as he later said, "The battle was fought out." God won. Rolfe Barnard got up off his knees and went directly across town to the home of the Sunday School superintendent who was asleep in a rocking chair waiting for dinner. The young Sunday School teacher walked over to the Superintendent and woke him. "Brother Mills," he said, "I've come to tell you, the Lord has saved me and I want to preach next Sunday." I will let Barnard relate the conversation between him and the layman in his own words.

"The Superintendent said, 'Well, it's about time.' He sure let me down. I had wanted him to say, 'Oh, isn't that wonderful!' Instead he said, 'Well, it's about time.' I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'Things have been going on. A couple of letters came to Panhandle, Texas, post office. One of them was addressed to the Superintendent of the Sunday School of the First Baptist Church. The other was addressed to the Pastor—didn't know any names. They were identical letters. Some old white-haired woman from Abilene, Texas, said, 'My boy's coming to your town to teach school. He's called to be a preacher. He's not even saved. He's in an awful mess.' She said, 'If you could find it in your heart, build a fire under him. Don't let him have a moment's peace.' And he (the Superintendent) said, 'Boy, we've been doing it. We knew you weren't saved, but we elected you to teach a men's Bible class. We've been meeting once a week and asking, 'Lord, make the fire a little hotter.' We've been waiting.'†"

The letter had come, of course, from Rolfe's mother. The method the Texas Baptists used to build a fire under Rolfe Barnard was a strange one, and one we could easily criticize, but God moved in a mysterious way and overruled the mistake of His people in calling out His chosen servant and sending him on his way.

It was while he was still a school teacher that Barnard moved to Borger, Texas, to do evangelistic work. Borger was one of those boom Texas oil towns. Oil was discovered one day on a man's ranch, and within six months, tens of thousands of people had flooded into the community and built a town. As in the famous gold rush of the 1850's, people came there from everywhere to get rich quick.

Various types of businesses sprang up, but there was not one church in town. Saloons, gambling halls and houses of ill-fame flourished. Public women swarmed on the main street which was two-and-a-half miles long. According to Barnard, uninterested men had to walk at arm's length from the buildings in order to avoid being grabbed.

The Baptist Association in that part of the country bought an empty lot and commissioned Barnard to start a church on it. He did not have a cent, so he went up and down the streets collecting money to build a church structure. A Baptist deacon rebuked him for

this method, stating that he was soliciting the devil's money. Barnard answered, "Satan doesn't own anything. All is the Lord's."

One of the businesses he intended to solicit was the one operated by A. P. Borger who "owned the town." When he got there he found several deputy sheriffs waiting for him, along with a photographer from the local newspaper. The sheriffs were "dressed in ten-gallon hats and wearing two handguns." He was informed that no money would be collected at that business until they had been given a sample of his preaching. Barnard immediately stepped upon a large beer keg and delivered a message on "death." The essence of this message was that those present were going to die physically, and if they remained outside Christ, their souls would die eternally. The photographer took Barnard's picture while he was preaching. The next day the Texas newspapers showed the young minister standing on the keg preaching to this unusual audience.

Death was an appropriate subject, for death was all around him. A lethal gas from the oil wells destroyed the lungs of many who worked them. In a short time scores succumbed to "gas consumption" for which there was then no cure. In a gripping message entitled, "Watching Men Die," Barnard states that he preached at as many as seven funerals in one day. The bodies of the dead were usually taken back to their own hometowns for burial. He also tells about several frightful death-bed scenes of people who listened to him preach but rejected Christ.

Such were some of the circumstances of Barnard's ministry in Borger, Texas. It was a frontier situation in every sense of the word. He preached to rough, tough, hardened sinners. His converts consisted of drunkards, gamblers, prostitutes, and money sharks, as well as ordinary people. I believe that one can understand better Barnard's "shoot from the hip" style from the pulpit if the way he began his ministry is taken into consideration. He made a good evangelist to rebels for he himself had been a rebel before his conversion.

On October 25, 1927, Barnard married Hazel Hayes Hilliard at Amarillo, Texas. In January of the next year he enrolled in the Southwestern Baptist Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas. This school

was founded in 1905 by B.H. Carroll, who, like Barnard, was a hardened infidel before his conversion. Dr. Carroll, though he never attended Seminary himself, was a giant in every respect. He was thoroughly orthodox, a brilliant scholar, and a commanding preacher.

When Barnard went to Southwestern, it was the period of the beginnings of the erosion of traditional Southern Baptist theology. The emphasis, so conspicuous since, on programs and fund-raising, and the downgrading of theology was showing itself. On the faculty at the time was W.T. Conners, whom Barnard often quoted with great respect and appreciation. Conners was a mild Calvinist, and wrote several books on doctrine. Barnard also studied under the famous Southern Baptist Evangelist, L.R. Scarborough, a very influential figure.

Unquestionably, Barnard's ministry was molded by his instruction at Southwestern. But this does not account for the direction his preaching took, especially in the 1950's and 1960's.

Upon graduating from Seminary, Barnard pastored churches in Portales, New Mexico; Denton, Texas, and Wetumka in Oklahoma. When the Second World War broke out, he became a chaplain and served in this capacity for two years.

I do not believe that Barnard was a Calvinist during the first years of his pastoral work and evangelistic ministry. Judging from his sermon notes, however, he was always thoroughly evangelical and Biblical in his preaching. As far as his style is concerned, I think anyone who heard him and knows about the personality and ministry of C.G. Finney, an American evangelist of another day, could not but see a considerable resemblance.

He often quoted Finney, and there are statements in his older sermon notes which indicate that he held, at one time, to Finney's view on man's will. But even so, Barnard, so far as I can tell, never countenanced the "easy believe" type of evangelism which has predominated in America in this century.

Some of the so-called "new methods" of Finney he employed in his revival preaching. He usually gave a public invitation after his sermons, though I'm not sure that this always pertained. He did this,

however, not as a means of salvation but as an opportunity for the converted to openly profess faith in Christ. He was known at times to single out specific individuals for notice from the pulpit, particularly if they were opposing him. This was a well-known tactic of Finney.

One is reminded that, in every age when God is bringing about a reformation of some kind, he uses all types of individuals, including those who seem, to some, tactless and blunt. When the tide of error and compromise is flowing all one way, very outspoken and forceful personalities arise to stand against the current. Such was Savonarola, Martin Luther, and Spurgeon. Barnard was in this tradition.

Like many before him, such as Asahel Nettleton and A.W. Pink, Barnard believed that submission to Christ was an essential element of conversion. There were no words too scornful for him to use in denouncing the view that one can become a Christian by accepting the finished work of Christ while living in rebellion against Him. Throughout his ministry he was one of the few American evangelists who taught that sanctification is an essential part of being a believer. The "Carnal Christian" theory has prevailed to a tremendous extent in the U.S.A. in this century. This has led to some professing believers living lives in open sin and disobedience. That error was anathema to Rolfe Barnard. In this sense, he always belonged to the Puritan school on conversion.

In 1946, he moved to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to teach at Piedmont Bible College. Although he was then, and always remained, a Southern Baptist, his tenure at this school brought him into close fellowship and association with some of the leaders of the independent, fundamentalist movement in America, such as Dr. John R. Rice. Dr. Rice wields immense influence among fundamentalists in America, and is an outspoken opponent of modernism and liberalism.

During the late forties, Barnard combined evangelistic meetings, such as city-wide crusades, with Bible conferences. At one of these conferences at Greenville, Mississippi, he preached from the sixth chapter of John and in his message he revealed that he

had come to a Calvinist view on election. Present at the conference were Dr. Rice and other personalities in the fundamentalist camp.

There were some in the audience who were, or came to be, sympathetic with his exposition, but most were vehemently opposed to it. This conference became a sort of pivotal point in his life, because his preaching of the doctrine of special grace produced a "parting of the way." From then on, Rolfe Barnard was censored in the wide fundamentalist circles in which he had been moving. "Hyper-Calvinism" was the label then fixed upon him, and upon those who believe that election is gratuitous and not a reward for foreseen faith. In vain have many explained to fundamentalist leaders that there is a difference between Calvinism and hyper-Calvinism. This unfair charge has become simply another part of the reproach of Christ for believers in sovereign grace.

Following the Greenville conference, word went out in fundamentalist circles that Rolfe Barnard had departed from the faith. He was ostracized, like the untouchables of India, by his former friends. Invitations for city-wide crusades stopped. His ministry continued, but mainly in small churches. He became a controversial figure. But he was endowed with a valuable quality which kept him on his course: complete lack of the fear of man. He was one of those rare souls who was willing to stand for the truth, even if alone.

God crowned his labors with revival blessings in many places in the fifties and sixties, the meetings in Ashland being one example. He preached all over the South, Mid-west, and Canada, and there are thousands today who can testify that God used him in bringing them to salvation. Quite a number of preachers were converted to a belief in the sovereignty of God.

Many unusual things happened during his evangelistic meetings and anecdotes could easily fill a volume.

Barnard was endowed with a powerful set of lungs and a good voice of medium range. He was an excellent singer, and often sang special songs in his evangelistic meetings, accompanied by his wife, Hazel. Occasionally, he violated all rules of elocution by shrieking at the top of his voice during a sentence. He did this not by

an interjection of some kind but during a sentence. For example, he might say, "The purpose of the cross is the glory of God." On "glory" he might say "glooooo" at the top of his vocal capacity. He did this when his emotions reached a high pitch and he felt very, very strongly about something. Needless to say, such outbursts were earsplitting, and did devastating things to gauges on electronic recording equipment. No one, I suppose, could possibly recommend this as a method, generally speaking, but I can say that this peculiar individualistic trait did have a startling and awakening effect upon an audience. As a rule, it was very difficult for people to sleep when Barnard was preaching!

I heard Barnard preach many times. There were occasions when his sermons were ordinary and unimpressive. But in the right context, he was one of the most powerful preachers I have ever heard. In the midst of an awakening, when the powers of heaven and hell were visibly in conflict, he had a peculiar unction that cannot possibly be described. Like Finney, whose style he followed, and Nettleton whose theology he accepted, he could hold an audience spellbound at such times.

Rolfe Barnard's gifts were not primarily pastoral. He seemed ill-fitted for a settled type of ministry. He once said, "Some like to live within the sound of a chapel or church bell. I want to run a rescue station within a yard of Hell."

He was not a builder; he was a trailblazer. He was not a Timothy, charged to take care of the house of God—he was a John the Baptist crying in the wilderness. He emphasized greatly the Lordship of Christ and repentance. One of his few printed messages was entitled, "John the Baptist Comes to Town." It is a characteristic sermon, and I count it one of my personal treasures.

Although Barnard was often misunderstood, and disliked by many, he was a man, I believe, who had an uncommon love for the souls of men, especially sinners. His messages, many of which are available on tape, demonstrate plainly that he had a fervent desire that lost people submit to the claims of Christ. In some of them, Calvinist though he was, he literally begs them to lay down their arms of rebellion, "stack arms" he would sometimes say, and receive

God's forgiveness through repentance! Out of the pulpit Barnard was, as a rule, withdrawing yet friendly. In relaxed, social circles, he had a way of badgering his friends, but in a way that was always taken good-naturedly. I recall one occasion when I became the object of his teasing. In 1963, I, along with several other people, was visiting his home in North Carolina. I had just married, and was making plans to go to the Philippine Islands as a missionary. While at his house I wrote a letter to my new bride. When Barnard discovered it, he said, "John, I understand you want to be a missionary. Before you leave my house I feel I ought to do something to help you. I want to pay for your letter to your wife." With this remark, he handed me a postage stamp! Thus did Barnard support my missionary deputation! This, of course, brought a round of hearty laughter.

While preaching in Prairieville, Louisiana, he had a heart attack, and died on January 21, 1969. His funeral was conducted by Pastor Henry Mahan in a funeral home in Winston-Salem. I can think of no more fitting climax to this article than the words of Pastor Mahan. "His message of sovereign mercy was an awakening message. It was impossible to remain neutral when Barnard preached. Like the Apostle Paul, when Barnard preached, there was either a riot or a revival. As he said so many times, "When the true Gospel of Grace is preached, the believers will be glad, the rebels will get mad, and the pharisees will be confused."

His message was truly the Gospel of God's glory. He clearly defined the "good news" as a work God does for the sinner, not something the sinner does for God. He declared how God can be just and justify the ungodly through the righteousness of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

He has now fully realized the last verse of his favorite song:

"And when life's journey is over,
And I the dear Saviour shall see,
I'll praise Him forever and ever,
For saving a sinner like me!"

John Thornbury, Pastor
Winfield Baptist Church
Winfield, PA.

Evangelist Rolf Barnard As I Knew Him

Rolfe P. Barnard was born in 1904, completed his education in Texas and was prepared to join a prosperous law firm. Something happened to interrupt his plans. He was gloriously converted! Then he went to Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, where he had the privilege of meeting some of the best teachers the Southern Baptists had to offer at that time. Dr. W. T. Conner was a professor who held (though mildly) to the doctrines of sovereign grace. But it was not from Conner that Barnard really had the truth of salvation by electing grace burned into his soul. In a used book store he found a book of sermons by the late Dr. B. H. Carroll, and as he began to read from that old saint of God on regeneration, he came to where Carroll had told his audience: "If my poor voice is all you hear tonight, you will go away nothing bettered. But if through grace you are enabled to hear HIS voice, you will go away a new man or a new woman." And Barnard always said that's where the truth that God moves first upon the dead sinner made an impact on his soul -- that God must move individually, effectually, personally. Then it came down to the point where each sinner was personally dealt with by the Lord God Himself -- something far beyond the persuasive powers of any fervent preacher.

Brother Barnard went on to build and pastor a Baptist church in the oil-mining town of Borger TX about 1929. There he faced many scary situations which remind one of the Zane Grey days in the wild west! He tells about this in his sermon "Watching Men Die." I think Barnard left that church and then pastored another church for a short time in Texas, and then another in Oklahoma. While he was in Oklahoma (I think) he decided to spend most of his time as a traveling evangelist. Then too, along about this period World War II broke out and he joined the Army as a chaplain. He got along fairly well in service, for at that time he was not yet nearly as strong on the "five points" as he later became. He did get into hot water with the leading chaplains a few times, because they wanted to drink and play, while to Barnard the salvation of those poor "soldier boys" was a serious matter. He was in "dead earnest," as he

often expressed it!

When he came out of service, evidently he traveled for a while among the Fundamentalists of the South — preaching with some notables such as John R. Rice, Bob Jones, etc. But as those Fundamentalists began to clearly understand his message — or as Barnard himself began preaching it more distinctly — there was a separation. Barnard faced the fact that the "old truths of our Baptist faith" would not be readily received by today's most staunch contenders for the "fundamentals." All the climate was free-will, and Barnard wanted to teach them free-grace!

His opportunities for evangelistic meetings began closing, as pastor after pastor succumbed to the gossip that "Barnard had departed from the faith and become a hyper-Calvinist or hardshell." Such was his distress that he sometimes wondered if he had spoken out too strongly for predestination, election, particular redemption, and kindred truths. But as Brother Barnard consulted the old Baptist writers, Arthur Pink, the Puritans, etc. he knew he was proclaiming the Gospel they had preached. He stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the renowned Charles Haddon Spurgeon on Calvinistic doctrine. And he would not be moved from the path of truth (the old paths, Jer.6:16; the faith once delivered to the saints, Jude 3). Somewhere about this time he was offered a teaching position at Piedmont Bible College in Winston Salem NC. Barnard moved there and while he didn't last long as a college professor, this was to remain his hometown until the end.

One of the things for which Barnard must be noted was his desire and ability to teach young preachers the doctrines of grace. And Bro. Barnard taught them in a lively, experimental way. Never coldly academic, Barnard could hold them spellbound as he would compare the Old Gospel of Sovereign Saving Grace with the "New Modern Gospel of Free Will." Barnard could paint the helpless condition of the sinner in such light that sovereign predestination was blessed good news! He could so clearly portray the demands of the Holy Law, the necessity of Blood Redemption, and the definiteness of the purpose of Christ coming into the world, until students and sinners alike would cry out concerning the reality of

particular redemption! At his best, in teaching the basic truths of sound gospel preaching, ROLFE BARNARD was without equal in his days.

And as he traveled he began to encourage a network of annual "Sovereign Grace Conferences" -- the first was in Ashland KY, then one in Birmingham AL, then Pine Bluff AR, one in Rocky Mt NC, one in Ohio, and other places. These were begun around the years 1954-1958, and I praise God for what they have meant to some of us!

Later Barnard went to New Orleans LA where he preached with the late L. R. Shelton for about a year. Shelton had a wide broadcast ministry, along with a number of "chapels" or meeting places. Shelton also had a good-sized gospel tent which he and Barnard used that year. Then for some reason a definite break came in their fellowship in 1960 or 1961. But both kept on preaching in their separate ministries, and both were strong voices for the truths of God's grace. I believe Shelton was the most powerful preacher of election, predestination and experimental Calvinism ever on the radio. My own conversion is related to both Shelton's and Barnard's ministries, as well as that of B. B. Caldwell and the written ministry of Arthur Pink. In looking back upon the profound influence of these men in my early life, I desire to bow a grateful heart to my Lord.

Barnard continued to travel -- he preached in homes, in small tents, in brush arbors, out in the open, in churches of all sizes and all denominations. In the year 1965, for example, Barnard came to Spartanburg SC and preached in a very small tent in a brother's backyard. Then a few weeks later he was preaching in Second Baptist Church of Lancaster SC, with membership over 1000. He preached the same vital truth in both places. He preached in Reformed and Presbyterian churches up north, and at one point was welcomed among the Christian & Missionary Alliance Churches under Dr. A. W. Tozer's influence. Tozer and Barnard were men of similar convictions, both emphasizing the Lordship of Christ in their itinerant ministries and writings.

Rolfe Barnard in his preaching was never an antinomian.

Always he stressed the necessity of bowing to the Lordship of Christ in one's life. He would not have the popular formula of "trust Jesus as your Saviour today, and make Him your Lord later." He contended that all such separation of the offices of Christ our Lord was born in Hell and would lead its converts down to the pit. "The day He became your Lord is the day He became your Saviour," he would often say. "God has not saved us and then turned the running of the affairs of our lives back over to us. He is absolute Lord and Dictator over the hearts and lives of those He saves!"

Barnard never took a strong position in the prophetic field. At heart, he was a postmillennialist, as were the old Puritans. He studied extensively the views of Jonathan Edwards on the Latter Day Glory and felt the same impact upon his life and ministry that the positive and hopeful postmil. view gave Edwards. But due to the fact that bitter wars are fought over the subject of prophecy, Barnard declined to engage in such conflicts. He did at times express himself to the effect that "a great revival is coming" and the knowledge of the glory of God would cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Many of his friends were leaving the dispensationalist premil. camp and going to amillennialism. Barnard was never too interested in that viewpoint.

Barnard died in 1969, while preaching in Louisiana. His sermons on tape continued to be widely circulated by several tape ministries and libraries. It was then about 11 years later when a dear lady in Greenville SC (having been converted under Barnard back in 1951) decided that she would transcribe the sermons and print them in book form. The lady's name was Eulala J. Bullock, a retired sister, never married. She did what she could, as the widow's mite, for she had no literary training and couldn't even use a typewriter. She would use a foot control in order to start and stop the cassette machines as she copied the sermons in longhand into a notebook. It must have taken her many, many months to get the first volume ready! It was published in 1982, then another came in 1984 and another in 1989. She had hoped to do more but was getting a bit feeble, due to never having recovered from a bad fall. In the summer of 1990, the Lord called Miss Bullock home. Friends and family

who were looking after her things decided that I should have the Barnard books -- since I had assisted her in the typing and editing volumes 2 and 3. We received the books, a large truckload, but not having the facilities or money to promote them in a proper manner, we finally turned the bulk of the remaining copies over to Brother Bob Doom at Revival Literature, P.O. Box 6068, Asheville Nc 28816.

Excerpts from a letter written by:
Wylie W. Fulton

The Conversion Of Rolfe Barnard

Rolfe Pickens Barnard was born on 4th August 1904 to James and Julia Barnard in Gunterville, Alabama. He often stated that his father and mother gave him to God to be a preacher while he was still in his mother's womb. He grew up in a godly home and was taken to a Southern Baptist church and Sunday School during his youth. Like so many children, he made a decision to be baptised and join the church when very young, but without being truly converted. When he was eleven years old, a missionary visited the church in the little town where he lived and asked all who were willing to 'go where ever the Lord wanted them to go' to come forward. Soon Rolfe was walking down the aisle and made this commitment. He seemed to sense from that time that God's will for him was the Christian ministry.

In a remarkable sermon entitled 'Saved From Infidelity,' Barnard explains how he struggled with the seemingly inevitable course to which he was destined: preaching the gospel. He was evidently a precocious youth for he entered Hardin Simmons University of Abilene, Texas at the age of 15 to study for a legal career. While in college he sought peace with God for his troubled conscience, but whenever he thought of God he thought of preaching, and this he had rejected. He was willing to do anything but that. He evaded the issue by long hours of weeping and praying. He 'rededicated himself to God', in fact he did 'everything he knew to do'. But the storm within continued to rage. Rolfe was in a terrible agitated state.

Then his rebellion reached a point where he said, 'God, keep your hand off me.' His heart hardened and he turned to infidelity. This, as he said, gave him an 'alibi' or 'hiding place' and enabled him to sleep'. His determination to avoid the ministry led him to abandon the evangelical faith (outwardly at least). He became an outspoken infidel on the faith college campus and his bold disposition and intellectual acumen made him a natural leader of the unbelievers. An infidel club was organized and he was its president. Rolfe Barnard was declared all-out war on God!

On Friday nights 300 young rebels gathered to poke fun at the Bible and dare God to do anything about it. Leading them in their blasphemy was a tall, angular youth who had been dedicated to God as a minister from his mother's womb. When this young man was leading the skeptics he was haughty and presumptuous, but at night, when alone, the God of his parents loomed large before him and the gathering clouds of his wrath frightened him. Remarkably, he would curse God during the day and pray to him at night. These are his own words, 'I say to you, and this is the truth, before I could sleep at night I'd get down on my knees and say to God, "If you'll not kill me tonight, I'll surrender to you tomorrow."' Rolfe Barnard became, literally, one of the most miserable men walking the face of the earth. He was a hard and bitter young man, determined never to serve God or even darken the doors of God's house.

On graduating from law school, he was offered a junior partnership in an outstanding Texas law firm, but instead he decided to move to the Panhandle area of Texas to teach in a school. He did not explain this move. In Texas, at that time, one had to be a church member in order to teach in a school, so he joined the church the first Sunday after moving to town.

Although he was now a church member, he never attended. In fact he remained a confirmed infidel. 'For years,' he said, 'I blasphemed everything high and low, but they kept me on the church roll.' When he moved from one place to another he moved his letter of membership, but never participated in church activities. Then a remarkable thing happened. A church elected him to teach a men's Bible class, shortly after he had joined, and he felt that to keep his reputation he should accept.

The incredible situation existed of Rolfe Barnard moving into a new community and being elected to teach a men's Bible class while he was shaking his very fist in the face of God. This type of situation is perhaps more common than one might suspect, especially in some parts of America where membership in a church is essential to social status, and in some cases one's occupation depends upon it. As a Bible teacher, Barnard was a big success. The people were impressed with His knowledge of the Bible and ability

to communicate. After he became an evangelist, he described himself during those days as a 'hypocrite' and 'devil'.

Then the event occurred which forced Barnard's hand, as it were, in the great issue between him and God: whether he would surrender to preach. The pastor of the church resigned, and Sunday after Sunday there was no preaching. After Sunday School the people simply went home. Given the battle in his heart he had been fighting for so many years, this created a dilemma in Barnard's mind too great for him to bear. One Sunday he went home to his boarding house, entered the bathroom and locked the door. There, as he later said, 'The battle was fought out.' God won. Rolfe Barnard got up from his knees and went directly across town to the home of the Sunday School superintendent who was asleep in a rocking chair waiting for dinner. On a table a gramophone was grinding out some music. The young Sunday School teacher walked over to the Superintendent and woke him. 'Brother Mills,' he said, 'I've come to tell you, the Lord has saved me and I want to preach next Sunday. I will let Barnard relate the conversation between him and the layman in his own words.

The Superintendent said, 'Well, it's about time.' He sure let me down. I had wanted him to say, 'Oh, isn't that wonderful.' Instead he said, 'Well it's about time.' I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'Things have been going on. A couple of letters came to Panhandle, Texas post office. One of them was addressed to the Superintendent of the Sunday School of the First Baptist Church. the other was addressed to the Pastor-"didn't know any names". They were identical letters. Some old white-haired woman from Abilene, Texas said, "My boy's coming to your town to teach school. He's called to be a preacher. He's not even saved. He's in an awful mess." She said, "If you could find it in your heart, build a fire under him. Don't let him have a moment's peace." And he said, "Boy we've been doing it. We knew you weren't saved, but we elected you to teach a men's Bible class. We've been meeting once a week and asking, "Lord make the fire a little hotter." we've been waiting.'

The letter had come, of course, from Rolfe's mother. The method the Texan Baptists used to build a fire under Rolfe Barnard

was a strange one, and one we could easily criticise, but God moves in a mysterious way and over-ruled the mistake of his people in calling out his chosen servant and sending him on his way.

The Reality Of Hell

Psalm 19:7, 7:11

We find these striking words in Psalm 9:17: "The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God" And in Psalm 7:11, we find these words: "God is angry with the wicked every day." Despite everything we hear today, Hell, God's eternal penitentiary of the damned, is a terrible reality that men need to be faced with these days. I am aware of the fact that the popular "god" of the popular Christianity today is not the God of the Bible. Like a dead trunk, the popular "god" has no eyes to see, no ears to hear, and no arms to punish the ungodly. But the God of the Bible had fire in Sodom. He had a rod of iron for Samaria, for Tyre, for Jerusalem, and for Belshazzar. The God of the Bible dashed to pieces entire nations like a potter's vessel.

However, the modern "god" has no judgment in his hand; according to the popular gospel today, the modern "god" has sheathed the sword, and sits down as an indulgent weakling. His arm which used to visit vengeance upon impenitent sinners, now hangs nerveless and paralyzed—that is the popular "god" of today. I refuse to worship such a "god"—such a "god" is the creation of man's wishes, but not the true God of the Bible.

My friend, the true God is unchangeable. The Word of God says in Malachi 3:6, "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." That is the Word that smites modern thought and popular infidelity on the cheek and one day will put an end to all unbelief. An old-time writer has said, "He Who heralded oceans over Alps and Andes, drowning a guilty world, He Who reduced Sodom to ashes, He Who destroyed Jericho with its inhabitants, He Who gave Jerusalem to the Roman armies – He is the One Who says, 'I am Jehovah, I change not,' and what He has done before, He can and will do again."

It is a fact whether we are willing to face it or not – it is settled in Heaven that the God of the Bible has both mercy and justice. At Mount Sinai of old He set forth His justice; at Calvary of

old He hath showed Himself to be both just and merciful. A "god" who is all mercy and not also a God of justice is an idol of the evil imaginations of modern man. God pity the people who have such a "god." Such a "god" is not the God of the Bible—the God of the Bible is the unknown God of our day – see Acts 17:23!

Justice and mercy are the pillars of God's throne, and the day you take away God's justice, and His punishment of sin, that's the day you have denied the true God, and made yourself a "god" out of the figment of your own imagination. But such a created "god" is not the God of the Bible, is not the God of redeemed people, nor the God of Calvary – he is not the God of all Heaven and all earth! But the true God of the Bible, the God of Calvary, the Maker of Heaven and Earth – before that God all men must stand one day!

Oh, hear me this day: There is a Hell, be sure of that. Do not hide your face as an ostrich in the sand. Do not throw the Bible out the window, and Christ and the Gospel with it – as if the modern mind has been able to undo God's revelation about Hell. Oh! hear me! There is a Hell! Listen to the words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 10:28, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell!"

You know, the Hebrew people took their idea of that awful place called Hell from Gehenna, which was a deep gorge on one side of Jerusalem. Here red-handed Manasseh of old passed his children to the fire to the idol god Moloch, while the thunder of drums drowned their dying screams. This place was the sewer of the city, the place where all kinds of filth and impurity were dumped to be consumed. These fires were kept constantly burning and stinking smoke always being over that horrid vale made it a picture of Hell.

Yes, there is a Hell. Isaiah 5:14, "Therefore Hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it." And Isaiah 14:9, "Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming..."

Universalism – my, how it is growing today! – arises to tell us that all alike, saint and sinner, will turn up in Heaven at last.

There is a Hell. Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." There is a Hell – although today soft sentimentalism tells us that the murderer and the murdered, the seducer and the seduced, the hater and the hated, the thief and the victim, will all find Heaven at last. Though all of that is taught and believed by multitudes, there is a Hell! Although popular theology assures us today that Cain and Abel, David and Herod, Jezebel and Elijah, Judas and Peter, Nero and Paul, all come out at the same side of the Judgment Throne, there is still a Hell! Listen to Revelation 20:13-15, "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and Hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

What a strange Heaven we are to have after all, if we believe what we hear today. The hypocrites and whoremongers will be there, the drunkards and backbiters will be there, the blasphemers will be there – all of them together with the saints of God in the undefiled home of God. Now if reason has not altogether left us, such thinking is blasphemous! Men and women, you need to ponder the truth that if sin is being rooted into your soul, you shall not throw it off as you do your clothes. Sin becomes a part of your being, and long after sun and moon have passed away, sin that was not checked in this life will destroy or ruin you in the life to come.

I am saying to you that the hour calls us to hurry back to the Bible and find Truth to walk therein, whatever the cost. If we be called old fogeys, so be it; if it be said of us that we are trying to scare men into Heaven – I well know that we cannot scare men into Heaven, but the Truth is sometimes used by the Holy Ghost to induce men to seek a living faith, in a living relationship with the Christ of God.

I am not ashamed of trying to scare men unto God. If the Bible be true – and it is – there are things that men ought to fear. I

don't want to go to Hell and I'm enough of a Christian, I hope, that I don't want anybody to go to Hell. I thank God the Gospel shows us that God does not want men to go to Hell. I thank God the Bible is true, that He prefers to show mercy instead of justice. I thank God the Scripture says in 1 Timothy 2:3-4, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the Truth."

I am preaching to you now in a generation that has heard so little of the terrible, terrible truth of Hell. We need to face the truth, and when we do, we shall find again that the God of all the earth has spoken, Psalm 9:17, "The wicked SHALL be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God." God cannot be changed, nor can He be bent to modern-day thinking. We need to read over and over again Mark 9:43-48. Three times in these verses our Lord when He was here in the body of His humiliation speaks of a worm that never dies and of a fire that never shall be quenched. Now, do you suppose our blessed Lord told a lie when He spoke of unquenchable fire?

In Luke 16:4-31, do you believe that God's Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, speaks a lie when He shows us the rich man lifting up his eyes in torment and begging that Lazarus may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool his tongue? The rich man said, in verse 24, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame." Do you believe the Lord Jesus was lying? Do you believe that he would frighten men with pictures of that which never existed? Oh, dear ones, our Lord either told the Truth or He is a deceiver. Let it be burned into our hearts again and again that if there is no Hell, there is no Heaven, for they stand or fall together. Listen to Matthew 25:46, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal." All that we know about either Heaven or Hell is found in the Holy Word of God – and if Hell is a fable, so is Heaven. God help us, there is a Hell!

As you love your own soul, let no doubt rest in your mind. If there be no Hell, then Calvary and the shedding of the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ has no meaning – His death was an awful mistake, made either by a monster God or a misguided Jesus.

We cannot believe that. The Deity of Jesus Christ and the existence of Hell go together. If there is no Hell to be shunned, then Jesus is not God.

By the Holy Character of God, by the demands of a broken Law, by the Truth of God's Word, and by the death of God's Son, be warned: Flee from the wrath to come, my friend, is the prayer of this preacher.

Again, in the words of John the Baptist, Luke 3:7, "Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, 'O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come!'"

When our Lord speaks to you in such a way that you will flee from the wrath to come by fleeing in repentance and faith to Him whose hands and feet were pierced on Calvary's cross, then you can say the words that David said in Psalm 86:12-13:

"I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify Thy name forevermore. For great is Thy mercy toward me: and Thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest Hell!"

Praise the Lord!

The closing prayer by Brother Barnard:

"Our Father and our God, we ask Thee in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that You will be pleased to have mercy on poor lost sinners, and bring them to salvation in Christ, that He may be glorified. Amen."

The Ascended Lord

Phillipians 2:9-11

There is a nominal Christianity which is accepted and approved of men, but the pure gospel is still despised and rejected. The real Christ of today, among men, is unknown and unrecognized as much as He was among His own nation nineteen hundred years ago. Christ in doctrine, Christ in Spirit, Christ in life; the world cannot endure as King. It is allright for men to chant about Him in cathedrals, or sing about Him in synagogues, or preach about Him in pulpits; but Christ honestly obeyed, followed and worshipped in simplicity, without pomp or form, Christ exalted as prophet, priest, and King (not later, but now), they will not allow to reign over them. It is a spiritual Lord that Christ claims sovereignty among men.

Somewhere in my reading I came across the expression, 'The richness of the ascension'. I was struck by the expression because so little is said or written these days about the tremendous act of both the Father and the Son by which the Gospel of God concerning His Son is brought to its climax. A gospel that does not speak of an ascended Lord is not the Gospel of God. If the gospel is Christ and Christ is the gospel, and surely this is true; we must proclaim a Christ risen, exalted and reigning. He must be preached where He is now and identified as the pre-existent, virgin born, sinlessly living, vicariously dying, Son of the Living God. Always the apostles preached the Living Christ and worked backward, a decided reverse from the gospel of today. This is God's good news. How can Christ be preached if He is not preached where He is now. If Christ be risen and exalted, the rest is easy to accept! If not, the virgin birth and everything else cannot be accepted. The whole pattern of the gospel story sinks or swims on the truth or falsity of the resurrection and exaltation. In the classic passage, Phil. 2:9-11 Paul says, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name - that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." The word *hupsoo*, which is translated 'exalted' is never used of the Resurrection. It is the word for, 'ascension' or 'exaltation'. Thus it was by His ascension

that Jesus was marked out to be Lord, as by His resurrection He was marked out to be the Son of God in power (Rom. 1:4). By the resurrection Jesus Christ is seen to be Victor over death and corruption. By the ascension He is seen to be Lord, with all power in heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18). As sin was shown to be subject to Him by His sinless life, as death was shown to be subject to Him by His resurrection, so all things in heaven and earth are shown to be subject to Him by His ascension. It was not that the ascension effects His lordship any more than the resurrection effects His victory over death. Rather, the ascension is the designation and the demonstration of His Lordship. It is the designation in that it is the reward of the Father for His perfect obedience. In His humanity He was subject to His Father. It is demonstration since He ascended of His own will, His own power and in His own right. It is true to say that God raised Him and that He raised Himself. God took Him up and He ascended of His own power.

Peter points out the tremendous significance of the ascension as he comes to the climax of his sermon on the day of Pentecost. He quotes first from Psa. 110, and then says, "Therefore (in view of the ascension), let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made the same Jesus, Whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Messiah." The climax of gospel preaching must be here. This is God's answer and act. Men killed Jesus, God exalted Him. Let us preach this Jesus. Peter writes, "Jesus Christ is gone into heaven and is on the right hand of God; angles and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him" (I Peter 3:22). This is true. It is true now, not in the some distant future. Where is the crucified Christ now? He is at the right hand of God. All things are under Him now. Brethren, the hour is late. It is long since time that this generation hear the 'gospel', not just a part of the chain but all of it. The whole Christ is the gospel, nothing less, nothing more.

The apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:8 quotes from Psa. 18 and portrays a wonderful picture in this connection, "He led captivity captive." The ascension is the triumphal return to heaven of the Son of God. He has conquered and He returns with the captives of war. Sin and death, those enemies of man and God, those tyrants which

had enslaved men, are themselves now subjected and held captive to Him who openly triumphed over them. The power of sin is broken; it shall not lord it over the believer. Death is swallowed up in victory, its reign ended. Christ the Conqueror rules and He shall rule 'till He hath put all enemies under His feet' (I Cor. 15:25). For the apostles here is greatly needed help and hope. They see now that the resurrection proclaimed a King after all. The suffering Servant is enthroned, this same Jesus. His kingdom indeed is not of this world. He will (and does) reign, but not simply from an earthly throne. His kingdom is and shall be glorious, but it shall not be the glory of this world. He is and shall be victorious, but His victories shall not be achieved through the blood and steel of men. The cross was the decisive and atoning conflict. The resurrection was the conqueror's return with the captives of war which issued in the enthronement of the victorious King. Away with the preaching of a pitiful, helpless Jesus. He is not an exile hopefully watching to see what happens. He is the enthroned Lord into Whose nail-pierced hands the control of all things and all men has been given. It needs to be shouted from the housetops now as perhaps never before that everything depends on a man's union with a living, present Saviour. In the absence of that union, even the gospel of the cross loses its saving efficacy. "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (I Cor. 15:17). Atonement remains impersonal and largely irrelevant until we make contact with the One Who atones; and contact of a vital kind is possible only if Jesus is risen, alive and on the throne now. James Denney in his book "The Christian Doctrine of Reconciliation", says that "nothing could be more curiously unlike the New Testament than to use the resurrection to belittle or disparage the death." But we do not disparage the death of our Lord, we simply insist that unless Christ is now enthroned, the death is powerless to save. We insist that without a living, present, reigning Christ, with Whom, through faith, the believer can come into union, all the benefits of His death would have had to stand unappropriated forever. It was on the resurrection and ascension fact that the church was built. This was the gospel of the apostles. It was the experience of union with the risen, exalted, living Lord that made them

conquerors. Let their gospel once more be preached.

Sudden Death

The God of the Bible kills people! Not the popular "god" of the vivid imaginations of this generation of confused men and women, but the God of the Bible, Who at the same time is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. This God Who kills people, Who threatens to do so, Who evinces His character by His wrath in cutting people off—will He have to kill you?

There are two statements I would like to make that nobody can deny now—nobody, wise-acre or humble.

First, this is a day in the once Christian nation of America, that now is a pagan society—this is a day of armed, active hostility to the claims of God for His Son Jesus Christ. This is a day when scientists announce that they believe in God, and everybody claps their hands. This is a day when everybody believes in a "god," but not THE GOD whose character is pictured and outlined and delineated in the Word of God. This generation is dead set against the God of the Bible, because God will not resign from His throne, will not abdicate, will not water down His demands nor His claims.

The second statement is this: The most alarming fact of our day in America is that every time two people die these days, one of them dies suddenly. This nation has become the land of sudden death. Men and women do not bring their children and loved ones about them like Jacob of old and make disposition of one's property, and tell everybody good-bye, and turn your face toward the wall, and go to sleep with their fathers. Men start out to work and have an accident in a car, and wake up in eternity. Men start out to take a bath, and wake up in eternity. This is the day of accidental death. Men die now without doing what they fondly said they would do, take time out to pray. Men die today and they never get the opportunity to do what they said all the days of their life: "Tomorrow I'm going to repent." Tomorrow comes, but instead of that being the time when you have space given for repentance, that is the time when you have space given you to die! Men are always "going to yield" to the claims of God for His Son Jesus Christ, but one-half of the people of America die suddenly. We call it "accidentally," but there are no accidents in the Kingdom of God.

Nothing happens that takes God by surprise!

There is a verse of Scripture I want to read, and hundreds of others in God's Word that reinforce this verse. This verse explains exactly what is happening in America, and why America is now the land of sudden death. That verse of Scripture is Proverbs 29:1: "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." What's happening in America? Is this nation that was founded by men and women seeking a place to worship and serve God without compulsion—in this nation where the Gospel has been preached the length and breadth of the land—in this nation that has been smiled upon by Almighty God as no other nation since time began, wonderfully blessed of God—this nation has departed from the faith of our fathers and from the God of the Bible, and is blowing its smoke of outright rebellion and unbelief in the nostrils of a Thrice Holy God. And God is answering that awful rebellious, lawless spirit by cutting men and women off.

If you would just stop to think of it, you may be one of the people that is going to be suddenly cut off and die suddenly, and be hurled out yonder into the hands of a living God! For the Bible speaks the truth when it says in Hebrews 9:27: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Think with me now; I'll meet you at the Judgment with this warning from Almighty God's Word: "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck"—what is going to happen to him? I'll tell you exactly what will happen to him. He is going to be **SUDDENLY CUT OFF**. He is going to be destroyed. He is going to be ruined in this life and damned in the next. And God is going to do it, and that destruction is utterly without remedy!

One out of two people in America die suddenly. Why? Because America had been warned, America has been rebuked and reprov'd. You have been reprov'd by the Holy Spirit, for this verse of Scripture shows us that God does reprove men. I am not talking about the Hottentot in Africa that lives away out yonder in the jungle a long way from the nearest dirtroad. Oh! I am not talking about the man who spends all the days of his sojourn here on this earth and never hears the Name of God or the title of God or the precious

Name of Jesus. But I am talking about you here in America with so many churches and with a Bible that can be bought in most of our five-and-ten-cent stores, with the Gospel on the radio here in America, where God's hand has been so blessedly upon us. I am talking to you. God has reproved you. "He that being often reproved"— but men meet that reproof by rebelling and hardening themselves.

God has always been after sinners and He hasn't quit! He was warning sinners in the days of Noah, and bless God, He warns people today. Every time you go down one of these freeways, and traffic is stopped because of an accident and there is death; that's what I am talking about. That didn't happen accidentally; there are no accidents in the heart, mind, plan, and purpose of God. I am saying to you that those are warning signals put out there by a loving God Who yet is Thrice Holy, Who seeks to call men to stop on their road that leads to destruction, before they are plunged by their own sins into the pit of eternal Hell.

Thank God that He does reprove sinners. I can't save anybody; I can't convince anybody; I can't turn anybody. I know that. But God can. I am so glad that God kept after me, that God didn't give up on me. I am so glad that He hasn't given up on the human race. It seems that more men spurn Him and deny Him; and we have preachers that deny the truths of the Word of God. They make fun of the Deity of Christ, put the Bible out as an old scrapbook and junk morality. They junk the Ten Commandments and blow their smoke of rebellion in the face of God. But in spite of these facts, I am glad God's Holy Spirit is still running down sinners, stabbing them in their hearts, and reprovng them of their ungodly conduct and warning them of the Judgment and Hell to come, and pointing them to cease from trusting in self and cast all their confidence in the bloody Son of God hanging on the cross!

God does reprove sinners, but you know how people in our day meet God's reproof? They harden themselves. "He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck"— God does the reprovng, and man does the hardening. He says, "God is not going to move me. I wouldn't mind being a church member, and I don't mind being

converted. I don't mind what they call being saved now, but God is not going to change me! God is not going to give me a heart of flesh, God is not going to plant a holy disposition in me, God is not going to start the work of making me like His Son. No, I will not be changed, so I will fight this business. If God thinks He is going to run my life, He has got another think coming!" That is how men talk today. Men harden themselves — they can't be neutral, so they harden themselves against the reproof of God. They say, "I don't believe in God," but they go to bed at night and wake up scared. Then they will pray to that God to keep them out of Hell (like I used to do) before morning!

Men harden themselves. Am I talking to you? Every time God warns you, do you grit your teeth and spit in His face, and go on down the road that leads to Hell? You know, you have to harden yourself to do that!

I remember in a certain city after I had brought a message one morning in an evangelistic campaign, I was shaking hands with some people, and I felt something pulling on my coat. So I looked down and there was a little three-and-a-half-year-old girl, curly haired and beautiful, a little gift from heaven. And I picked her up in my arms and she put her little arms around my neck and began to cry, "Oh, Brother Barnard, I want my daddy to get saved!" Now the little girl didn't know exactly what it meant to be saved, but she knew that life in her home was hell, and she knew something needed to happen to her daddy. She was pitiful and she just broke my heart. Her mother soon came and she began to sob, and she took the little girl out of my arms.

Then I said to this wife and mother, "I will be on the radio this afternoon at three o'clock." I said, "Your husband curses preachers, he curses God and he has ordered me and your pastor out of his home. He never goes to any assembly of God anywhere, and he brags about how tough he is; but sometimes he will listen to the radio. You make it convenient, and maybe he will listen to me this afternoon and I am going to preach to him." Well, that afternoon over that radio I stopped about the middle of my sermon and asked the audience to pardon me. I said, "I believe there is a man listening

to the sound of my voice now, and I believe God sent him the last call this morning." Then I told over that radio how that little three-and-a-half-year-old girl had come and climbed up in my arms and put her arms around my neck and cried, "Oh, Brother Barnard, I want my daddy to get saved, I want my daddy to get saved." I said, "I believe that daddy of the little girl is listening to me now." I said, "You wouldn't listen to God, you haven't listened to the pleas of your wife and little child. You haven't listened to anybody, but now here is God talking to you through the tears and heartbreak of your little three-and-a-half-year-old girl. If there is a spark of manhood in you, get down on your knees and begin to repent of your sins and cry to God for mercy!"

You know what he did? He got up and turned that radio off, slammed his hat on his head, opened the door and cursed me, cursed the radio, cursed God and cursed his wife. And slammed out of there, and went to the nearest honkytonk, and within 20 minutes after he got out of the house, a man pumped five bullets into his body. You say, "That was accidental." No, sir! Bless the Lord, "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck." What is going to happen to him? Judgment is coming! God is going to get a hold of him as He did that man. God kills people who harden themselves against Him.

The result of hardening yourself under the reprovng, convicting, pleading, persuading power, and the Person and Presence of God in the Holy Ghost, is sudden death. God warns. He said, "I kill and I make alive."

The Scripture tells us about how God killed people in the days of the flood. Scientists tell us that maybe as many people lived on the earth in the day of the flood as live now — nearly three billion souls. You know how many people God killed and sent to Hell? God did it! This God you say you believe in and live like He does not exist. This God that preachers make fun of, this Holy God. This God Who says, "I warn you: I kill and I make alive." This God Who is the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you know what He did? He wiped off the face of the earth nearly three billion souls with a flood and sent them all to Hell. That is the God of the

Bible! That is the God that kills people; is he going to have to kill you?

The Scriptures say if you keep on hardening yourself, you will not get by. No! I warn you. I warn you. God knows I wish I knew how to warn you! God kills people! What kind of people does He kill? People who harden themselves when He calls them, like those people who listened to Noah for 120 years and didn't pay any attention to him. God just wiped them off the face of the earth!

The pastor of a church in a certain place asked me to come and hold meetings. Before I got there seven deacons of that church had come to the pastor and said, "Now Brother Pastor, we are not going to oppose anything, but we don't believe in what you call evangelistic campaigns. So we will not be back until this preacher is gone and the meetings are over." The pastor said, "Well, I hate to see you take that attitude, but if that is what you want to do, I appreciate you coming and telling me." Well, if they had done what they said, it would have been all right. But we couldn't get a crowd for a few nights and we were hitting it pretty hard. So those fellows were glad and got to bragging about how we weren't getting anywhere in the meetings. They violated their word that they wouldn't oppose us.

The pastor came to me and he was brokenhearted, and he said, "Brother Barnard, this is killing me, what can we do?" I said, "I don't know. Are you game for us to get down on our knees and ask God to save them or kill them?" He agreed, and we got down on our knees and said, "Lord, You know what these fellows are doing. They are ruining the meeting, they are making fun of the Gospel, the church, the Lord Jesus Christ, and God's preachers." (They were just filling the town with this, and everybody was talking about how the meeting was no good, and those seven deacons making fun of it.) And so we said, "Lord, save them or kill them!"

Neither of us was supposed to tell about that prayer, and I don't think I did, but somehow those deacons heard about it. They just heard half of it, though, and so they just had a big time. They said, "The preachers there are praying for God to kill us!" But we were praying for God to SAVE THEM or kill them, to get them out of the way. They were bucking God, they were hardening

themselves against God. I think that is dangerous. They just laughed and had a big time about it. But in four days time, the pastor had seven different funerals, and they were the funerals of those seven Baptist deacons! Every one of them died a horrible, sudden death! God kills people who harden themselves against His claims for Jesus Christ!

You had better stop making fun of Christ's church, and Christ's Gospel, and Christ's people, and Christ's Bible, and Christ's Spirit. You had better stop refusing to believe the truth of God, for God hardens people, God kills people, God cuts people off who harden themselves against Him (Romans 9:17-18).

I am going to tell you the day you are going to be cut off by God. Acts 17:28, "For in Him we live and move and have our being...." This statement is true of this preacher and everybody else. Do you know what that means? That means this preacher is depending upon God for his next breath, and that means you also are depending upon God for your next breath. One time God sent a flood and destroyed people, and started over again. But God won't have to do that to cut you off. All God would have to do is not to give you the next breath. That's right. Our breath is in His hands.

How does God cut people off? He does it without any remedy (Proverbs 29:1). Oh, I will meet you at the Judgment and you will hear again my voice, and if you are sent to Hell, you will be without excuse. Thank God, I am praying that you have heard, and maybe there is somebody that is a little bit scared. I tell you, I don't think it's nice to be sent to Hell! But God says, "The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17). Will you be one of them? You will be if you do not change your hardening yourself, and surrender to God in the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Does This Offend You?

John 6:59-61

In the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, we have a running controversy between the Lord Jesus Christ and the religious leaders of the Jewish people. After the marvelous miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, our Lord begins to teach the people who followed Him in great numbers at this time, and here his teaching was very offensive and became a stumbling stone to the leaders of the people of His day. This morning I want to take out of this sixth chapter of John a few things that my Lord taught that were offensive to people then — and also very offensive to people today.

As a text, let's read John 6:59-61:

"These things said He in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard this, said, This is a hard saying, who can hear it? When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples murmured at it, He said unto them, Does this offend you?"

Does this offend you? Everything my Lord Jesus did when He was here in this world offended somebody — and you know He is still offensive today. He is the rock of offense (Romans 9:33). For instance, His birth in a stable in Bethlehem was offensive. My, my, the Lord of Glory has no business being born in a cow stall! And that is offensive even today! Also, His common heritage offended men. He didn't come from the high and mighty, and one person upon learning that Jesus was from the little province of Nazareth is quoted as saying, "Can any good thing come out of Galilee?" His death on the cross of Calvary was offensive then and it is offensive now (Galatians 5:11). His second coming is offensive to so many religious people. It was offensive then — and it is offensive today.

And here in our text we find that His preaching greatly offended people of His day. On many occasions when our Lord would speak, the people became so angry that they'd take up stones to stone Him. How then does the modern-day preacher hope to get along with the world and please the unsaved crowd, when they hated

the Lord Jesus with such fury that they nailed Him to a cross? My dear friends, the world loves its own — it hates God's people — it always has and it always will. Listen to John 15:19, "If ye were of the world, the world would love its own, but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

In verse 26, our Lord began preaching to the people. And after He brought this message, the people said as I read in our text, "This is a hard saying, who can hear it?" This is just too much for us! Our Lord met that quibble by asking, "Does this offend you?" And then He brought some more blessed truth (verses 62-65), and then the crowd of about five thousand men, plus women and children, walked off and left Him. And then my Lord turned to the twelve and said, "Will ye also go away?" The crowd was offended by His Gospel — they stumbled at His Gospel. Everything they clung to was being attacked by His teaching on this occasion. And my friends, the Gospel of God's sovereign grace — the Gospel of God acting in sovereignty offends people today just as much as it did here in John six. Yes, it offended people then, and it offends people now. It will either drive people to the Saviour, or it will drive them away from Him. The Gospel will either save or it will condemn. But, blessed be God, the preaching of God acting in sovereign grace will always accomplish the purpose whereunto God Almighty has sent it!

Now may we look into this message and see three great foundation truths that our Lord preached at the height of His ministry — and lost His crowd. As you follow me with your open Bible, I call your attention to these truths. Note, first of all:

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ Preached the Sovereignty of God

Listen to John 6:37-38, "All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me, and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from Heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." My friends, there is sovereignty. There is God's will being done. There is Christ coming down here appointed and

delegated and set apart to accomplish the will of a sovereign God, Who must do and will do that which seemeth good in His own sight! (See Matthew 11:25-27)

Yes, when our Lord was here as God's Prophet, there is one thing certain: He put God Almighty on the throne in His preaching. It made those people angry, and it does so today. Any time on earth that any preacher anywhere enthrones God Almighty in his preaching, proclaiming the sovereignty which belongs to Him in all things, it will certainly offend the pride of old sinful unregenerated man — I do not care whether he is a church member, or not. Religious or not, if he is unregenerated, the sovereignty of God (just the mention of it!) will offend him. And when a preacher in this modern day dares to stand for the great teaching of God acting as seemeth good in His sight — the Gospel of the glory of God, which is the Gospel of the sovereign grace of God (Exodus 33:19; Romans 9:15-16) — it will be offensive! And today, when we take the crown off the head of sinful man, and put it on the head of a sovereign, holy God, the fur begins to fly, and all hell will break loose!

Men today hate the sovereignty of God and it is offensive to their old proud hearts because it leaves them as paupers before a God Who does as He pleases, when He pleases, and to whom He pleases! But, my friends, God's will is going to be done in all matters, whether in heaven or in the earth. The Apostle Paul says that God "worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Ephesians 1:11). The Apostle James says, "For ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that" (James 4:15). And the Apostle John says, "For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil His will" (Revelation 17:17). And again, the Apostle Paul says, "I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will" (I Corinthians 4:19).

My friends, you and I need desperately to be conformed to the will of God in all things — but the people in my Lord's time grew angry and were offended because the Lord Jesus demanded that they be conformed to the will of God. They openly rebelled against these demands, exactly as men do today. But, dear ones, God Almighty never has saved a man on man's terms. God always saves sinners on His own terms! Does this offend you?

There are many within reach of our radio broadcasts who are greatly offended. We hear on every hand that so-called Christian schools are coming out flatly to say that the great doctrines of grace will not be taught in their classrooms! And so such schools are manufacturing young preachers to go out and deny the very things that the Lord Jesus Christ solemnly set His stamp upon when He was here. And one of these truths is that the will of God is done — that man must bow to the will of God — that God does not take man into His counsel as to what He has decided to do — that God is very God, on the throne, and man must bow at His footstool! Does this offend you? The sovereignty of God was very offensive in the days of my Lord here on earth — and it is very offensive now.

Let's look in this chapter at a second great foundation truth that our Lord preached that day and lost His crowd.

2. Our Lord Jesus Christ Preached the Total Depravity of Man and Man's Inability

My Lord said in John 6:44, "No man can come to Me." Strange language, but that's what He said. "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him." The Scriptures say a little later in this chapter, "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is a hard saying, who can hear it?"

You know, my Lord put man down in the gutter of his total depravity, dead in trespasses and sin, depraved and corrupt — and this sort of preaching greatly offended men. My Lord put man in a spiritual grave unable to rise in his own strength. My Lord put man on a cripple's bed unable to walk. In His preaching, my Lord put man on a blind man's stool unable to see. And the people of His day were greatly offended — and people today are likewise greatly offended.

I tell you, dear ones, this is no time to be denying these great truths. My Lord taught them and I do not care if every preacher in the country says, "Well, Brother Barnard, they just can't be preached today." My Lord preached these truths. "Well," you say, "Brother Barnard, they offend people." I know, but my Lord preached them,

and surely we would not be ashamed of any great truth that my Lord Jesus Christ preached when He was down here in controversy with religious leaders. HE dared to preach these things.

And I say to you that instead of this being a time to deny these great truths and skirt around them, it's time we preachers today deserted the modern high-pressure methods of trying to get men into the kingdom of God. And it's time we went back to the Bible way of Holy Spirit regeneration and Holy Spirit conviction. I say it with shame that most preachers today will say, "Oh, yes, Brother Barnard, I believe that God has elected His people to salvation from before the foundation of the world, and I believe that as we preach the Word the Holy Spirit will effectually call out God's sheep and I believe that no man can come to the Father except the Holy Spirit draw him." But saying all this, they'll turn around and use every high-pressure method known to man to pull countless numbers of poor unregenerated sinners down the aisle during an invitation and duck them beneath the baptismal water.

Thousands of children are being sinned against in our modern-day decision services held in the so-called revival meetings. The Sunday School teacher sits by the little child (I'm describing how it goes on in your church, sister!) — and when the preacher asks who wants to go to Heaven, the Sunday School teacher pushes the little fellow out of the pew and down the aisle. And I say to you, it is a sin against that child who has experienced no Holy Spirit conviction nor repentance, without which there is no salvation.

Let me say it and say it again, that man is a dead depraved child and can no more save himself than a demon in Hell could! The Holy Spirit must quicken him and awaken him and bring him to see his lost condition. Then the Holy Spirit reveals the Lord Jesus to that sinner as his Lord and Saviour. And when this takes place, bless God, you won't have to pull him down an aisle. He'll confess openly the Lord Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

My dear preacher brother, you have never convicted and you have never saved a single sinner and you never will! The Lord God of Heaven is the only Author and the only Executor of salvation. "Salvation is of the Lord!" (Jonah 2:9).

Oh how men do need to hear the truth about themselves today! The Lord told these people the truth about themselves and it greatly offended them — but the Lord told them! — and they left Him — but the Lord told them! — and they wouldn't listen to Him anymore — but the Lord told them about their awful condition. So helplessly bound by the cords of their own love of self and their own sinful practices that they couldn't come to the Lord except the Lord draw them with the cords of His eternal love. Does this offend you? Does this offend you?

And now in John six we come to another great truth that our Lord preached, and when the people heard it they said, "We just can't take any such teaching as this!" Therefore, "From that time, many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him." How sad that is! But the Lord didn't pull His punches. The Lord was telling them the truth and being true to their souls. The Lord was pointing them to the kind of God He really is and the kind of people they were — and now He points them to the true way of salvation. For in the sixth chapter, when people left Him in such numbers,

3. Our Lord Jesus Christ Preached the Blood Atonement

In verse 54, "Whosoever eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." Now, my dear ones, that was an offensive truth then and it is still offensive today. The people in the days of our Lord resented what our modernists refer to as a "slaughterhouse gospel." These religious people had read in the old Scriptures how that the Christ, the Messiah, was to live and reign forever, how His was a kingdom that could never end, so they could not go along with this idea of the death of the cross and the atoning blood.

How offensive the proclamation of the cross is today! Preach works and people will applaud you. Preach baptism and you can form your own denomination. Preach church membership and you'll get along fine. Preach the social religion — or most anything you want to preach — and people will applaud, but God will be offended. But, my brother, if you preach the cross — proclaim the

death of death on that cross — preach it in all of its offense and shame — preach it in its humiliation — preach it in its goriness, its bloodiness — and then preach the cross in its victory. I say to you, then God will applaud, but the people will be offended.

But the Apostle Paul said what we must say, "I'd rather please God than men," and this is one time we want to say, "Move over, Paul, and let me join you!"

The Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed blood atonement. He said the blood has been shed. It was God's blood — holy blood — precious blood — it was Divinely sent blood — saving blood — redeeming blood. The blood atonement means the life laid down, it means the offering up of the Lord of glory! And He said this was the only basis on which a Holy God could deal with sinful men. Not upon your goodness, but upon the basis of His life laid down — that's how God deals with sinners.

My sinner friend, may God speak to your heart today. Don't join the church members and preachers all over this country who get fighting mad at the Word of God and these great truths we've mentioned to you today. How they do scoff at anyone who dares to preach that God Almighty is very God — the God of absolute sovereignty. How they do make fun of anybody who dares to talk about the desperate condition of lostness under which sinners are bound today. And how they do skirt around the awful implications of the death on the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Oh, my sinner friend, don't join this religious crowd the record of whom is given here in John chapter six. When they heard our Lord preach these blessed truths, they took it out on Him! They said, "We won't listen to that! We'll skee-daddle away from here! We'll go and get us a preacher who will prophesy unto us smooth things!" Don't you be offended, sinner friend. No, sir! Don't you do it! It'll cost you your soul! I tell you the cost of being offended at the truth as it flows from the lips of Christ is to go to Hell. Don't be offended at the proclamation of the Gospel of God's sovereign grace! I say to you, there is no other way for a sinner to be saved. I say to you that man is lost, that, man is corrupt, man is vile without one thing to offer God. And, like dear Brother Spurgeon, we like to

quote that hymn very often:

"In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling."

That's your only hope, sinner! You have nothing to offer. But Christ died, yea, rather Christ is risen again and sitteth on the right hand of God. If you could but believe that He died for you and paid your sin debt and satisfied the Holiness of God for you, you would come to Him in utter surrender. I pray that you can. That old song,

"What can wash away my sins?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

That song is still true — eternally true! And I pray that you won't be offended at the truth as it is in Christ Jesus, but humble yourself in the sight of God, and cry unto Him for mercy. That is my prayer in the name of Him Who loved us and bought us with His own precious blood, even the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen and Amen.

A Search For Unity

John 5:39

Said our Lord to the religious leaders of His day, "You pour over the scriptures for you imagine you will find eternal life in them, and it is they that give testimony of me" (John 5:39). Here are people with the wrong center. They missed the One of whom the scriptures spoke. Division is the tragedy of Christendom. Unity is the talk of the hour. Where shall it be realized? is the question.

All Christians are one in Christ. We cannot create this; we can only recognize it. However, we must recognize it and then fearlessly practice it. We must receive one another on the ground of a mutual fellowship with God in living union with Christ in the Holy Spirit. But we (Christians) have lived all our lives (and our fathers before us) in the time of disunity and divisions, not oneness in Christ. We know nothing else by experience. How to start out on a return from where we are to what the Bible teaches on this matter is our problem. It is a serious one. This divided, wounded condition is long with us. It began even before the New Testament scriptures were completed. Every awakening has fallen short of the New Testament pattern.

What then is the center, the essence of Christianity? The answer is clear; it is this: the center of the life of faith for the early church was Jesus Christ, Himself, in their spiritual fellowship with Him. Christ was personally the center of their faith. Their faith and experience was centered in Christ Himself. The center of Christianity is neither institution nor organization, nor is it even the Bible; for the "body" existed before the New Testament. There is only one center and that is spiritual fellowship with God through Christ, life-union with God in Christ. Where there is this (union) there is the body of Christ, and there alone. In Acts, Chapter 2, one finds divine order and the church in action, but none of her practices were the center of their faith. The ordinances were valuable expressions of faith but not the center. The New Testament preachers and writers sought to explain their faith, not produce creeds (for example Paul). It needs to be noticed, however, that today one might

understand his explanation of his faith but have no fellowship with the Lord. The former must not be taken for the latter.

A look at what has happened in history to this apostolic life union as the center. All our trouble today is the result of long years of mistaken and false ideas of the center or essential nature of the one body. The living faith of apostolic Christianity was made concrete in the rituals, organization, doctrines, and creeds of the Greek and Roman churches.

The Religious renaissance of the 12th and 13th centuries came to a stop in scholastic theology and ecclesiastical institutions. This was repeated in the European Reformation of the 16th Century. The Reformation came to its conclusion with the establishment of state churches and systems of pure doctrine and conventionalized Christian conduct. The same is true in America. Puritanism, Quakerism, the great awakening, and frontier revivals all poured white hot convictions into the souls of men only to have these cool off into crystallized codes, solidified institutions, and petrified creeds. The center long since gone, what shall now be the center? Sad to say, the sucesors of the Reformation made the Bible to be dogma, not testimony of the true center! Thus creeds came into existence, all of them good; but none can be the absolute standard of faith. Faith is life in Christ, and a life can never be confined within a system or a creed. These must not be the end or object of faith in themselves, but simply expressions of our fellowship in Christ. The fullness of the living Christ cannot be held within the narrow limits of written creeds. The Bible itself is but the description of the life; that is, a description of God in His relationship to men. So one cannot sum up the truth of the Bible in any fixed creeds or confessions. Failure to understand this has caused much heartbreak and has become the cause of the many sects and denominations, all based on different interpretations and understanding of certain texts or teachings of the Bible. Thus the people of God are even now divided so that to realize our unity in Christ seems hopeless. This has come about by mistaking what is the true center and substituting theology, dogma, creeds, institutions, rituals, and ceremonies for "life in Christ."

How may we move toward the realization of our oneness in the fellowship of our living Lord? I do not have the answer, but I offer the following thoughts. (1) Where there is true fellowship with God, true unity will come naturally of itself if no man-made barriers are raised. Therefore we must begin by receiving one another simply on the ground of a mutual fellowship with God in living union with Christ; this is the essence of the true body of Christ, and here alone is the pathway to the realized unity of God's people. I am speaking here of Christian fellowship if it be true that church fellowship be a more difficult hill to climb.

If we start at any other point we shall fail. Without this living faith, this life union with Jesus Christ, we are not Christians even though we technically believe every Bible doctrine. (2) True unity is not a matter of human effort or cooperation. It must come solely from God. When there is true fellowship with God, it comes naturally. The power of Christians does not come from human cooperation but from life-union with God. Let barriers be removed as we can. (3) Faith is the gift of God which produces in us this fellowship with God in Christ. It cannot be created or maintained by human efforts. Faith is but another name for fellowship. Where this is seen, all other important things (viz. doctrine, etc.) fall into their proper place. None of them can be the center. (4) If we will practice this living union with Christ, loving each other because of our union with Him, we shall have made a start on the way to the unity of His "one body."

The New Testament speaks of the church which is "His body." There was a time when this was the church at Jerusalem - Antioch, etc. The church at Corinth was plagued with disorder - the churches in Galatia, etc. Paul speaks of the occasion when the whole church at Corinth comes together in one place. Now in a given place we have many "churches" (?), all with names or brands, all with their distinctives. Church fellowship seems impossible apart from an intervention from above. Christian fellowship can be realized, if not church fellowship. Let us begin.

Judgment's Coming Or Should God Punish Sin?

Revelation 19:1-6

In your day and mine we haven't paid any attention to the Bible; we get our form of government and our way of doing things from tradition and largely from Roman Catholicism. We utterly refuse to open the Bible to find out how the people of God are to conduct themselves in the day which they are privileged to be God's people. If we would search the Scriptures and walk in the light of them, He might get us to the place of obedience.

Unbelief, you know, is not ignorance, unbelief is willful rejection of truth and refusal to walk in it. And we as church people are as guilty as we can be, for we absolutely refuse to walk in the light that we have, thus God doesn't give us anymore, because we won't walk in the light that we have.

God's people need to experience a complete revolution of our whole program; so we will be God's people in command of a given situation speaking for God. We are God's people for today. I know nothing quite so challenging as to be a member of the body of the Lord Jesus Christ; as to be one of the people of God who come to the kingdom for our day. That is a challenge. Let us read Revelation 19:1-6: "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God,' For true and righteous are His judgments,' for He hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of His servants at her hand." They are shouting about God's judgments. Surely this is talking about religion, Babylon: this confused polly got conglomeration; mixing everything and stirring well and calling it Christianity.

If sin is damning its thousands, religion today is damning its tens of thousands.

And here is the promise that one day God is going to get around to judging this terrible, terrible thing called religion which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of His servants at her hand.

Verse 3: "And again they said, Alleluia"

They are shouting about the fact that God has finally caught up in His purpose with this terrible thing called religion that keeps men in the bondage of sin, for religion never interferes with the way men lives. Religion allows a man to be all right, but has nothing whatsoever to say about his conduct, and that's the story today. You scarcely find anybody today that isn't very religious, isn't that right? And he's all right, and he's sincere in it, and he's earnest about it. But he is deceived and on the broad road to hell. These folks are shouting "Alleluia" because God's brought judgment here. Again verse 3: "And her smoke (the smoke of this religious monster), rose up for ever and ever."

Verse 4: "And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne."

He will still be on the throne after He brought this judgment, and they are happy about that, and they are saying: "Amen; Alleluia."

Verses 5 and 6: "And a voice came out of the throne saying, Praise our God, all ye His servants, and ye that fear Him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

In the book of Isaiah especially, our attention is called to the fact that it is mentioned here in verse two of our Scriptures that the saints of God are going to be called upon to shout "Alleluia" when God judges men. We're going to say Amen! To bring it a little closer when God sends your boy to hell, you are going to be called upon to say Amen! Praise the Lord, Alleluia, true and righteous are Thy judgments. I wonder how you would conduct yourself if you believed the Bible and understood that the day would come when you would have to say Amen, Alleluia, God, You ought to send

those folks to hell. I believe, if you believed that, Oh! I think it would make a difference; I believe it would. I wonder how I would act if I actually believed that this world is headed for judgment and a meeting with a Holy God especially since I am called to witness to men and women who don't believe that it is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment. Unsaved people don't believe that. People who say they are Christians say they believe it. It would seem to me that we would be a faithful witness of what we have seen and heard, and warn people with tears day and night as Paul did. How on God's earth can we be as nice and dignified and refined and dry-eyed as we are is a puzzle to me. We must be terrible sinners. Oh! how we need to meet together in the presence of God to pour out our supplications to God to visit His people in these awful hours.

I read in the Bible that by faith, Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear. Faith isn't belief, but faith is belief translated into action. Man can believe that Jesus is the Son of God and died for him and is on a throne till he is blue in the face. That isn't faith, that is belief. Faith is acting upon that belief; if He is Who He says He is, I am going to commit myself to Him. "By faith Noah, being warned of God, moved with fear." He said it's coming and he prepared an ark. Nobody believed judgment was coming and there he was for 120 years building on the ark. By the which preparation he condemned the world. He said this world is unsaved, judgment is coming, and saved his own household, but he moved with fear.

The biggest problem we face now is the condition we people are in who claim to be Christians. Oh! if we stay in the condition we are in now, we are not going to move in any direction; much less condemn this world by saying that judgment is coming and God must punish sin; and there is just one place of refuge and that is in Jesus Christ. I wonder how we would act if we actually believed judgment is coming and at that judgment Rolfe Barnard is going to have to shout Alleluia if God sends everybody to hell whom I have witnessed to in my life. And I am going to say Amen! God, You're doing right. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Do you actually believe in your heart that God ought to punish sin? Do you? Do you actually believe that God is determined to punish sin? Do you believe that? This is central and it is at the core of those dry eyes of yours. This is the reason ninety-five percent of our Baptist people never open their mouth to warn sinners. This is the reason we are content to sit in a pew and listen to a man preach, but we are not willing to witness ourselves. We just don't believe that God ought to punish sin, and thus all our talk about glorying in the cross of Christ is just a joke. Because unless sin is hateful to God, unless sin is so monstrous that God can't stay God unless the stroke of His wrath falls on sin. Unless God is set to punish sin there is no necessity for a Saviour. If we skip over the fact that men and women are utterly ruined in sin and obnoxious to hell and under the righteous judgment and condemnation of a thrice Holy God, then there is no use to talk about anything else. You can put it down beginning with this old wicked heart of mine and looking into yours, that the absence of tears and zeal and haste and fear and pleading and warning men with tears as Paul did is because we don't believe that God ought to punish sin.

The first message of the cross is God will punish sin. Why did God hang His Son on a cross? The first message of the cross of Jesus Christ is that God Almighty's law must be established and honored and vindicated and it will never be repealed, therefore God must punish sin. The church people today are so set in their rebellion against this fundamental truth, but I must warn you, because I will meet you at the judgment. Wonder how we would act if we believed God was set to punish sin and that we haven't seen the last of this generation; for God's people has to be witnesses at the judgment. That's a challenge.

One night after the service in Rochester, New York, as I was fixing to go to my room, the pastor said, "A moment, Brother Barnard, come into my study." An old dairy farmer and his wife were sitting in there. The pastor said, "This brother has written out a check for \$2900.00; it is their life's savings. He wants us to buy radio time and put you on the radio." And I said, "I couldn't take it; I couldn't stand that much responsibility." He said, "Here is the check

and you must take it and get on the radio. The Lord has told me to write this check and put you on the radio. This town hasn't heard every drop of the precious blood of Jesus Christ writes in letters large 'God must punish sin.' "And I said, "Brother, suppose I got on the radio and we didn't have, as far as we could see, a single result." He said, "I am not looking for results, I want to get the blood of this city off my hands, whether they hear or whether they don't. I want them to be warned."

Hebrews 11:7: "By faith Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." He obeyed God.

So they went down to the big radio station and they sold us time. They put me on the radio six times a day. I preached twice a day in the church and six times on the radio for the next seven weeks. Others brought in their money, they spent \$13,000.00 for radio time and the wives went through the directory of that big city and they called every home and asked them to listen to me preach over the radio. Whether they did or not we won't know until the judgment. Why did that dairy farmer do that? He acted like he believed the Bible, he acted like if we see men dying in their sins, and we do not warn them, that their blood will be required at our hands. That is a solemn thought.

Last fall in the city of Houston, Texas, I went to hold a meeting for seven churches that got together and eleven men gave \$1,000.00 apiece – working men and some of them borrowed it – and they put me on a radio station that they say reaches all of Texas, for five weeks, 30 minutes a day. And they asked me to preach on one subject, "Must God Punish Sin?" That's the issue of this hour. What this country doesn't believe (in the churches and out – they do not believe they need a Saviour). Why? They do not believe that God will punish sin. If I spoke to somebody here tonight that actually believed that God Almighty was determined and set and sworn on His own Counsel to punish sin; if you haven't found Christ as a mediator between God and you, you wouldn't let me preach any longer. You would be screaming for God to show mercy to you. The

whole trouble of the whole outfit now is – we live in a generation where from the pulpit and the pew and all about – the Baptist and all the rest, we just make out like we believe there is an utter necessity for the cross of Jesus Christ. That utter necessity is that God has to punish sin.

Some years ago I was invited to the largest church in Ashland, Kentucky. They had a daily radio program, then a day service at 10 o'clock. God's Spirit came upon the radio broadcast. And soon the messages on the radio were being defended and lambasted in the stores and on the streets. We don't see much of that now. I would love for some of that to happen again. Then the preachers from the other churches began to listen and they didn't have day services. Many of them began coming to our day services. God gave us quite a harvest, a little blessing from God. A day or two before those meetings were over, the pastor of the church called me up at the hotel and said, "There is a committee representing the Baptist preachers of this association and they want to come down and talk to you in the hotel." And they came and said, "We represent this association and we're authorized to come and extend to you an invitation to come back a year hence and hold a meeting for all of our churches combined. We will put up a giant tent and get our churches in. We want to give you that invitation, but before you give us your answer, we have two conditions. We want you to come and we will get you an hour's time on the radio every day, then we will have a big tent. We'll guarantee that it will be full every night. We'll go after people if you promise us that you will just preach on one subject while you are here; on the radio for an hour and in the tent at night. We would like to know if you could find it in your heart. After you go home and think about it and pray about it, you let us know if you would come and just preach on one subject 'Will God Punish Sin?'

"Most everybody in Ashland is a church member, but they don't think that God will punish sin. They sleep well at night because they don't believe God will punish sin. They don't let their church membership interfere with their daily living, because they don't believe God will punish sin. You talk to them about Jesus

dying on the cross, they are not interested because they don't believe God will punish sin. And nobody will ever be interested in whether Christ did anything on the cross that would do me any good or not till you believe that God will punish sin." Well, that is right down my alley, for that is the first message of the cross. There is no use to apply a remedy. There is no use to preach the second message of the cross, "the forgiveness of sin through Christ's blood"; this generation doesn't need its sins forgiven; they don't think there is any need. This generation needs to hear the first message of that bloody cross "God Will Punish Sin." Every time they nailed those nails into the flesh of the Son of God, every stroke of the hammer was saying, "God will punish sin," "God will punish sin," "God will punish sin." Amen! I said I'll agree to that.

Then they said, "We don't want you to give any kind of a public invitation, that is strange for us Baptists, for most of us don't think you can get saved until the preacher invites you; and we have filled our churches full of folks who wouldn't know the Lord from a grasshopper; they just responded to some sort of an invitation." And coming from a bunch of Baptist preachers, that sounded funny. But that was right down my alley; because I am so tired of begging people to come to Jesus when they don't feel like they need Him. And you just can't get them to do it to save your life. They don't need Him; they are getting along all right without Him.

Well, the time came and I went. Every day for an hour on the radio and at night under the tent I became an authority on what the Bible says about "God Will Punish Sin." I preached everything I could find in the Bible, and there is plenty of it. And after I would get through preaching every night, I would say, "Good night. Go on to hell. That's where you seem to want to go." That was my benediction. That's pretty rough, isn't it? Well, that is a little different than saying, "Oh, won't you take Jesus?" They don't want Him, and Jesus isn't found that way. But the Holy Spirit didn't let me preach for the entire month. On Thursday night of the fourth week, I was just preaching up a way, and a man way back there got up and came running down the sawdust trail and came up on the platform. He pushed me aside and said, "For God's sake, preacher, I got to say

something!" He was president of the biggest bank in that city; he was a teacher in the Sunday School and deacon of a church. And he had stolen \$250,000.00 from that bank and nobody knew it.

He got to listening to me on the radio and got to worrying about that. Then he got to coming to hear me preach under the tent. All I would say, "God is going to punish sin. I can prove' it. He always has, He is doing it now, and He is going to do it. 1 Timothy 5:24: 'Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment,' and some men they follow after.' But one way or another, God is going to deal with sin." And he got in a terrible shape, his little Sunday School teaching wouldn't help him; you know that won't save a man. The fact that he was a deacon, that wouldn't save him; the fact that he was president of the bank, that wouldn't take care of it. And he got to where he would come hear me preach and he would go home at night and lock his door, get his Bible and get down on his knees, and he would just beg God to have mercy on him and save him. And that \$250,000.00 would come up before him. There is no way on earth you can do business with God without coming clean with Him; the whole outfit has got to come out. Yes sir! He just couldn't get God to trade with him at all. And he got so miserable that the day before he came and interrupted my sermon, he wrote a letter and put it in the mail and admitted that he had stolen \$250,000.00 from the bank, and got in touch with the Chief of Police and the powers that ran the bank. There were some policemen there in the congregation waiting to arrest him that night and he knew it.

He came up on the platform and confessed his awful sin, then he just fell down like a sack of sugar and sobbed like his heart would break. He looked up through his tears after a while and said, "Is there anybody that can pray for an old sinner like me?" I saw several thousand people under that big tent – saints and lost people, hell rousers and everybody else – they just fell on their knees on that sawdust and begged God to have mercy on that old sinner who brought his sin out in the open and came clean before God. And God was pleased to have mercy on him and saved him.

They arrested him and tried him and sent him to the

penitentiary. That was in 1951 and he has been in the penitentiary ever since. Next year he is going to get out. I get a letter once a month from him; I have for all these years. He is the happiest prison inmate you ever saw. He's been in prison all these years, but bless God there ain't no prison like sin that binds us. It is a lot better to spend the rest of his life in prison than spend eternity in hell.

We had to go on three more weeks. People would go to work and go to the foreman and say, "I can't work," and they would come to the tent. For three weeks all we did was pray with and counsel men and women coming and saying, "Could it be that He would have mercy on me?" That is the testimony and witness that must not be confined to this pulpit; but it must burn in your heart until with a zeal that cannot be consumed, your lips are open, your tears come, your heart enlarges, and whether anybody hears you or not, moving with fear you will warn people that judgment is coming and God will punish sin.

I am so hungry and I don't see why that couldn't take place in our day. Aren't you? The Scriptures say, "Break up your fallow ground." You mourn, you afflict yourself. It has been a little over 200 years since God has visited America in a mighty way. I call on my own heart and every person here who names the Name of Jesus Christ to break up your own heart. You will find the seed of all our trouble; we don't actually believe that God must punish sin. Therefore, Christ on the cross is a nice little story, but not an utter necessity and a wonderful provision. Let us pray:

"Now our Father, in the Name of this One Who voluntarily assumed the job You gave Him to do, came down here on a mission bent to pour out His soul unto death on a tree, had our sins laid upon Him to be made a curse in our stead, to be a substitute for sinners. In His Name, I beg You to challenge us as the people of God – at least we profess to be – to have something of the heart and the passion and the concern that You had. That He may again see of the travail of His soul and be glad that He died for sinners. This is my prayer in His Name, I think it is; and for His sake, I want it to be. Amen."

When The Lights Go Out On The Road To Hell

Luke 11:35

I am speaking tonight from the Gospel according to Luke. There are two extremes that any human being, who has an interest in his soul's welfare and wishes to be right with God and to know something of the comfort and his bliss in eternity, must avoid. First – making a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in too big of a hurry. Nobody much has got time to listen to the Word of God sufficiently long that God's Spirit may awaken faith in them and they may be able to close with Jesus Christ.

The second extreme is substituting anything on earth for simple faith in Jesus Christ. Hell is going to be crowded with people who made Holy Spirit conviction a term of a man; they have substituted that for Christ. And hell is also getting crowded today by men and women who are trying to earn their way into the good graces of God by what they call sitting at the feet of Christ mourning over their sins. There is deadly danger in hearing the Gospel and not closing with its terms. There is deadly danger here if he gets in too big of a hurry he is liable to make a false profession; if he takes too much time he is liable to run into the wrath of God who demands immediate repentance.

I want to talk some tonight, if God's Spirit will help me, about this last danger. I am speaking on "When the Lights Go Out on the Road to Hell." And they are going out for men and women all about us. I can't prove it, but I believe that America is made up largely of men and women who cannot be saved. I believe they have played and trifled with truth too long. And there is one thing that God Almighty gets angry about; it's the people who treat lightly any move that God makes to bring light on our pathway. That sure is serious.

There comes a time when God Almighty will reprobate a man, will reject a man. He rejected Pharoah. He rejected the nation of Israel; and it appears to be by the blank expression on people's faces that many, many people in America have been rejected, because God has had them under His long-sufferance to the point

where He cannot be God and deal with them any more. And so He just rejects them and they begin to live in hell here on this earth and hell in time to come.

My text tonight is Luke 11:35, but I begin reading at verse 29-30: "And when the people were gathered thick together, He began to say, This is an evil generation.' they seek a sign,' and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of Man be to this generation."

They want Him to put on a show. A man is in a bad shape if he won't take God's Word for it. An evil generation won't believe what God says, they want a sign. God said, I have given the sign of Jonas the prophet, and I will give no more; that sign is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you bypass the Son of God there is no hope. The people of this generation who demand more from God than He is willing to show us, they will be at the judgment and the Queen of the South who lived a long time ago when there wasn't near as much light from God on the road to hell as there is now. The Queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of a man, who was Solomon. She was looking for all the help she could find. She heard about a wise man by the name of Solomon and she journeyed many days to listen to Solomon. And behold a greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold a greater than Jonah is here. You have heard the Son of God, and you haven't repented. You have had more light than the men of Nineveh and they repented at the preaching of a man. Verses 33-35: "No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness."

Take heed eternity-bound men and women that the light

which lights the road to eternity isn't put out and where there was light, there will be nothing but darkness.

Thank God that ever once in a while on a man's pathway toward eternity, the thunder rolls and the lightning flashes, to show men where they are and where they are going. Thank God. I thank God for that. Poor blind sinners bound in the cords of their own sins, do not go to hell without being warned of God, without light crossing their pathway. Here is a man walking in utter darkness and he is walking right toward a precipice, where if he steps over it will be death; thank God, before he gets there, God will send a flash of lightning to show him.

And repentance means that the light shines and shows you; act on it, and turn around, and start in the other direction. Take heed that the light which is in thee be not darkness. There is terrible danger in refusing to walk in the light that you have from Almighty God. And the Scriptures are plain that no man walks without God bringing light on his pathway.

There is teaching in the Word of God that all of us are headed for final judgment. All of us in some way or another are going to meet face to face Him sitting on a throne, to Whom all judgment has been committed. But my text tonight isn't talking about the judgment in eternity. My text is talking about a judgment; that trail of which is found in the dealing of God with the covenant people in the Old Testament and all through the New Testament; that is the present judgment of God. When God Almighty blinds people, when God Almighty hardens people, when God Almighty turns the light off, and leaves people in utter darkness. Oh! how terrible to walk in utter darkness. This is a solemn thing tonight. I do thank God that He deals with men now. I want to warn you now that a man is going to be responsible for his response to every truth that God brings across his pathway. It is impossible for anyone to ignore truth and God brings truth as a light on a man's pathway. And a man makes a decision and choice in response to every bit of truth that God brings to him. The Bible is crystal clear that there has not been a man or a woman who has ever lived on God's earth, that had the slightest excuse for heading on toward the judgment of Almighty

God. The Bible is crystal clear that all men have light from God on their road to eternity, and that light God gives them to light their pathway, and to warn, and threaten and show; and that man is responsible for his reaction to that light.

Hell is not going to be full of people to be pitied. Hell is going to be full of people who would not react in the right way, to the mercy of God in lighting their pathway. You don't much believe that, do you? But it is so. We must remember that men are in the shape that they are in because of the act of their own will against Almighty God.

God didn't get men in the mess that they are in, men got in the mess they are in by sinning willfully against the Holy law of God. And the God of all grace is the God who warns and threatens, and lightens the pathway of every person sufficiently to cause them to stop and be brought to repentance.

We worry a good deal about the heathens, but the Scriptures are clear that any man that starts walking in the light that he has; God Almighty will get more to him. That's so. The Bible says that every man has the light of a God-given conscience, and the conscience either accuses you or excuses you. The best description of a God-given conscience: it's not native to you, it is a gift of God. It is a light that God gives every human being on his road to eternity. Isaiah 30:21 says: "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn lo the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

Your conscience speaks to you lots of times. Haven't you heard it? It says: go this way, don't go that way. Every man has received from God the gift of conscience. It is wonderful if a man will listen to it. But if a man sins against what his conscience tells him, after a while instead of it accusing us, it will excuse us, and we can be at peace with a conscience God gave us, because we now have a seared and an evil conscience. The Bible is crystal clear that if a man looked up at the stars, that would leave him without any excuse. God has so manifested Himself and His purpose and His will and His way and His character in creation, as to leave all men without excuse.

And then the Bible talks about the law of God written on men's hearts. Isn't it wonderful that God has never sent a man to hell who didn't know right and wrong, because that is a gift of God to all His creatures. That's light, isn't it?

Then some of us have had the glorious privilege of hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed. And if a man hears it once, every time he hears it again without action, the Gospel becomes a condemnation instead of a joy. What a privilege to have lived in the place that God appointed us, where somebody proclaimed the Gospel of the glory of God. Isn't that wonderful? How precious that is a light on the road to hell.

Then some of us have heard that Gospel preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, and it came not unto us in word only, but in the power of the Holy Ghost and in assurance. Praise God that's light on our pathway. And some of us have known what it is for the Holy Spirit to prick our hearts with the Word of God, and reveal to us that we were a guilty lost sinner, and put us under Holy Ghost conviction of sin, and brought us to our wit's end. And when we cried unto Him for mercy, He heard our cry and delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. He gave us grace and faith to believe. Praise the Lord, salvation is of the Lord.

Some of us have known what it is for the Holy Spirit to strive with us. Not every man the Holy Spirit strives with gets saved; but the Holy Spirit strives with every man. I tell you what's the truth, there has been lots of light given to the people in America, and they are without excuse. There has been enough Gospel preached in America to save a world; if there was faith added to it. The Bible says in Hebrews 4:2, "For unto us was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them," but the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."

God isn't filling hell with innocent victims. Hell is being filled with rebellious refusals to walk in the light they have got. Men and women are responsible to walk in the light they have and could have from Almighty God. We are to walk in all the truth and light God is pleased to give us. If a person walks in the light God gives

him, I believe God will give him more light.

Man will say I can't believe. Do you believe this: tithe is Holy unto the Lord. Can you believe that? This is God's world and you owe Him the tithe. Yes, I believe God tells the truth when He says, "The tithe is mine." Well, why don't you walk in that light? You may say, "I am not a Christian," but you are one of God's creatures, and the Bible does not teach that the tithe of saved people belongs to the Lord. He says, "The tithe is mine." And in Malachi 3:8, He says: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings."

You could at least be honest, couldn't you? Why don't you start walking in that kind of light? God always takes you through the school of law in order to get you where you will appreciate grace. Somebody says, "I am not a Christian, so God doesn't expect anything from me." All He expects is for you to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength; and love thy neighbor as thyself. That is His commandment. Well, I want to be saved. No, you don't, you won't even walk in what you know is so. You must walk in the truth and light that God brings across your path. He doesn't bring it for you to argue about. He brings it to light your pathway so you can walk straight. A man cannot walk in light that he doesn't have, a man dare not do less. There can be no unbelief and no faith apart from revelation, but there is revelation in a star. Every time your conscience speaks to you, that is God's gift, and every time it speaks to you, you make a response. You ignore it or obey it. Every time the Gospel is preached in your hearing, something takes place in you; and you make some sort of response to the demand of Christ, Who is presented in every line of the Gospel. Unbelief is not ignorance, unbelief is rejection of truth. Men and women reject truth every day. Every sinner who goes down to the grave has walked in sin and rejected truth every day and refused to be influenced by evidence. Every time you see a graveyard, that proves to you that you are going to die and the Word of God says, "I! is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Oh! the awfulness of refusing to walk in the light that God gives you; and refusing to

believe that judgment is coming and God must punish sin. Now the awfulness of what I am talking about is this: God Almighty judicially blinds those who refuse constantly, deliberately, and over a period of time, the length of which is determined by God. God deliberately, judicially blinds those men, and where there was light, the light becomes darkness. Three times in the book of Romans, men were given up by God. First to uncleanness – Romans 1:24: "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves."

Second to vile affections – verse 26: "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature."

Thirdly God gave them over to a reprobate mind –verse 28: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient."

God doesn't always put up with men's refusal to walk in truth and light. God will not always put up with men's refusal to be influenced by the evidence all about them. In Romans 11:1, the question is asked, "Hath God cast away His people?" Verse 2: "God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew."

Then we have the story about Elijah making intercession to God against Israel saying in verse 3 and following: "Lord, they have killed Thy prophets, and digged down Thine altars,' and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to Myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. Verse 7: "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded."

They were blinded according to the character of God. Verses 8-10: "God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear unto this day. And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them; Let their eyes be

darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back away."

Isn't that terrible language? Back of the rejection, and the blindness, and the stumbling, and the snare, and the giving of eyes so they can't see, and ears so they can't hear; is the willful rejection of people to walk in the light that God has given them. God never reprobates a man apart from that man's willful rejection of truth and willful refusal to walk in that light.

I know I can't preach it like it ought to be preached, but I wish I could scare any of you, sitting in the seat of waiting for God Almighty and laying the blame for your damnation on Him. Him Who hung His Son on a cross and sent His Spirit to finger your heart, and has enabled you to live in a land where the Gospel is preached. Listen to me, we are dealing with a God, Who at times when He sees fit, instead of giving you eyes that you've had to look at truth, then refuse to walk in it; He will give you eyes so you can't see, He will give you ears so you can't hear. He will set a snare and a stumbling block. Oh! my soul, this is the time when the lights go out on your road to hell, and you stumble on the rest of the way in darkness. God leaves you alone. I could give you other Scriptures, but that is enough. This is solemn. Hosea 6:3 says: "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord;..."

Jeremiah 29:13: "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

May I give you two experiences to illustrate what I have been trying to solemnly lay upon you from God's Word. I am thinking now about a man named Dutch. He owned the biggest saloon in the suburbs of Houston, Texas, and I was there in an evangelistic campaign in a Baptist church. And in two or three days after we started the meeting, the fine Godly young pastor came and said, "Brother Barnard, I want to talk to you about something and I want your advice." He said, "There is a man in this town who is a church member, happened to be a Catholic, and he owns the biggest saloon in town, and he has got the young people of most all of this section under his grip. He is a likeable sort of fellow and he delights to do things for young people. I don't question his motive, but he's got them under his grip, and most all the young people in this

section, in the churches and everywhere else, they just follow him. And he is blocking the work of God in this town. He is on the heart of my congregation and myself. We have been talking and praying about it, and we have made a covenant with ourselves, and I want to ask you what you think about it. We have agreed that there will be two people in the little church building all the time spending an hour's time during this meeting until God does something about Dutch. We are going to have somebody representing this congregation on their knees praying for him. We have also agreed that two people will enter his saloon every hour, on the hour, and go in and witness to him about his soul. What do you think about that, Brother Barnard?" I said, "Don't ask me, boy, has God put that on your heart? Yes, we believe He has." I said, "I can't touch that if God told you to and you say you believe He has, and you may be right. I'd better not interfere with God." So they went in his saloon every hour. At nine o'clock two people would enter his saloon and talk to him; they would leave. At ten o'clock two more. That news spread like wildfire and in two days time the town was red hot. About ninety percent of the church people in town were as mad as fire; and they were cursing the pastor and the people of the Baptist church and they were called some awful names. They were red hot about how they were taking advantage of Dutch, the saloon keeper. And they sure were making it hot for him, and I don't know whether God was in it or not; they said He was, so I couldn't touch that. He had made arrangements with the mayor and we had street services every day and they let us have a loud speaker. The people listened and they threw rocks and eggs. I was scared. It was pretty tough to go downtown.

And the crowds began to come and I didn't know what was going to happen. But they continued to go in and witness to Dutch throughout that meeting and the thing got more and more intense. They were really putting that poor saloon keeper on the spot. You may say, "They ought not to do that." But this pastor and his congregation got so burdened about Dutch and those young people that he was leading to hell with him, that they were really putting him on the spot.

I remember the last day of the meeting came, and the pastor came to see me and said, "Dutch is awful mad and he is terrible. He's worse now than he was when we started. My heart is breaking, Brother Barnard, reckon we made a mistake?" I said, "I don't know, son." "Brother Barnard, I come to ask you, would you go and preach to him?" I said, "You want me to?" He said, "Yes." I said, "I'll go." He said, "All right, we will go at 10 o'clock." At 10 o'clock the pastor and I walked into his saloon to talk to Dutch. It was on Sunday and the meeting was to close that night. We went in at 10 o'clock and the saloon was crowded, because the people came in there to hear the people talk to Dutch and see what Dutch would have to say. The pastor walked up to Dutch and said, "Dutch, I know you are mad at us. I know we have put you on the spot, but Dutch, I want you saved." He said, "Dutch, this is the preacher and I have asked him to come and talk to you before he has to leave." Dutch said, "Preacher," and then he cursed a little bit. "I have got... so and so... all I can take of this and I want you and this preacher to walk out of my place, and I don't want you nor nobody else to ever mention Jesus Christ to me again. I've heard all of Him I want to hear." Well, that's pretty solemn. That preacher began to cry and said, "You mean it, Dutch?" Dutch said, "... So and so... yes, I mean it." The young pastor said, "All right, Dutch, I'm licked, you've won. We'll walk out of here and we will never mention the Name of Jesus Christ to you again." And we did. I closed that meeting that night and they took me into Houston and put me on the plane. I got to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the next morning. I hadn't been home but just a little while when the phone rang and they read a telegram to me. At eight o'clock Monday morning, the telephone of the pastor's rang and on the other end of the line was a nurse at the hospital, which said, "Pastor, Dutch is dying and he wants you to come and talk to him before he dies." Dutch had been seized about four o'clock in the morning, rushed to the hospital and just before he had the phone call, the doctor told him that he couldn't live but a few minutes longer and not until then. Dutch, who had been witnessed to every hour on the hour for two weeks. There had been men and tender women who went in his saloon to talk to him about his soul.

Finally he had told the pastor and I to leave and not come back and never mention the Name of Jesus Christ to him anymore, and it had been accepted.

A few hours after, his heart failed him and they rushed him to the hospital. The next morning at eight o'clock the pastor's phone rang. The pastor got in his car and hurried as fast as he could go, got out of his car into the hospital, up to the elevator, to the room, and to the door. Exactly two minutes before he got there, Dutch went out to meet the Lord Jesus Christ, the One that he hated so much till he told the pastor that he didn't want no one else to ever mention the Name of Jesus Christ to him again. There is a man that deliberately refused to walk in light. There is a man who with an act of his will deliberately committed soul suicide. For no human being has the promise of tomorrow.

About two years ago I was in Kingsport in a meeting and a nice looking woman walked up to me one night after the service and said, "Brother Barnard, do you know me?" I looked at her and said, "I am sorry. I know I should, but I do not recall you." Then she made herself acquainted with me. About eight or nine years ago I was in the community where this woman lived in a meeting. She and her husband came to hear me preach and he got terribly offended at something I said. He quit coming and forbade her to come back to hear me preach. That went on for about nine days and she didn't get to come back. The news spread around and it came to me and the people began to pray. The last night of the meeting came. It was in the fall of the year as I remember and the house was crowded. They opened the front doors so the people out in the front yard could hear. Some sat in their cars and some stood for the service. This woman's husband had brought his wife in the car and made her sit in the car with him and she heard most of the service, but he wouldn't let her come inside of the door. The service was over and the people went away. I was outside and walked down the steps to the walk; and this woman quickly opened the door and ran over to me and said, "Brother Barnard, my husband has refused to let me hear you preach the Gospel, but Brother Barnard, my husband can keep me from attending church services, but he can't keep me from seeking the

Lord!" And she said, "I may never see you again in this life, but I am going to seek the Lord till I find Him, or till He sends me to hell." So eight years later she looked me in the face and said, "Thank God, I found Him." Here was one who walked in the light God was pleased to give her and kept seeking the Lord till she found Him.

All hell is popping. The spirit of Antichrist blows in our very nostrils. Unbelief walks the land, God only knows what a day will bring forth. They may put you in jail. I don't know what will happen, but there is one thing all hell couldn't keep you from doing. All hell hasn't got power to keep you from seeking the Lord with all your heart and if you do, you will find Him. Praise the Lord! That's walking in the light as you have the light. God help us. When a seeking Saviour and a seeking sinner get together, it will turn out to the salvation of a soul. Bless God, all hell can't keep you from acting in the light that you have got and seeking to be joined to the Lord Jesus Christ. All hell can't stop you. So I invite you to do it in Jesus Name.

"Our Father, in His blessed Name, we commit these people into Thy good hand. We are so glad You made it plain, and we praise God that You have shed abundant light on our pathway, and we rejoice in it. In Jesus Name, we cry that men may seek our Lord while He may be found. Amen!"

The God Nobody Is Mad At

Acts 5:11

I went to a big Bible Conference, Southern Baptist Fellowship last week; and one more time I had to go and begin to cry to God. I am in one of my periods of agony, I am either up or down. I want to speak on the God that nobody is mad at. My impressions during the solemn time of the funeral of our departed President, was that the God of this day is a mighty likeable sort of fellow, that even an atheist wouldn't be mad at Him. And my impression this last week in the Bible Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, was that the Christ who is preached today; nobody would be offended by Him. So I am down in the dumps; I want God to work. I never can preach except I'm in agony. I don't believe you can witness any other way. My soul! I beg you to pray for the men of God who are preaching a Christ Who is holy and is very offensive; instead of the nice Jesus that everybody loves today. God's children need to pray for the men of God to have broken hearts and open doors.

The whole book of Acts is the record of some preachers or witnesses standing up to interpret something God has done. On the day of Pentecost things took place and the Apostle Peter an opportunity to get up and interpret what was taking place at the hands of a living God. He said, "We are not drunk, but this is God doing things." In Acts 1:1, Luke said he was going to keep on talking about what he had talked about in his Gospel of all the things that Jesus began both to do and teach. The thing that I have to pray about and stay in an agony about most of the time is that today the doing is mostly absent. We have the responsibility of preaching and trying to explain dry teaching that we all accept in our heads; instead of interpreting the great and mighty acts of God. If you were a public preacher, you would know what I am talking about; and more than you ever have before, you would pray for anybody who is trying to struggle through the religious atmosphere of this day and preach Christ as He really is.

Here again in the book of Acts something has taken place. God has killed Ananias and Sapphira. God did it through His

preacher, and it caused no small commotion. The first effect of it was that great fear came on the people. Acts 5:11 says: "And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things."

They were afraid of that congregation where two people lied to the Holy Ghost and God acted about it. He came on the scene and He reached down His mighty arm and struck them dead. Verse 13: "And of the rest durst no man join himself to them.' but the people magnified them." That scared people and they didn't want to go around that place. But in that atmosphere the people magnified these disciples. Verse 14: "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."

Another thing that resulted from the action of Almighty God in killing these two people was in verse 16: "There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean .spirits.' and they were healed every one."

The disciples in the authority and in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ were healing the sick and taking care of their needs. The religious priority, the people who preached a God that nobody would possibly be mad at, that we want to talk about. See verses 17 and 18: "Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison."

The Lord came on the scene again in verses 19-27: "But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told, Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors.' but when we had opened, we found no man within. Now

when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them where-unto this would grow. Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. And when they had brought them, they set them before the council.' and the high priest asked them"

Then the high priest asked them did we not straitly command you that ye should not teach in this Name? There is the rock of offence. And behold ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood upon us.

Peter had witnessed something that made a different person out of him. The Apostles had witnessed the action of Almighty God in raising Jesus Christ from a grave and enthroning Him at His right hand, and giving Him the job of giving repentance and forgiveness of sins to eternity bound sinners. And Peter was a witness of that, in the sense that he had experienced the power of Him, Who has been exalted, to break the shackles that bound him and set him free. And in that atmosphere, when they told him not to teach in the Name of Christ. Verses 29-31: "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost and he knew that Jesus had warned them to fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:28). Again in Acts 5, verse 32 says: "And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him."

So is also the Holy Ghost, he is talking about one person, he is witnessing to one person; and the two things about that one person that this world is mad at is: His death on a cross and His enthronement at the right hand of God. Peter said we are witnesses and so is also the Holy Ghost, Whom God hath given to them that

obey Him. And strange to say, verse 33 says: "When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them."

Somewhere I read these words: "It is painful to hear a man who does not believe Peter's Gospel, seek to preach it as if in some sense, he believed it. But it is thrice more painful to hear a man who believes Peter's Gospel, preach it as though he did not believe it. Preaching, praying, living, witnessing without passion, without urgency. Reciting facts, quoting creeds, repeating religious formulas, preaching without heart passion, and without divine urgency."

My friends, for over thirty years I've wrestled with my greatest hindrance and my most terrible weakness, and my most horrible sin. I wish unto God I could stand there with the Apostle Peter facing that Sanhedrin and stay there in that atmosphere of the raising of Jesus Christ from a grave, and the exalting of Him on a throne. I wish I could stay there until I believed it, with my whole heart, mind, soul and body. You know if I could believe that, I am telling you the God's truth, I could preach in the power of the Holy Ghost; and I could have power with God and with man. In my head I've accepted this glorious truth all these years; in my heart I wish I could get to the place I didn't have to pray, "Lord, I believe. Help Thou my unbelief."

No man could take a pen and do justice to this truth. No man with words from his lips could do anything else except stand and take off his shoes and cry out in his heart, as you stand face to face with the greatest single truth and experience and action of God this world has ever known anything about. Actually the Man with the print of the nails in His hands, the Man Who was God. Manifest in the flesh, the Man Who was born to die, the Man, God's darling Who was given to the dogs, the Man Who wound up in disgrace on a criminal's tree. There is One mediator between God and man; it is this Man. How I need Him; how I need Him. A Man, all Man, whole Man, yet God. I need Him to stand between me and the stroke of God's judgment against sin. Don't you need Him?

Judgment is coming and God must punish sin. We are all eternity-bound men and women, and unless God Almighty is pleased to perform a miracle in you and reveal Christ in you, you are

doomed for hell.

Actually the Old Book tells us if we could just believe it, that the One Who must mediate between me and a Holy God is now alive forevermore, for the purpose of working repentance in my heart and granting me the consciousness and the experience that my sins are forgiven by a Holy God. Oh! I wish I could believe that. The more I look into that, the more I wish that before I die, I could enter into the preaching of what it means to believe, with a heart and everything there is within me, that God has raised that Man from the dead.

I am sure that lip service and repeating of the sinner's prayer and going through the motions won't get the job done. There must be a heart belief, which is God-given faith. Something that you can't get out of books, something that only a power greater than I am can bring to pass in my life. That's the reason I thank God for the struggle these poor preachers have had going against the grain of present-day preaching of what is called the Gospel. I know that acceptance of a creed won't get the job done. Somehow or another, I have to stand with Peter and say now that I have witnessed this, I know about this. I have witnessed this and experienced it. A witness is somebody who can interpret what happened. The Apostle Peter by his own experience said: "We ought to obey God rather than men, and we are His witnesses of these things."

I am vitally interested in that Mediator and what became of Him. I surely am, and I find out that He is sitting there on that throne, working at the job of God's purposes of salvation. God hath exalted Him and made Him a Prince and a Saviour to give repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

Peter said: you needn't talk to me, this is God working. The Lord Jesus Christ is yonder on a throne now. Does anybody need repentance? Go to Him. Anybody need forgiveness of sins? He's the One that gives it. That's what He's there for, to give repentance and the forgiveness of sins. At one time the Apostles were brokenhearted about Jesus and His death, they didn't understand the death of Christ. But now Peter stands and by experience he understood what the Lord said, "I must need suffer many things then enter into glory."

A man that does not believe in the exalted Christ cannot preach the Gospel. The man or woman who has experienced the power of that exalted Christ to break your old heart and turn you against yourself, to lay hold on Christ; cannot help but preach it. Peter, I think, could quote from Psalm 118:16; 22-24: "The right hand of the Lord is exalted.' the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantlyThe stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing,"it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Alleluia! God hath exalted Him to be a Prince and a Saviour. Let's be glad about it.

I have to cry to God so much before what I'm talking about now gets sweet to me. Let's rejoice and be glad about it. This is a day of great joy. You and I are living in the time when Jesus Christ from a throne works repentance in men's hearts, and breaks the chains that binds them and sets them free. Alleluia! Alleluia! The power of cancelled sin sets the sinner free.

Every once in a while I go back to one of the earliest trophies of my poor little ministry. It did me so much good then and very seldom does a week go by that I do not recall this experience. It helps me. In my first pastorate in an oil town, Mrs. Carnes became a member of our little church. Her husband was a big shot; he was making a lot of money, but not in the right way. He was highly educated and traveled lots. He finally got to coming to hear me preach and would sit and listen. His wife got greatly concerned about him. One day she said, "Sunday we want you to have dinner with us. After the meal I have an errand I've got to run, and I want you to really talk to my husband." She said, "For the first time in our life together, I actually believe he might listen."

We had a lovely dinner, then she made some excuse and left me, just a young twenty-three-year-old preacher boy, to tackle that man. I did the best I could and he cut me to pieces. He had a head knowledge of the Bible from cover to cover; he used it to argue about. He was smart. I never will forget how he butchered this poor little preacher boy. He butchered me so that I burst out in a sob, got

up out of a chair, and ran out of his house. I was in an awful shape. Instead of trying to witness to him, I had to listen to him answer with his criticisms and his mind. My testimony has to come from heart to heart, not mind to mind.

I remember I had worked hard all week to prepare a high-powered sermon for that night. That afternoon, out in West Texas, it started raining real hard and when it was time for the evening service, it was just pouring down. The people decided to stay at home, so there were just a few who came. I felt like I couldn't afford to waste that big sermon on that few people, so I was desperate. I was also suffering because that intellectual giant had cut me to pieces, so I was wounded, discouraged and blue.

I got up that night and preached a little half-hearted sermon. I don't know whether I believed any of it or not. I decided when it was over it wouldn't do any harm, so I said, "Stand and sing. Somebody may want to publicly confess Jesus Christ." Before the songleader got started good, here came that man running down the aisle sobbing like his heart would break. He put his big arms around me and liked to have crushed me to death. I'll never forget what he said. He said, "I can rebel against Him no longer. I surrender, I surrender."

Oh! Praise the Lord, there is somebody sitting on a throne with the authority and a delegated task of giving repentance to men and giving them the forgiveness of sins. I can understand how an old rebellious sinner could be brought in a way that I certainly could get no glory; to a place where he will say publicly, "I can rebel against Him no longer; I surrender." And I remember the next Lord's day I baptized him. The next Lord's day I called on him to lead in public prayer. This was his prayer. He said, "Oh, Lord, this is the first time I ever did anything like this. If You will help us today, I'll be much obliged. Amen." That was his prayer, but it came from the heart. Later we set him apart for the work of a deacon.

Two weeks after I baptized him, he called me by phone and said, "Brother Pastor, could you come down to the office? I must see you." I went down and he had gotten out of his within-the-law crooked business and was cleaning up everything; paying things off

and straightening things out. He set me down and faced me with a desk between us and he paid me the greatest compliment I ever got. I needed it then. It don't hurt to compliment a young fellow once in a while who is in the battle. He said, "Pastor, I have heard all the big preachers of my day. I used to travel one hundred and fifty or two hundred miles just to listen to a big preacher to criticize him." He said, "I had to come way out here to this Texas oil town and listen to a boy who was hardly old enough to shave before the claims of Christ were pressed upon me to where I had to surrender."

Then he got up and came around. I stood up and he put his arms around me and kissed me full on the lips. Then he said, "I'll always love you, Brother Pastor; you wouldn't rest until Christ was my Lord."

I went away to school and Mr. Carnes died. They sent a telegram to me. It went astray and I didn't get it until after the funeral. After the funeral, his wife sent me a stick pin, a black pearl or ruby, I forget which it is. I never wear it. She sent a message. She said he waited; he wanted me to be by his bedside, but I didn't know about it. When his strength was gone and he saw he wasn't going to see me, he instructed his wife to get that pin and after he was gone to send it to me and write this note: "Dear Pastor, when you get the blues, well, I've had plenty of that. When you want to quit, if it was left up to me, I would have quit a thousand times. When it looks like you are not getting anywhere, I've been there too." He said, "I want you to take this pin out and look at it and remember a God Who can conquer a man like me can save anybody He pleases."

Brother, many a time when I've been in a meeting and everything I said went wrong, came back and bounced and hit me between the eyes; especially in these last days, where the spirit of Antichrist seems to be breathing hot upon our very necks. When I wanted to quit and it looked like I couldn't go on, I'm weak. I've remembered how God conquered the rebellious will and broke the chains that bound C.J. Carnes; and I resisted the devil so he would flee from me. I know Somebody that's in the saving business. There is Somebody that can break the rebellion in a man's heart. There is Somebody that can set him free. That Somebody is the One Who

hung on a tree and dealt with God's holy law in my stead. Now He sits on a throne to save sinners. Glory to His Name.

"Our Father, in His blessed Name, we beg You to have mercy upon the preacher and the people this morning. Speak to our hearts one more time and fill us with boldness and with a holy joy, that we live in a day when salvation is in the hands of an enthroned Lord, and when He cannot be defeated. Please speak to hearts right now, draw people to Thyself. Do something for all of God's people, and all who are here without Christ. I beg in His blessed Name. Amen!"

Hell

Matthew 10:28

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

The two fastest growing religious doctrines in all the world today are:

(1) that man is too important to be destroyed and ruined and sent to hell. We are told that man is too valuable to be destroyed, therefore, there is no hell.

(2) The second doctrine that is growing real fast is that they are saying, "God is sovereign," and they have quit fighting the truth that God is powerful, and God is utterly sovereign, and God's will must take place, and He doeth as it pleases Him in the earth and in heaven. Now they are using that to say that God is so all powerful, He is so mighty that not one little creature of His, or a group of His creatures joined together, could possibly defeat the all-powerful God. So now they are preaching the sovereignty of God, He is so mighty, He is so powerful, He is so answerable only to Himself that none can withstand Him, and that this all-powerful God will not be defeated by any creature; thus all men will be saved.

Those are the two fast-growing doctrines. These falsehoods have become the doctrines of demons, and the belief of this generation. And they are vital issues and here are two things that are in the minds of the people of this hour. The fastest growing religious teaching in the world today is that when the wind-up time has come, all men will be saved. In a generation where these two awful perversions of Bible truths are deceiving the multitudes everywhere.

We want to let the awful, awful place called hell come to the pulpit and bring you its message. What does the awful fact of the terribleness of hell have to say to anybody who will listen? I know that hell has a message for you if you will listen to it. I would not dare to tell you that I can take the Bible and explain much about

hell. I can prove some things about it, and some I cannot. The best I know how, I want to let hell say three things: (1) There is something about eternal destruction in the Bible. (2) There is something about the fires of hell in the Bible. (3) There is something about the fire that is not quenched in the Bible. The Bible talks about the worm that dieth not.

Mark 9:43-44: "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off; it is belier for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands logo into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched." Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." The Bible talks about eternal and outer darkness. Matthew 25:30: "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Revelation 21:8: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death." There is something terrible out yonder in eternity in hell for all the wicked. God help us! There is something terrible facing men and women who have broken God's holy law, and they are destined under the providence of God to exist consciously somewhere as long as God lives. I tremble in my soul when I face it. My! the awful sinful condition people are in and they don't seem to even have a serious thought about it. Do you?

Just to pick up the Bible and read about the terrible expressions that are found only in this Book about the awful sinful condition man is in, and the terrible place called hell, where they are going to spend eternity. We need to come face to face with the fact that men desperately need a Lord and Saviour. And the reason they desperately need a Saviour is because they are in desperate danger of a terrible place called hell, according to the Bible. I wish we believed this. My soul! Once again our churches would be turned into dreadful places, and the awful presence of these terrible realities would crush us until we could weep over our sins and other people's sins and warn people with tears. Hell says three things, if people would listen: (1) Hell is a revelation of the holy character of God.

(2) Hell speaks to us about the holiness of His very nature. There is nothing in the Bible that opens up the very heart of God quite so much as the awesomeness and the awfulness of eternal hell. (3) Hell speaks to us of a God whose indignation will yet flame in mighty waves of heat and wrath against the breakers of His holy law. If you want to get a picture of Almighty God's holy character, look at the awfulness of the Bible description of that place called hell, where men and women shall be confined throughout eternity; where it will be characterized by everybody having everybody else in utter contempt, and everybody will hate everybody else. This is the picture of the character of God. He hates sin and He is angry with the wicked every day.

What is the doctrine of hell? It is simply the unfolding of the character of God's holy law. And what is the character of God's holy law? It is just the unfolding of the holy character of Almighty God. There is nothing about ten rules to be much worried about except as behind them stands a thrice holy God, except that they are the revelation of the perfectness of His holiness. Almighty God gave a holy law to express His holy character, and to outline His requirements.

When a wicked man dies, he will have to go out to face the most awful task any human being will ever be called upon to face. He will go out alone to one day stand before the judgment bar of God and have to deal with the claims and the demands of God's eternal, just and good, holy and perfect law. He will go out with nobody to mediate between him and the God of that holy law. I don't want to have to deal with God's holy law. If I do, I am certain for hell.

If I only had one time to preach to people, I would beg them, I would scream, I would do everything I could to warn them of the terribleness of a human being born in sin, conceived in iniquity, bent toward evil, lapping up sin like people drinking water. Wouldn't it be terrible to have to deal in your own strength with God's holy law? It will damn the best man that ever lived, and it will damn you. You have to be clothed with the perfect righteousness of Christ, because He was able to deal with God's law in your stead, and satisfied its

requirements, and endured its awful penalty. We are all eternity-bound men and women, and unless Almighty God is pleased to perform a miracle in you and reveal Christ in you, you are doomed for hell. If that does not happen to you, there is no hope for you.

That is one reason that is such a sweet verse of Scripture in 1 Timothy 2:5: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. "Praise the Lord! I wish we believed that in our heart. He is the only One Who can deal with God's holy law. You can't do it. It will kill you, it will damn you. He is our only hope. The Bible says, "All our righteousness are as filthy rags" in the sight of a holy God! Oh, for God's sake, don't depend on the fact that you had a little experience! For God's sake, don't depend on good intentions! For God's sake, don't depend on believing a few verses of Scripture! For God's sake, don't stop until you know you have been joined in living, abiding faith to Him, Who alone on a cross could deal with the law in your stead. And you cannot have the least interest in what He did on the cross unless you bow in full surrender to Him and be joined by faith to Him.

Hell reveals the character of God. He is a God of holy wrath and indignation against sin. He is a God Who could find only one way to still be God and save any sinner out of hell. He could not overlook the sinners' sins, and the only way He could find was to choose His only begotten Son to take my place. God knows I cannot explain that, but praise the Lord, I can believe it.

What is the message of hell? It is the message of the revelation of the character of men. If you want to find out what an awful sinner you are, read in the Bible what God has to say about hell. Hell says three things about me: (1) It says that I am a member of the human race, and I am one who has been made a partaker of the satanic spirit. Isaiah 14:13-15: "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.' I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." Five times Satan said, "I will" in rebellion against Almighty God. How many times have you said "I will" in rebellion

against God's holy law? That is sin. That is the sin of Satan. "I will. I will." That is what is going to send you to hell, putting your big old will and trying to take your sinful will and beat down God's will, so you can sit on the throne in God's world. What is the essence of sin? Simply to live in God's world as if you were God. What is sin? It is to buffet God's will with my will. That is what Satan did, and that is what you are doing. You come along and tell me that God won't invade your will, but if He doesn't – and crush it – and conquer it – you will be certain to go to hell. People are saying, "I'll sit on the throne and I'll do as I please! We will not have this Man to rule over us! I will breathe God's air, eat His food, and receive His blessing, but I will do as I please."

Hell says, "I am a partaker of a satanic mind." Romans 8:7: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

Man is a mess of hatred, enmity and hostility toward God. Leave man alone, take the common grace of God from him, rob him of the restraint of the Gospel that he is blessed by, although he rejects it, leave him alone and don't restrain him, and if he could get his hands on God, he would curse Him and trample Him under his feet. That is how sinful you are.

Hell says that I am a partaker of a satanic fate. Matthew 25:41: "Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Verse 46: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" You have to be punished just like the devil. Hell has been prepared and you are going to endure the same kind of punishment that the devil will. That old deceiver of souls, you will become a partaker of his fate. You are going to a hell, and it is fixed up, and it is hot enough and terrible enough to punish the devil and the wicked of all ages according to their sins.

Hell is a revelation of the glory of Calvary. Oh! that blood was awful red when you look at it through the fires of hell. That cross is mighty wonderful when you see it as the only way of escape from the pits of hell. Hell reveals the glory of Golgotha's hill from

whence the blood of the eternal Son of God flows. The blood of Christ does not save from the temporal penalty, we still have to die, saved or not; women have to bring children into the world with terrible pain, saved or not; men have to earn their living by the sweat of their face, saved or not. There is lots more to it than that. Men are guilty of breaking God's holy law, and the penalty is eternal punishment in hell. Man has got to stand before God and be judged by God's holy law. Thank God for Calvary! The first year I was saved I went to Yellow Stone National Park and I was alone. I went to what they call "the handkerchief pool," and I had an old dirty handkerchief that I had used to clean the spark plugs on my old Ford. It was awful black and greasy, and I held two corners of it and let it down in that boiling water till it touched my fingers, and then I pulled it up in a hurry. I pulled it out straight and it was pure as the riven snow. I was amazed and I stood there utterly unconscious of my surroundings, and I began to sing (they told me). "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins, And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains. The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day; And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away."

Then I felt something touch my shoulder, and there were perhaps 100 people gathered there and somebody said, "Will you let us sing with you, preacher?" And I said, "Surely." Then those people from many states and I sung together that great verse, "Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its power, Till all the ransomed church of God are saved, to sin no more." Praise the Lord!

Hell is a revelation of the glory of Calvary. My Lord died on the cross, glory to His Name. He dealt with God's holy law. He did that for somebody, bless God! Please seek an interest in what He did for sinners on the cross. Repent or perish. Proverbs 28:13: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Isaiah 45:22: "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Jeremiah 29:13: "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

"Blessed Father, we come to Thee in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank Thee for redeeming us with the precious blood of Christ, Who delivered us from the wrath to come. I pray that You will be pleased to use this message on 'Hell' to warn everyone who reads it, that they may flee from the wrath to come and cry to God to have mercy on them. I beg this in His blessed Name. Amen."

Who Is God? Or The Covenant Of Grace.

The apostle Paul tells us that we are saved, not as we believe, but if we believe the right thing. Do you know the Christ Who is presented in the Gospel of God concerning His Son? We are to study what the Gospel is.

Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

When the Gospel is preached in the power of the Holy Ghost, the power is in it to create faith itself, so you can believe it. You might believe everything the Bible teaches about prophecy and go to hell; or you might believe everything the Bible teaches about holy living and go to hell; or you might believe everything the Bible teaches about every other teaching, important as they are, and go to hell. But if you miss out on the Gospel, and if you base your faith and your hope of eternal life on anything except the truth as it is in the Gospel; why! you do so to the loss of your soul.

We are trying to be helpful in this day if we can; when everybody is preaching a gospel and everybody is preaching it different. There are not many who are interested in the Gospel of Christ which is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth.

We are going to study the Gospel of God concerning His Son, Who His Son is, what His Son did, and what God is doing now; that is the Gospel, that's God's good news. If you do not know by experience the only true God, that is to experience His power in your life; it doesn't make any difference what church you belong to, or what doctrines you believe, or anything else; you are yet in your sins, and you are headed for hell.

In John 17:3, God says: "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."

Unless you know the only true God, and His Son Jesus Christ by a divine revelation, you are still a lost, hell-bound sinner. That is very serious, isn't it?

Where the Scriptures talk about the only true God, it recognizes the fact that people have gods, everybody has got a god. You can't have two gods, and if you have got two, you have really got none. And the only two gods that anybody could possibly have is the one you created yourself or the only true God, Who is revealed in the Bible. The only way to know about God and to find out Who He is, would be for Him to be pleased to reveal Himself to us. We are shut up to that. A man cannot find God unless He is looking for him. In Proverbs 1:28, God says: "Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me."

In Job 11:7, God says: "Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?"

You cannot discover God. God has to reveal Himself to you. That is the truth. I don't know whether you believe that or not, because that is contrary to the preaching of the last forty years. Matthew 11:27 says: "All things are delivered unto Me of My Father; and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him."

Luke 10:22 says: "All things are delivered to Me of My Father; and no man knoweth Who the Son is, but the Father; and Who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him."

What most preachers are saying today is: If you will do this, God will save you, and God has done His part, now you do yours. They have fixed it where God has to wait to see what you will do, before He makes the move. And that makes God little and you big. This generation likes that, and there is just one thing wrong with that. It is not true, it is a lie of hell. God is not waiting to see what you are going to do, so you had better be interested in what God is going to do. That is right, dear ones.

Now if God is pleased to reveal Himself to us, we can find God and we can find out about God and that is the only way we can. God has to reveal Himself to you, if you ever know Him. If you go through this life, and God never reveals Himself to you; you are

going to hell when you die. You are shut up to that. There is no hope at all for you; if God is not pleased to reveal Himself to you. But that is what Christianity is, and that's what the Bible is about, and that's what God has done and that's what God is doing. And that is the good news of the Gospel.

We must learn Who God is if we are going to have any ability whatsoever to believe and act upon His acts. We find out the key to understanding as we are able, by the help of God, to understand any of the works of God. First is to find out what kind of a God we've got. The Bible says God is Almighty. In Genesis 17:1, God says: "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God walk before Me, and be thou perfect."

God says of Himself, He is eternal. He had no beginning, and He has no ending. Deuteronomy 33:27: "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms; . . .

God says of Himself that he is holy. I Peter 1:16: "Because it is written, Be ye holy for I am holy."

He has all power. Psalm 62:11: "God hath spoken once twice have I heard this that power belongeth unto God."

Also Matthew 28:18 says: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." The Bible says that He is righteous. Psalm 7:9b: "... For the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins."

Also Revelation 16:5 says: "... Thou art righteous, O Lord, . . ."

And He shows mercy. Romans 9:15 says: "For He saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

He shows grace and He is patient, and He is longsuffering. The long-suffering of Our Lord is salvation according to 1 Peter. Psalm 86:15: "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."

We want to look at the way God does. Jeremiah 1:4-5 says: "Then the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the

womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Galatians 1:15-16: "But when it pleased God, Who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace, To reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen;..."

It is a question of God doing for you and not you doing for God. Salvation is not something you do, salvation is something God does, and you receive. The only part a sinner has is to receive that which God gives and he doesn't receive that, except as a hungry man grasping for bread, or as a thirsty man grasping for water. Now there isn't any merit in that. Salvation is God working something for you and in you, that God does; you can't do that in you, that God does; therefore you can't save yourself, neither can you make God save you.

Now a man needs to be saved from this just penalty that is due him for violating God's holy law. The Bible is clear that man is a sinner, because of an act of his own will, he has sinned against the holy law of God. He is to blame for his sins. The Bible no where says that God is to blame for the mess that man is in. The Bible is very clear that if anybody is saved, it will be God's work, and if anybody is damned it will be his own fault. The Bible says that God is the author of holiness, and that man is the author of sin. The Bible says that all holiness comes from God, and that all sin comes from men.

The Bible says that by the disobedient act of one man, sin came into the world and thus came death. Therefore the Bible doesn't say that sinners are to be pitied, it says they are to be blamed. The Bible doesn't regard sin as a disease or misfortune, it regards sin as guilt. The Bible says that men are guilty and thus need to be punished, and God will punish them. And men need to be saved from the just punishment that God is going to meet out to them; and there is no escape, apart from the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now salvation is of the Lord, or it is of man, it can't be of both. God has to do His will, or He has to do yours, you can't mix them up. Everything that happens takes place because God wills it or it takes place because man wills it. It can't take place by both. The

Bible teaches that whatever takes place is because God wills it. And this generation says that whatever takes place is because "I willed it." So somebody is wrong.

Now if the Gospel is God's good news, and if it is talking about what God has done, and is doing to save sinners; then I believe it will be well for us to take a look at "The Covenant of Grace," which is found everywhere in the Bible. There has only been two covenants in time or eternity. There has just been two covenants made, one is the covenant made between God and Adam in the Garden of Eden, that was the covenant of works. Adam was created innocent; he was created holy; he was created with a liability of disobeying; God didn't make him disobey. And Adam was promised salvation if he continued in the state of holiness. Now the Bible says that Adam sinned and lost his holy estate and the Bible says that I was in Adam, and you were in Adam, and that when Adam sinned, I sinned. Well, you say, "I don't understand that." I don't suppose anybody does, but that is what the Bible says. Now you do not show any evidence that you are a child of God, if you buck everything in the Bible, that you do not understand. Lots of people tell me, "I just will not accept that, I can't understand it, I just know God wouldn't do that way. I can't understand it." Of course you wouldn't, you hate God, you are not submissive to God, you have never bowed to His Lordship in your life. He is not your God, you've got a little god that you created.

The man who has been enlightened by the Holy Ghost, whose will has been energized by the Spirit, and who has been born again, he has got a conception of God that makes him understand that God's ways are above our ways and we don't have to understand what God does, we just have to obey Him and believe Him.

Now the Bible is plain that when Adam sinned, I sinned, and therefore under the covenant of works every human being has failed to keep the covenant between God and man, and therefore is liable to the death penalty and hell; that the law says is due everybody that breaks the law of God. But before God made a covenant with Adam, that Adam broke and you and I broke with him, God made a covenant with Himself. Now any covenant that God makes between

Himself and man is going to fail, because man is in it, and therefore man has no claim on God whatsoever. And so before there was an Adam and before there was a star; the Bible tells us over and over that God Himself made an agreement with Himself. God as Father, God as Son, and God as Holy Spirit agreed to do something, and each one of them undertook to do a certain thing. Do you see it? That's what the Scriptures call "The Covenant of Grace." John 17:1 says: "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee."

The hour is come, when was that hour decided? He was talking about His death; here was an agreement between the Father and the Son. The Father gave the Son authority over every human, and He did it that His Son might give eternal life, and watch it, here is some more of the agreement. Verse 2: "As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him."

Somewhere the Godhead had a meeting and the Father said, "I am going to give you these people and I want you to give them eternal life." Here is a covenant, here is a definite number of people involved, who will have eternal life given to them. Verses 3 and 4: "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent. I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do."

13:20: "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant."

This is the only place in the Bible we find these words "the blood of the everlasting covenant."

If you will start studying the Bible where we have started, trying to find out what God purposes to do, and how He purposes to do it, and depend on the Holy Ghost to teach you, then your Bible will open up. But if you don't, you may believe most anything the latest fellow you hear talk says, because they can take the Bible and prove their doctrine. We are warned about this in Mark 4:24: "And He said unto them, Take heed what ye hear...."

Also in 2 Peter 3:16 we read: "As also in all His epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction."

We have all gotten too far from the truth. But one doctrine in the Bible isn't true at the expense of another. If you want to get at the truth of the Gospel, spend much time in prayer, and depend on the Holy Ghost to teach you.

The Bible isn't worth a dime, except as it reveals to poor old sinners like you and me, the will of God, the work of God as Father, Son and Holy Ghost. If I can find out what the Bible teaches about what God the Father wills to do, because the God this Bible talks about, can do anything He sets out to do. If I can just find out what He says "I am going to do," I'm getting somewhere. That is the truth, dear ones. We want to find out what God in this covenant He made with Himself set out to do, and how He purposes to get it done, and that will open up your Bible.

We need to study this Book, and if you can get the Gospel right, you are likely to get right on lots of other things. If you go wrong at the main thing, you will be wrong the whole way, won't you? That's right and I want to help you understand what the Gospel is. It means that my Lord Jesus died in order to fulfill His agreement that He made with the Father in the covenant. The covenant that God made with Himself, God had a will. He said, "I want some things done, I want something accomplished." The Son said, "All right, I'll do that which will make your will come to pass"; and the Holy Spirit said, "I'll do that which will take what you do in your life and death and resurrection, and I'll bring it down and apply it to the people that God wills to be saved." Now that's what God is doing.

Now listen, which had you rather the world would be run by? By God or by blind fate, or be run by you? Which one do you think would do the best job running things? I'm glad the Bible teaches that God is absolutely over all. I am glad the Bible teaches that nothing takes place that He doesn't either personally direct or allows to take place. That is the God's truth. I am so glad that

salvation is in the hands of God, not in your hands, and not in the hands of blind fate, aren't you? And I'm glad that I can pick up this Book, and all through it, if you are looking for it, you can see the truth of this covenant understood, that I read to you about. It just makes the Bible mean something and unravels the things. It shows you that this old world is not rocking along by chance. It shows you that this world is not in the hands of the devil, and that this world is not in the hands of men. This world is in the hands of God. And it will show you that the salvation of the sinner is not in the hands of a blind fate, not in the hands of a sinner; it is in the hands of God.

I have had people all over America say, "I don't believe what you preach" when I say "that God decides who will be saved." And He decided who will be saved in this covenant when He told His Son that He would give Him a people, and the Son said, "that He would die for them," and the Spirit said, "that He would apply the work of the Son to them." Some people say, "I don't like that," well, I do. I believe that if God decides who will be saved, more people will be saved, than if men did. I believe if it was left up to man, nobody would be saved and I can prove that by the Scriptures. I am glad since man can't save himself and God can save the sinner. I am glad that this business is in the hands of God, because He is wiser than I am. And the Bible is mighty plain that He doesn't get one bit of pleasure out of anybody going to hell. Do you see it?

Now in the covenant of grace whereby the Lord Jesus agreed to shed His blood in return for being given a people at the hands of the Father, and the Spirit said that He would make that effective. We find that the One God, and there is just one, there are not three Gods. One God acting as Father, has a will, that same God as Son did a work, and that same God as Holy Spirit applies that work. And so these little signs you see "Jesus Saves," that ain't so, God saves. God saves, do you see it? Listen to me now. Present-day preaching is that we got one God, then Jesus, then we got the Holy Spirit. The Bible says we got one God. 1 Corinthians 8:6-7a says: "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of Whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom are all things, and we by Him. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge...."

God as Father, God as Son, and God as Holy Ghost. The Bible says there is one God, but in redemption, in the saving of the soul of a sinner, God acts in three ways. In one capacity He acts as having a will, in another He acts as dying, in another He acts in applying that work. What I am saying: "We don't have one God, then Jesus and the Holy Spirit; we've got God as Father, as Son and Holy Spirit."

In the salvation of a sinner, God has to will that he will be saved. God has to work that he will be saved and God has to apply that work before He saves. Some people say, "I don't believe that. They say God has done His part, now it is up to you to do your part. I don't believe God has to do it all." That is a lie of hell. Now if you understand me to say that the sinner is to do nothing, you're wrong. What I am saying, "He can do nothing to save himself. A sinner must receive, but that is not salvation, that's receiving salvation." Nobody is ever saved apart from an act of their will, receiving that which God gives him. That act is of God. Psalm 110:3 says: "Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power...."

I am simply saying that the Scriptures don't teach that does part of the saving, and the rest won't work unless you do your part. That's not so, God has to do it all.

What we have been hearing preachers say for a long time now is "God has done all He can do to save you, and now He is waiting for you to do the rest." And that is a lie of hell. Salvation is not of God, plus you, it is of God. Jonah 2:9b says: "Salvation is of the Lord."

The Lord says in Psalm 35:3b: "I am thy salvation."

Salvation is something that God provides, it is all of God. People say, "I don't believe that. I believe a sinner has to do his part." That is the perverted gospel that they preach today. I'm not going to trust in something that you and God together do. I want to find out what God has done. I believe I am safe when I put all my hope in what God has done, but I don't want to trust nothing that I had a part in.

Have you received from God His gracious gift? The gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Or did you have

something to do with it? God did part of it, and you did the rest. That's dangerous doctrine. People say to me: "I don't believe that sinners are in the hands of God and it is up to God as to whether he will be saved or not." Romans 9:18 says: "Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth."

People say, "I believe it is up to man as to whether he will accept Jesus as his Saviour." To accept Jesus as Saviour is not salvation. One must surrender to Him as Lord to rule and reign over you. No sinner will be saved unless God quickens him and convicts him of his sins, and gives him the ability and energizes his will; and gives him repentance and faith, so he can repent and believe. God's people shall be willing in the day of His power. You can quit some sins, but you can't give yourself a new heart; you can make a profession and clean up your life, but you can't make yourself a new creature in Christ. We are all eternity-bound men and women and unless God Almighty is pleased to perform a miracle in you and reveal Christ in you; you are doomed for hell.

Three things has got to take place. If you are ever saved, God as Father has to decide He will save you. God as Son had to come down here and do something to save you, and not violate His holy law. God as Holy Spirit has to do in you what the Lord did for you in His perfect life and resurrection.

There is not much praying going on these days for the salvation of the lost. I'll tell you why. About forty years ago the preachers quit preaching the truth and went to preaching that which pleases the people. Where no law is preached, there is no Gospel preached because the Gospel can only be preached in the context of the Holy Law of God. The law must be preached in the power of the Holy Ghost to show man how sinful he is, and his great need of salvation in Christ. Most people have listened to a perverted gospel so long, till they actually believe that someday they will decide to repent and believe and get saved. But the Bible teaches nobody will be able to repent till he finds out he can't and unless God gives him repentance. And the Bible teaches that nobody will be able to believe till he finds out he can't. Nobody will ever seek the Lord until he finds out, unless God saves him, he will never be saved.

God wills to save. Acts 5:31: "Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."

One God acting as Father has a will. One God acting as Son has a work, and God acting as Holy Spirit applies that work. When we find out what God wills, what God works, and what God applies makes it effective; that's what the Gospel is and that's how people get saved. If you go wrong on either one, you will go to hell for your trouble. If you listen to present-day preaching that represents a god who don't know whether anybody will let him save them or not, you are going to hell. If you listen to present-day preaching which represents a salvation that is possible at all apart from utter dependence on the One Who did the work that Jesus was given to do. And if you trust in anything except that which Jesus did in your stead, if you trust in your feelings, or your prayers, or your experience, or anything except that which He did in your stead, you will have to go to hell for your trouble. And if you think that salvation is yours apart from the Holy Spirit making that effective in your own life, you will have to go to hell for your trouble. This is serious.

God as Father had a will. John 4:34 says: "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work."

John 6:37-40: "All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me and Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent Me, that of all which He hath given Me, I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 17:4: "I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do."

If we let God tell us about Himself, one thing will be settled with us; anything He sets out to do, He is able to do it. Praise the Lord! God's will is going to be done. The devil, demons and all hell

can't stop Him. I am glad that it is because God wills that some people would be saved, and that He sent His Son. This encourages me. Some may say, "I wonder if there is any hope for me." Well, I am encouraged to believe that anybody could be saved that wants to be, on God's terms. God sent His Son to do a work of redemption to save somebody, and I might be one of those.

The Scriptures are very clear that He came down here to save a particular people. He came down here, actually to do that which will enable God to actually save some people; not just make it possible to save them, but to actually save all those who were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. Ephesians 1:3-6: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ; According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love; Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself according to the good pleasure of His will, To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved."

And the Scriptures say that no man can number the ones who will be saved. I can take the Scriptures and show you that everybody that is ever going to be saved, God determined to save them and Jesus came down here and shed His blood in their stead. And they are saved because God set out to save them and He sent His Son to do that which had to be done, so He could save them; not to get Him in the notion to save them. If I can find in the Bible where He came to save some, I have every reason to believe that I might be one of them. Luke 19:10: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

John 6:37 and 44: "All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.... No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Praise the Lord! Salvation is of the Lord.

"Blessed Father, we come to Thee in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank Thee for choosing us in Christ

before the foundation of the world, and that God hath from the beginning chosen us to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. Lord, please have mercy on those who read this message and convict sinners. We beg in His Name. Amen!"

The Message Of The Cross

I believe that the essence of saving faith is hearing the Word of God. I cannot see how it would be possible for many people who are members of our churches today to really know the Lord. You didn't take time to seek Him. You made a decision, you never received a revelation. You are trusting something you did instead of Him and what He does. I just don't believe this generation of Baptists has ever been conquered by the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't believe it, do you? Have you been conquered? Have you ever died to self at the cross? Has Christ Jesus been enthroned as the absolute Dictator and Lord of your every waking moment? Has He? Of course I am describing people who say they are saved now. I don't see how anybody has gotten saved the last thirty or forty years, because nobody will listen to Him.

This is true to the Scriptures. You don't have saving faith in Christ; you can't work it up; you can't decide to have it. You can make all the decisions you want to; but unless that decision is followed by Christ being revealed to you, it won't do any good. And yet God requires faith and He will not save you apart from you, as your own act exercising faith utterly in Him. I didn't say you didn't have any faith, everyone of you all believe a lot about Christ; the Jews believe He is a good man, the Modernist believe He is a fine Teacher, the Mohammedan believes He is a nice Prophet. But I am talking about saving faith. You've got faith in Christ and believe in Christ, but do you savingly believe in Him? Only God knows that.

How does a man receive faith by which he is literally married to a living Christ? The Bible says God has to give it to you.

Romans 10:17 says: "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

Ephesians 2:8 says: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

I wish somebody would listen to Him. How are you going to get saved if you don't become a hearer of the Word of God? Not a church attender, but a hearer. For only as you listen to Him will He give you the faith to surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen! So I

want you to hear me.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if somebody would hear like the people did at Thessalonica? 1 Thessalonians 2:13 says: "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God, which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

They didn't receive it as Paul's words, but as it is in truth "The Word of God." Oh! if a man ever does arrive at the point when he believes that he has heard from God. If you could truthfully say, "that is not what the preacher said, that's God talking to me." If you ever hear from God, that will get the job done, because the Word of God effectually worketh in you that believe. He will make you a new creature in Christ Jesus.

I am just an old sinner, I hope saved by grace and I don't know much. But you are a plain fool if you call yourself a Christian on the testimony of anybody on earth, except Almighty God. You had better seek Him until He says, "My peace I give you."

I am so heartbroken over this generation of Baptists who tell how they got converted when some personal worker stuck a verse of Scripture in front of them and said, "You believe that?" They said, "Yes." "Well, what does that say?" "It says so and so." "Well, God wouldn't tell a story." "Oh, no, well what does that say? Do you believe it? Yes." "Well, you are saved, aren't you?" "Well, I don't know."

"Well, God wouldn't lie about it, would He?" "Oh! no." "Well, you are saved, aren't you? I guess so." I want more evidence than that, don't you? I want God to talk to me. I am not going to put faith in your testimony. I am going to stretch out my soul on the testimony of Almighty God. Romans 8:16 says: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

Don't go to hell, living like hell, doing as you please, depending on somebody else's word. Seek the Lord. How shall I seek Him? Listen to Him.

My theology was changed thirty-one years ago when I was a

student in the Seminary in Fort Worth. I disagreed with the professors. As soon as the Lord saved me, I went to preaching the next Sunday, but I didn't know a bit of theology; but I knew I had met the Lord. I thought the professors were awful dumb. I knew so much more than they did. So I would argue with them, but they were so hard-headed, I couldn't teach them much. But those old white haired professors, I don't think they got any kin folks left. But when I went to school, those Baptist professors knew the Lord, and they tried to teach us young preachers the truth of the grace of God. And I didn't believe in salvation by grace. But of course most everybody talks about grace now, but they don't know anything about it. This took all my pride away, so I couldn't believe that they were teaching me the truth about God's Word.

I was browsing around in a second-hand bookstore and I picked up a book and paid a dime for it. I wouldn't take a million dollars for that book if it was the only one left now. I went home and read some sermons by Dr. B.H. Carroll, the founder of the Seminary, where I had the honor of going to school. He was preaching from the fifth chapter of John's Gospel where it says: "Verily, Verily I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. "And Mr. Carroll, that great man of God that God was pleased to use, said, "My friends, if tonight my poor voice is the only voice you hear, you will go away from here nothing better. But if in the sovereign providence of God, through my voice, you hear His voice, you'll go away with life having been raised from the dead." Have you ever heard from God? Have you? Has that voice that's got authority ever spoken to you? Have you ever heard Him? When some man was preaching, have you ever heard God speak to you? Just like He said, "Lazarus come forth," did He speak to you? That's salvation. I wish Baptists believed that. We used to. We need to shut men up to listening to God. No power anywhere on this earth to bring dead people who are dead in trespasses and sin out of their graves and give them life; except His voice. Listen to Him. Many times somebody has heard from God as this poor preacher has brought God's Word. And they said, "That is not what Rolfe Barnard said,

that's God talking to me." Praise the Lord, that's God talking to me.

I invite your attention to I Corinthians 1:18, which says: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

I wish that we give evidence that we are the children of God, for the Gospel is the children's bread, and they love it. Everything is determined by your attitude toward the Gospel; if you love it you are saved. If you love the Gospel, you never get tired of hearing. It just thrills you everytime you hear it. I have thought about that a lot. We are under orders not to tell but one story; we've just got one message, "The message of the cross." Of course it is foolishness to people on the road to hell, but to anybody who has ever heard God speaking, it is the power of God, and it is the children's bread.

The message of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. I wish we could believe what the Bible says about the cross. I hope I never get so smart and so seared that it will be taken for granted on my part such statements as this, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself." Oh! that should make us praise the Lord. I Timothy 3:16 says: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh"

I don't understand but we must believe it. People could touch Him, God was manifest in the flesh. God invaded His own creation. He invaded the territory we call the earth and tabernacled among us. And He was flesh. And men took Him and with wicked hands they nailed Him to a tree; and God raised Him and put Him on a throne. And God turned you over to Him, and He's got you on His hands, and He's got to save you, or He's got to damn you. He's got to deal with you. We are never to change that message, and we are never to try to improve on it. We must never take anything away from it. There will never be but one message which is believed that's powerful to bring men to salvation, except this old, old story: "The message of the cross."

There are many things in the Bible that I can't understand. I don't understand this: that a little baby was born in a manger in a tiny little place called Bethlehem, and He lived only thirty-three

years. And while He lived, the majority said, "We will not have this man to reign over us," and they falsely accused Him of many things. Nobody but tax collectors, prostitutes, fishermen, and people like that would have anything to do with Him. They finally took Him and hung Him up between two thieves. They took Him outside the holy city where they were going to church, observing the Passover week and nailed Him up there like a common criminal on a cross. He didn't have any money so they had to buy some fine linen clothes to wrap His body in. And Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus brought spices, and they took the body and wound it in linen clothes with the spices and laid it in Joseph's own new tomb. And I don't understand this, but Almighty God says that One is His Son, and that He has turned this world over to Him. And your destiny will be decided by Him, and not by you. And that He is the only person who has crown rights to your life. And you do not have a right to do what you want to do, you've just got a right to do His will. If you can understand that, you are smarter than I am.

Oh, wouldn't it be wonderful if like a little child, you could get converted, and just believe it, and be saved. Jesus Christ hanging on that cross, Who is now sitting on a throne. The Gospel of Christ, which is the message of Him, is foolishness to perishing men, but it is the power of God unto salvation to them that believe. I wish you could believe that, wouldn't that be wonderful, if you could believe it, not argue about it and not try to understand it, just believe it. But you will never believe it, unless God Almighty speaks to you. The testimony of men will not do. Nobody but a Christian ever believed that Jesus is God manifest in the flesh.

Because I believe that a man cannot be saved apart from Almighty God working a miracle, and making him a new creature in Christ, which will cause him to actually believe God enough to act upon what God says. I shut men up to God. My only hope is that once more before we die, we will see God work, and the slain of the Lord shall be many. All His truth by which He saves men and condemns men is summed up in these words: "The message of the cross."

What is this message of the cross? When I survey the

wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, I see the sinfulness of men. This generation of sick church people, they've got enough religion to make them miserable, and not enough to take you to glory. This generation skipped the question of sin, and this generation skipped the question of the holiness of God. The first message of the cross of Jesus Christ is simply this: that God's holy law nailed Jesus Christ to that cross, and unless by saving faith, you become absolutely joined to Him by the Holy Ghost baptizing you into the body of Christ, you will spend eternity in hell. For in hell there will be lots of Baptists who say they believe Jesus died for them, but that won't save them. And in hell there will be lots of Baptists trusting in the death of Jesus, but that won't save you. There is no salvation for any human being apart from being absolutely united to the Lord Jesus Who died. He must be the vine, and you must be the branch, drawing all your strength from Him.

You must be in Christ, and that is a miracle that only God Almighty can perform. Jesus Christ was in the clutches of God's holy law on that cross, and the law in all of its severity exacted the penalty, and that's eternal death. And unless you can by faith become so united to Christ that what He did is for you, and what He is is for you, why, then you've got to deal with God's holy law by yourself, and there is no hope for any human being if he has to deal with God's law by himself.

Hell is nothing except a place where men and women pay the awful penalty of the holy law of God. And I don't want to have to go to hell to pay the penalty that the law demands. I need somebody to be my mediator and stand and face the claims of God's holy law in my stead. If I don't have that, I am sure to go to hell.

The first message of the cross of Christ. Why did Christ hang on that cross? Because of the sins of men and the holy character of God. There is no need to try to get people to take Jesus now, they don't feel any need of Him. In this generation there is no conviction.

There are at least three things that constitute the message of the cross that this generation refuses to face. The cross talks about the sinfulness of men. There is still such a thing as s-i-n sin. From Genesis to Revelation the Bible says that man is a sinner. The best

proof that man is a sinner is that man nailed the Son of God to a Roman cross, and they were your kin folks. They did exactly what you would have done in their stead. Don't talk to me about how nice people are, when heaven invaded this old world, wicked men with hatred in their hearts. Peter said in Acts 2:23: "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain."

If you don't ever face that, you are bound to go to hell. If you don't ever come to mourn over your sins there; there is no hope for you. You are a member of the human race that took the eternal Son of God and nailed Him to a cross. That's how sinful you are and that's how sinful I am. The sinfulness of man is seen better in the cross of Christ than anywhere else. When our guilt was upon the Lord Jesus Christ and I believe it was. I have absolutely no hope unless all of my guilt was laid on the Lord Jesus Christ. I can't keep out of hell unless yonder forever in the heart of God is His Son as a lamb slain from the foundation of the world. And actually in time 1900 years ago on a hill called Golgotha, they took a man by the name of Jesus of Nazareth and nailed Him to a tree and hung Him up like a common criminal.

That is not all that took place. God was pleased to bruise Him. Isaiah 53:5 says: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed."

God laid on Him the iniquities of His children, "That's my hope." When my guilt and iniquities was laid on Him, it cost Him His death. That's how sinful sin is. Oh! how guilty men must be. The sinfulness of men is best shown in the cross, not only by the fact that our guilt was on Him, it occasioned His awful death of agony. But in the plan and purpose of Almighty God there could be no way whereby so great a sinner as I am could be forgiven, except in the agonies of the shed blood of the Son of the living God. That is the only way. This world nailed the Prince of Glory to a Roman cross. How wicked sinful man is.

What is the message of the cross of Christ? It tells us first of the sinfulness of men. This world is going to hell comparing their

sins. You are going to hell for two reasons. When you were in the loins of Adam, you tried to pull God off the Throne and be god yourself; and when Jesus was here in the flesh, it was your voice that cried away with Him; it was your voice that cried crucify Him. When God was manifest in the flesh you nailed Him to a tree. You are a big sinner. You need a big salvation; you need great forgiveness. The cross tells about the sinfulness of men. The Scriptures don't say that you are going to die and go to hell, because Adam sinned. It says you are going to die and go to hell because you sinned. God is not going to send you to hell because some people back yonder nailed Jesus to a cross; He is going to send you to hell because you did. Because in the heart of God, Jesus has always been on the cross and men have always rejected Him.

What is the message of the cross of Christ? It is a message of the holiness of God. At Sinai when the law was given upon the tables of stone, we see the glory and majesty of the Lord of glory. But the majesty of Sinai faded away before the glory of Calvary, like the flickering candle before the noon day sun. Do you believe that the law of God shall stand in its awful majesty? Do you believe that every disobedience and every transgression will receive a just recompense of reward? Do you believe that? Of course you don't. We do just as we please now, and say we are saved. Do you believe that God's law cannot be done away with? It is established in the heavens forever. God Almighty will never violate one jot or tittle of His holy law. If you do not believe that God is a law-giving and a law-honoring God, then take a look at Calvary. What's the Lord doing there on that tree if God doesn't honor His holy law? When my Lord Jesus Christ as a man hung there on that cross, and out of the agonies of His suffering, He cried: "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" The answer comes back: "Thou art holy."

And when Christ took my place, the sentence had to be executed, because God is holy. I wish we believed this, but most people don't. The man upstairs that so many people talk about today is not the Almighty God of the Bible. If God was not a merciful God, He would wipe America off the face of the earth, because of the way they treat this holy day, which is the Lord's day. Most

people have told God to mind His own business, we are going to do as we please. The law says it is holy, but we don't believe it. We won't even take one day out of the week to keep holy unto the Lord. We don't have time for a holy God.

The message of the cross is that God is holy. We must have a holy Saviour, and you must experience a holy salvation, if you expect to spend eternity in a holy place.

We have invented some Bible teachers who are fundamentalist. We found out God has done away with His law. No, God hasn't, just we have. And every human being is going to be judged by God's holy law. God knows I don't want to come to the judgment without an advocate to plead my case, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The cross not only talks about the sinfulness of man and the holiness of God; but thank God it points to God's provision for a man to be right with Him in the blood of His justification. The cross tells us there is provision for every penitent sinner who can come into a living oneness with Him, Who died on that tree. It is very important that we get the proper order. I wonder if you know the Lord so that you are in love with Him; and you are mighty glad that He is sitting on a throne. Oh! that God's children would stay with the truth, and cry to God that the church in God's mercy will have one more opportunity to tell this generation the truth as it is in Christ. Most all preachers today are perverting the Gospel of Christ and deceiving the multitudes by telling them they can accept Jesus as their Saviour and they will be saved, which is a lie of hell. Man is totally depraved, dead in trespasses and sins; and unless God is pleased to perform a miracle and reveal Christ to you, why, you are doomed for hell.

No man will be interested in the shed blood of Jesus Christ until he faces his own sinfulness and God's holiness. If you would face your own sins and God's holiness, you would be interested in whether or not God in Christ did hang on the cross to provide redemption for penitent sinners, who by faith can be joined to His blessed Son.

One of the most solemn things I have ever faced is that

David Brainard, who prayed himself to death, left his bloodstains in the snows of New York state, and died when twenty-nine years old. He came to his death in the home of Jonathan Edwards, who said that as long as he lived, he would thank God that in His merciful providence, He allowed David Brainard to die in his home. Mr. Edwards said he was with him most of the time the last 48 hours of his life. I suppose David Brainard was the most saintly person that ever lived in America. Mr. Edwards said that most of the last 48 hours of David Brainard, that saint of God, he spent them looking at himself and examining himself to see if he could discover any evidence that he had a saving interest in the blood of Jesus Christ. It would be good to spend a week examining ourselves to see if we had a saving interest in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 13:5 says: "Examine yourselves, your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

2 Peter 1:10 says: "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

While I am preaching to you, I don't want to go to hell myself; I don't. I don't want to miss Christ myself; I don't.

If David Brainard spent his dying hours trying to find out if he had an interest in Christ, I recommend it to you. For yonder outside the city of Jerusalem, Jesus Christ did something for somebody. He hung there in somebody's stead. Amen! Somebody's sin and guilt was laid upon Him. I am vitally interested in whether that includes me or not. Are you? Are you? I dead sure am. I dead sure am.

"Our Father, in the Name of Him Who suffered, bled and died on the cross to provide redemption for penitent sinners, Who by holy faith can be joined to His blessed Son. We thank Thee for "The Message of the Cross, "for You made it good news to us by revealing Christ to us. Praise the Lord. Please use this message to speak to sinners. Glorify Christ even now. Amen!"

Seeking The Lord

This generation would like to get to heaven, but they just haven't got time. They had time to make a profession and join the church, but they just haven't got time to seek the Lord. When I started out thirty-six years ago, people would come hear me preach and I could build a crowd and keep it for a while, and in that way somebody would listen to the Word of God. And since no man has saving faith, and God has to give it to men, He gives it as men hear His Word. That's why they need to hear the Word, and after a while they say that's God talking. That's how a person gets saved. But now they don't have time to hear the Word long enough to know that is God talking. You must hear the law of God preached long enough for God to reveal to you that you are a guilty lost sinner before you will be interested in hearing the good news of the Gospel of Christ. If God can get you lost, He will save you. Remember that everybody that God promised Abraham is going to be saved. If God can get you still long enough to let a little of His Word sink in and grant you repentance and faith, He will save you. If you don't have time to seek the Lord till He is pleased to reveal Himself to you and speak peace to you, why you will just live a little while, then go to hell.

You haven't had time to hear what this says: a personal confrontation of the soul by a gracious redeeming God; this leads to repentance and faith, this leads to the terminating of a self-centered existence, and the beginning of a Christ indwelled life. That's what it means to be saved. I don't know how long it will take you to get saved, but it would be time well spent if you got to Christ. Wouldn't it? In the book of Acts a man said: "What must I do to be saved?" And the answer was: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." But this answer wasn't given to anybody unless the work of grace had already begun and they were in a repentance stage, just dying to be saved. But God is saying to all people, "Seek the Lord." How long? Till you find Him. Every Christian will testify to these words. "I sought the Lord" and afterwards I knew, He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me; I find, I walk, I love, but Oh! the whole of love is, but my answer Lord for Thee, for Thou was long beforehand with

my soul, always Thou lovest me. That is the testimony in the heart of every child of God.

God didn't set out to save everybody. He set out to save everybody that He promised Abraham. He made a covenant with Abraham. Galatians 3:14 says: "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

The Gospel is just a covenant that God made with Abraham. Verse 16: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."

God is not going to lose anyone He promised Abraham. The Gospel is Christ, and Christ is the Gospel; and salvation is Christ, and Christ is salvation. Salvation is a gift, but it is the gift of a person, and that person is Christ. People want to get saved, but they don't want to have anything to do with Jesus Christ. But you walk with Him or go to hell.

Christ, but knowing Him that counts, and you can only know Him by a divine revelation. Matthew 11:27: "All things are delivered unto Me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him."

It is not admiring Christ, but a vital devotion to Him and a complete surrender to a Sovereign Christ. To know Christ is to experience Him and to experience Him is power, the power of a changed life comes from Him Who sits on a throne. To know Christ is to love Him, and to love Him is to serve Him in utter loyalty and devotion.

Somewhere down the line in order to accommodate ourselves to this damnable stuff they have called the Gospel for sixty years, we have invented some terms. He is a consecrated Christian, there ain't no other kind; if you don't love the Lord with all your heart, you are not saved. If you do not serve Him with utter loyalty and devotion, you are not saved. We ought to start telling people the truth and stop speaking peace when there is no peace. Most preachers are deceiving people and they are on the road to hell.

God says: "My sheep hear my voice and they follow Me." Those who come to know and experience Christ are those who are seekers after Him.

Psalm 24:3: "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place?"

The question is: Who is going to heaven? Verses 4-6: "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of them that seek Him"

Men and women who have been operated on and clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and their lives now are following the paths that God predestined for them before they were born. Ephesians 2:10 says: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

You do not choose your manner of living, it has been chosen for you if you are a Christian. Do you believe that? That takes care of the outward conduct, and then the blood of Jesus Christ, on the basis of it, God gives us a new heart, and purifies it daily by the Word. If you are a Christian, you go to the Word every day and those who don't love the Word, don't love the Lord and are on the road to hell.

God says: "Seek the Lord, while He may be found. "He invites men to seek the Lord. God does lots more than just invite men to seek the Lord. Acts 17:24-28: "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us: For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring."

This unknown God, the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is unknown to most American people. He is a God of power. You can touch Him in faith, and life from Him will come into you, then you will live a transformed life. There will be a difference from the way you used to live, as daylight is from dark. This unknown God made the world and everything in it. He is the Lord, the Master, the Dictator, the Ruler of heaven and earth. He doesn't dwell in a temple made with hands. He gave you life, breath, and everything you got. God did all these things that they should seek the Lord.

God sure went to a lot of trouble to induce you to seek the Lord. If we don't spend our lives seeking the Lord, we've missed the way. The New Testament teaches us that it is a daily feeding on God's Word, praying and seeking the Lord. Jesus said in Luke 13:24: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."

Psalms 63:1: "O God, thou art my God, early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is."

Psalms 42:1-2: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God."

That is a description of a child of God, but not this generation of self-satisfied people who have been told that they have been converted, who have no hunger and thirst for Almighty God every day of their lives. But men and women who have tasted of Him, and He is good, and they will never get too much of God. Men and women who seek Him, and He is the face they want to look into the first thing in the morning and the last One they want to see as they close their eyes when they sleep at night.

Why should men seek the Lord? Because God has commanded it, and that is your only hope of ever finding Him. In this desperate day, I beg you to seek the Lord while He may be found; seek a vital meeting with Him, seek to meet God in Jesus Christ. Seek Him until He speaks peace to thee, and you have the knowledge that He has given you true repentance and faith; and you are now a new creature in Christ. He still gives peace that the world

cannot give nor take away. And you are a fool if you take anybody's word for your salvation except His. Romans 8:16: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Don't you call yourself a Christian until He gives you the knowledge of your sins forgiven and He speaks peace to you. He is alive and He still deals with seeking men and women.

We are living in a day when preachers have said that salvation is by decision; which is a lie, salvation according to the Scriptures is by divine revelation. John 17:3 says; "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou has sent."

Luke 10:22: "All things are delivered to Me of my Father: and no man knoweth Who the Son is, but the Father,' and Who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him."

Faith is Christ made real in you, faith is a gift of God. Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

This is a day not of faith but of presumption. I ask you "Are you a Christian?" You start telling me what you've done. I didn't ask you what you had done. A Christian is a product of God's grace. A Christian is a result of what God has done; He is always the giver and we are the receiver. There is no merit in receiving; you wouldn't brag about receiving, would you?

Preachers are telling people to accept Jesus as their Saviour and they are saved. According to the Scriptures, that is not true. You have to surrender to Jesus as your Lord, and as your Lord, He saves you by establishing His blessed rule in your life. We must give God the glory. Salvation is of the Lord. We are to say, "I am a Christian because God saved me. All I did was to benefit; He did all the dying and shed His blood to make atonement for my sins; He did all the giving, and all I could do was to receive." What most people have done is to accept an unknown Christ. He has never been revealed to your heart. And there is no power in your life because you don't have Christ. But faith is Christ revealed to your inmost being, and you know Him and love Him, and you obey Him.

This is the day of presumption and not the day of faith. This

is the day when men and women seek every thing except the One God ordained for you to seek and that is the Lord. Preachers today have taught that sinners have the ability to believe with their own wills, thus they do not call on men and women to seek the Lord. But sinners do not have the ability to believe in Christ. God has to make them able; He does it as you hear the Word preached in the power of the Holy Ghost. You had better seek Him; He alone purchased saving faith for His people. Faith is a gift, it is His to give; He bought it with His blood, you haven't got it. Seek Him and cry to God for mercy; that is a good way to get saved. This generation of people have been taught that God has done His part and, "Now it is up to you to do your part." That is a lie of hell. God did His part, thank God for it and He is still working, but it isn't up to you. All you can do is seek the Lord. You can't save yourself; you can't give yourself faith, you can't work repentance in your heart. Faith and repentance are gifts from God. Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Acts 5:30-31: "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." We are all eternity-bound men and women, and unless God Almighty is pleased to perform a miracle in you and reveals Christ in you, you are doomed for hell. We are in the hands of a God Who is a merciful God, and Who delighteth in mercy. Praise the Lord. Psalm 103:8: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy."

Micah 7:18: "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy."

He is a God Who takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Ezekiel 33:11 says: "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

And He went to the trouble of creating a world and fixing the

place where you live, and He gave His only begotten Son to hang on the cross, and raised Him from the dead, and sent the Holy Ghost, and established His church, and sent His Gospel out, so you would seek the Lord, if haply you might feel after Him and find Him. Seek Him, my friend. He purchased every blessed gift that God has for men with His own precious blood. He bought faith; He bought repentance; He bought holiness; He bought everything by laying down His life. Everything that God gives men and women that is good, He gives it because Christ purchased it with His precious blood.

Where shall sinners seek the Lord? Seek Him at the place of supreme desire. You will never find Him unless you want Him supremely – want Him. Not this damnable stuff about wanting something out of Him, but wanting Him. Not this business of using Him as a fire escape from hell, but seeking Him. He is the Lily of the Valley. He's the bright and morning star; He's the fairest of ten thousand; everybody ought to know Who Jesus is. Seek Him.

This is God's world and God's purposes cannot be defeated. And I am happy in the Lord and I would love for you to be in Him, but I can't put you in Christ, but the Holy Spirit can. You must seek Him with all your heart or you will never know Him. Jeremiah 29:13 says: "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

If you ever find Him you will know that before you ever sought Him, He sought you. You seek Him with all your heart. You haven't got time to do that, have you? Most folks haven't. I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today. This will be your cry when you are seeking Him. You will be willing to give up everything for Him and surrender your all to Him.

Seek Him humbly at the feet of a sovereign God, not trying to bargain with Him, but ask Him for redeeming grace and faith; knowing that He alone can give it, you can't. There is danger here and I speak with fear and trembling. I want to set forth a Sovereign God and an unworthy sinner; but praise God the Sovereign God that ruleth in the heavens is a redeeming God Who so loved the world that He hung His only Son on a cross to die for sinners. Seek Him

saying, "Lord God, I've got no claims, but if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me whole." Seek Him with supreme desire, seek Him humbly at His feet; seek Him in the appointed way, and surrender your all to Him to do with you as it pleases Him. He is our only hope.

Two men went up to the Temple to pray. The publican prayed in the appointed way. He smote upon his breast, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner," and this man went down to his house justified. You must come in a repentant state with your face toward Calvary. For Christ Who is now on a throne is on a Throne now because He was on a cross. You can't bypass the cross and you can't bypass the Throne. You come by way of a cross pleading one thing: the shed blood of Jesus Christ. No man can come to the Throne of grace except on the merit of the blood of Christ. And when you come, stay there until a union of peace has been made between you and a living God, and He speaks to you, and you know that your sins are forgiven and you know that instead of guilt you have peace. Take nobody else's word for it, except His". Come to the Altar of the cross. That is the only Altar there is, but don't trust the Altar. Come by way of the blood of Christ, the broken body of Christ, that is the Altar. Stay there, look into the face of Him on the Throne until He does His work in you. Salvation is not believing some facts, but salvation is being united to a person, that person is Christ. Stay there until you and He have been made one. Seek Him until you are joined to Him, for you cannot have the benefits of His shed blood without having Him – Christ in you, the hope of glory.

For He is so precious to me, so precious is Jesus, my Saviour and King. Amen!

"Blessed Father, we come to Thee in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, thanking You for the Holy Ghost Who pricked our heart and revealed to us that we were a guilty lost sinner and put us under Holy Ghost conviction of sin. This caused me to become a beggar of mercy and a seeker of the Lord; and when I cried unto Thee, you drew me to the Lord Jesus Christ and revealed to me that He is the Son of the living God and He is my Lord and Saviour. Blessed Lord Jesus, please speak to every one who reads this message, that they will become a seeker of the Lord and a

beggar of mercy. We ask this in Your Name that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Amen!"

The Purpose Why Christ Died And Rose Again

Romans 14:9

Do you know by experience Jesus Christ, not only as a Saviour to keep you out of Hell and take you to Heaven, but knowing Him as Lord and King to guide you and lead you in this life to your desired haven?

Has the question of supreme, central, absolute authority in your life been finally settled? All over this world today, men name the Name of Jesus with their lips, but they never have bowed themselves to the authority and rule of this One Whom God Almighty has ordained and appointed and decreed to be Lord both of those who are saved and those who are not saved. The early Christians went everywhere saying, "God Almighty has appointed and ordained this One to be Lord—bow down to Him!" This world, the devil and the angels and everything has absolutely been turned over to the Lord Jesus Christ by the decree of Almighty God the Father. We are to look unto Him, and if we look to anyone else, we are looking in the wrong direction. Are you still one of the vast multitude of people whom the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has not succeeded in bringing to a saving relationship to Almighty God? Romans 14:9, "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and the living." Here in this verse we have the primary purpose of the coming of the Lord Jesus to this earth. And all that He was and all that He did stated that primary purpose, that He might be the Sovereign, the King, the Ruler, the Dictator, the Lord of all mankind. He came to seek and to save the lost; He is the Saviour of believers that He might be the Sovereign of the lives of the redeemed. And our text tells us about this fact that the Lord Jesus Christ's purpose in coming and dying, and being raised from the dead was that He might be Lord, not just Saviour. And who has the right to be Lord except the Lord Jesus Christ?

Notice three teachings of the Word of God about this great truth: The purpose of God in Christ was to establish His Lordship over all mankind.

1. Christ is Lord Over All by God's Decree

In the first place, the Scriptures tell us that Jesus Christ is Lord of all by the eternal, divine decree of Almighty God. Psalm 2:6-8, "Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree; the Lord hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession." And the result of this is the right of the Lord Jesus Christ to rule over you, and over me, and over all mankind.

And this rightful Lordship is not based on our recognition of Him as Lord, but it is based on God's recognition of Him as the Mediator between God and man. He is your Lord whether you recognize Him or not; He's your Lord by divine decree. He is not your Lord by you electing Him to be; He isn't your Lord by you deciding to bow to Him; He is your Lord and that was settled before there was ever a star. He is not simply the Ruler of those who are saved; He is the Ruler of all mankind. Praise God!

He has but to ask and the heathen are His; He has but to ask, and the uttermost parts of the earth are His possession. Everything that breathes is under the Lordship and the Rulership of the Lord Jesus Christ. And that was settled in a way that neither the devil nor your own evil bent will can change. That was settled by an eternal God and by an eternal decree. He said it and that settled it. He is Lord over all mankind. That is one of the most solemn thoughts I have ever faced and one of the most solemn thoughts you need to face if you have not done it. My friends, this matter of the Lordship of Christ will not be decided by you. It has already been decided. He is the Lord by Almighty God's divine decree. He has been given the authority over all flesh; He has been declared to be both Lord and God's anointed. By an eternal decree, my Lord Jesus Christ has had everything turned over to Him. God, in recognition of the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, has anointed Him and appointed Him, thank God! He did not run for the office. He did not seek out the office; He was appointed to this office by the Father. And it does

comfort this old preacher's heart that this world is in the ruling, reigning hands of God's anointed. The devil can do nothing except under the providential will of a holy God. And all things are ruling toward the hour when the Lord Jesus Christ shall have put down all authority, and all rule, and all power, and when all things shall be brought into subjection to Him. And He shall bring a subjected world, some in judgment and some in salvation, and present a world won back to a recognition of the sovereignty of God. And turn back that recognizing world to the Father, that the Godhead may be all in all. Then I say by the eternal decree and by divine appointment, Jesus Christ is God's appointed Lord over you and me and everybody else.

2. Christ Deserves To Be Lord Over All

Then in the second place, the Scriptures ring out clearly that Jesus Christ deserves to be Lord over all. Thank God, there is One Who deserves it and that great classic Scripture is in Philippians 2:5-11, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name: that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." He has been that all the time. Thank God, Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Here is the Son of God, and God the Son, God in Christ becoming a man; here He is. He made Himself of no reputation, and came down here in obedience to His divine appointment, and that obedience carried Him to the point of death, even the death of the cross. And because of that, God Almighty has already exalted Him and given Him a Name. He had that Name while He was here, the Name of His

humiliation was Jesus. At that Name that now has been given Jesus, which is LORD, one day every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. It is not a question of whether you will bow to Christ--it is a question of when. It is not a question of whether you confess Him with your mouth, it is a question of when. Do it now under the leadership and enabling and convicting, regenerating power of the Holy Ghost, and you are brought into saving relationship to God. Put it off and just give you a little time, and at the Judgment you will acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and it will be too late for your salvation, but not too late for the glory of God the Father to shine in the face of His Son, Who is worthy to be Lord over Rolfe Barnard, you, and everybody else. And He is my Lord, whether I am obedient or disobedient. The Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Christ Desires To Be Recognized as Lord

In the last place, not only has my Lord been appointed and anointed to be Lord over all mankind, not only by divine decree, not only does He deserve in virtue of His Person, and His blessed death and resurrection to be Lord over all, but the Scriptures teach that He desires to be the recognized Lord over all mankind.

In Hebrews 12:2, it says, "Who, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." That Scripture is a little too deep for this poor preacher. I do not understand all of its meaning. The joy that He was speaking about is to have men and women here on this earth, not because He makes them, but because He enables them and wins them and overcomes their rebellion and draws them unto Himself, and they give Him their willing, loving service and they confess Him as their Lord, and they live for Him a Christ disciplined life.

You know, my friends, to refuse the Lordship of Christ (and men do it every day; they won't refuse it at the Judgment, but men certainly do it today), and to refuse Him as your Ruler and your Lord now means you will have to spend eternity in Hell. That old

lawless, ungodly cry still goes back to heaven from the hearts and lips of millions every day. "We haven't changed our minds. We will not have this Man to reign over us!" That is not said in so many words, but by your actions you say it. In our actions we would take life from Him if we can, but we do not want His holy Law. We want His salvation so we can escape Hell; but we do not want to be under His rule. But the Scriptures tell us that salvation means to be married to Him, to be in love with Him, and to be under law to the Lord Jesus Christ.

But today as I speak in this religious atmosphere when men hail Him as their Saviour, but they ignore His sovereign rule and reign in their lives, and thus they prove the Scriptures that say, "And why call ye Me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). That surely will not work.

Matthew 7:21: "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." I know this to be true.

You will never know Jesus Christ as Saviour to keep you out of Hell and take you to Heaven, apart from absolute surrender and submission to Him as the absolute Lord of your life day by day! Bless God, that's the reason He died; that's the reason He was raised from the dead, that He might be Lord of the dead and the living. Do you know Him as your Lord to rule and reign over you? You can only know Him when He is pleased to reveal Himself to you. We are all eternity-bound men and women, and unless Almighty God is pleased to perform a miracle in you and reveal Christ in you, you are doomed for Hell!

"And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent." (John 17:3) "All things are delivered to Me of My Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and Who the Father is, but the Son, and He to Whom the Son will reveal Him." (Luke 10:22)

"Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near." (Isaiah 55:6).

What Does It Mean To Be Saved?

Acts 9:12

In the ninth chapter of the book of Acts, Luke is the speaker and he tells about the time when Saul of Tarsus, journeying toward the city of Damascus, was apprehended by the living Lord and found out the living Lord was Jesus of the virgin birth and the gory cross. And here in chapter 22, Paul's language is before us and he is before the brethren and fathers and he's making a defense of his ministry. And he tells about how going down the road to Damascus he met somebody and heard someone, and how he was stricken blind and somebody took him by the hand and led him into the city of Damascus. And we read, beginning at verse 12: "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him." And he said I want to tell you why you were laid hold of; you were interfered with; your path was crossed by the Son of God. Here is the reason – verse 14: "And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know His will and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of His mouth."

How come you met the Lord face to face? Why did He interfere with you? Why did He reveal Himself to you? So that three things would be your experience: (1) you would know the will of God. A salvation that doesn't bring you face to face with God's will and make that the central thing in your life is not that which Jesus Christ bought on a cross. (2) That you would see that Just One. The deepest meaning of saving faith in the New Testament is a seeing. Here is the issue of this hour: That thou should see that Just One. Everybody that ever gets saved, gets saved just like Saul of Tarsus. He finds out Who Jesus is. A Jew had to be able to identify this Jesus, and so do you. And Jesus is identified to men and women by revelation, not by decision. It does no good at all to go through some motions and put your faith in somebody who has not been made real to you by the Holy Ghost. That thou should see that Just One, he that seeth the Son.

Salvation is a matter of seeing the Lord with a dim view, that's the new birth. Salvation is a matter of looking as in a glass, the glory of the Lord day by day, and being changed into His image from glory to glory, that's the big word – sanctification. That is not in addition to salvation, that is a part of it. And in salvation is another crisis, for when He shall appear we shall see Him as He is with undimmed view and that sight of Him is said by the Apostle John: fix us so we will be like Him; And the thing that will make us like Him is that crisis experience when we shall see Him as He is.

And then the third thing that makes up salvation is to hear the voice of His mouth. One hundred and sixty-seven times in the New Testament salvation is said to come to an individual when God calls him, and he's able to respond. I don't know why the Spirit would label that point one hundred and sixty-seven times. And it has always puzzled me how we've built up our doctrine of decisionism versus revelation in the face of the fact that one hundred and sixty-seven times in the New Testament –which all of us claim to be our rule – salvation is attributed to be a man hearing from God and being able to respond. Salvation has to do with the will of God. Salvation has to do with the reality of Christ in your innermost being. He is made real to you and you've seen Him with an eye of faith. Salvation has to do with a life-long process of my sheep hearing My voice, and they follow Me.

What does it mean to be saved? There are multitudes today that know nothing about the will of God being central in their lives. They know nothing about a spiritual sight of the Lord of glory. They believed some facts, but they have never, never seen the Lord and they have listened to their favorite preacher, but not to the Lord's Word. Until we've got a generation of so-called saved people now who are not one bit interested in the will of God. They don't even need a Bible because they don't know anything about the Lordship of Christ. They don't have to take the Bible as a textbook; they don't know anything about going to school to Jesus. He said, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." You will be a learner

and you will have to sit at His feet through this Book.

We've got a strange collection of so-called Christians in this world that don't know anything about the Bible and salvation. And until our churches face the fact that we've got a hybrid monster calling it salvation, for which we've had to invent all sorts of terms to make this generation of people comfortable. For instance, I hear this expression: he is a born-again Christian; they seem to believe there is some other kind. Some say he is saved, but he is not separated. But the Lord's Word says "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." When you say you are saved and not separated, that is not true. But we have got to make this generation of people who decided to accept Christ comfortable, so we invented the fact that you can live like the devil and still go to heaven when you die, but according to the Scriptures this is not true.

We also use the term of spiritual Christians and carnal Christians which is not according to the Scriptures; we are only trying to defend this stuff we've called the Gospel. These terms only makes this generation of people comfortable, who are not concerned with doing the will of God, and who do not spend their lives listening to His voice.

We have a salvation today that is utterly separated from the way of life and thus no salvation at all. What does it mean to be saved? Do you believe so strongly that God's way is the only way, that you are willing to give your life to that way, no matter what the cost? We've made America Christian, and all it cost was Christianity and the Gospel; until now the most pagan nation this side of eternity is the United States of America, full of people who have made some sort of profession of belief in Almighty God, but they don't know Him by a divine revelation.

Religion in general is a God without any wrath, delivering men without sin, by a Christ without a cross, that's religion today. We need a vital burning faith that we've got to recapture if we dare to call ourselves the people of God for this awful hour. A vital faith not to die by, but unto God to live by, that burns and makes us like Jeremiah. I'll keep my mouth shut, but the Word of God begins to

burn. Like the man who found a pearl of great price and can't wait to run to tell somebody about what he found.

Are any of you people acquainted with the One Who, though he was rich, became poor? He came down here not to advise us but to rescue us. What does it mean to be saved? We have got to tell men and women that conversion to Christ is not accepting a set of rules or beliefs, it's not a transaction; it's an entering into a new relation with God; it is a new birth into a way of life, wherein one surrenders oneself to be an instrument of God to do His will. Saving faith: we are saved by grace through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8). And since everybody you know and you included has some sort of faith in Christ; we need to put the words "saving faith and that is the gift of God."

The response to God's call involves three things: It involves the response of the whole man, not the soul. God doesn't save men's souls, He saves men. The Bible says God breathed into Adam the breath of life, and he became a living soul. People believe God saves their soul and don't change their daily walk; but that isn't true according to the Scriptures. The salvation of the Bible isn't the salvation of the soul, but it is the salvation of you. It will not be complete until you are transformed into the image of God's Son. That's allowed us to be saved without being bothered about the way. You know we've made a joke out of this salvation business. Christ didn't come down here to give us some advice. He came to give us Himself. He demands and He will not settle for less than your responding to His self-giving by giving yourself, all of you, full surrender to the will of God. Nothing less than this total recreation of a man will pass for conversion. To have confidence in anything else is deception. He came for Rolfe Barnard, not some part of me. He came for me and the only response He will receive. He gave Himself for you: "Here I am."

Now because we haven't believed this, nobody but a preacher is supposed to serve God. We have actually preached a salvation where a person can be a Christian and not be a missionary. You had better get saved yourself and start being a missionary for the day He saved you He put you in the body of Christ which is the

church. And the church is down here to rescue the perishing. Amen! The church is not a building, but it is made up of God's children. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could knock some of these crazy lies that have grown out of our perverted Gospel and allowed us to be comfortable church members and pay somebody else to be missionaries. But it just won't square, it won't square. And it grew out of the fact that we got saved without responding to Christ by giving ourselves to him in full surrender.

Saving faith involves absolute surrender to the sovereignty of God Almighty in Christ. If your salvation didn't leave you, if your experience didn't leave you where it left Saul of Tarsus – "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" – it is no good. How come were you interfered with, Paul? So he would know the will of God. How are you going to know the will of God until you surrender to the sovereign rule and will of God?

"Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. "Unless the doing of the will of God is the central thing in your life, you've missed the Lord. You don't know my Lord, this is what it is all about. Salvation is commitment to the will of God. Salvation means I've been bought with a price. I don't belong to myself and I am bound to the will of God. If a fundamental expression of the Christian life is doing the will of God on earth regardless of the cost to the believer, then this submission to the sovereignty of God must be present in a saving relationship with Christ. One will surrender to the rule of God in Jesus Christ or he will have to go to hell. Saving faith is not only the response of the whole man, it's not only the surrender of the whole man to the rule of God in Christ, but saving faith is the response of one who gives himself to be an instrument of God's redemptive purpose. Now this is what will break your heart and mine: we have spawned a generation of so-called Christians who are not totally involved in the redemptive program of Jesus mission of Christ.

There had always been two passages of Scripture that bothered me. One was Hebrews 11 – by faith, just taking God at His Word, things happened. But the other verse that bothered me so

much was John 20:19-21. My Lord came into the room where the disciples were assembled and said, "Peace be unto you." Then said Jesus to them again, "Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." He gave them this commission and knowing that I couldn't be a Christian and not get in on this commission, it used to bother me so much. We have a generation of church members now who say that is for somebody else. But this is the birth place of the church when Jesus breathed on them and saith unto them, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." And if you are a member of the body of Christ, this is talking to you and I dare to claim that I am a member of the many membered body of Christ, which is the church that Jesus Christ and the Spirit put me there. So this is talking to me, "Rolfe, I'm going to give you a job, the same job I've got." Jesus said, "I was sent down here to represent God; and I'm sending you out to represent Me." This commission was given to His church. Are you a part of that church? I can understand how the Lord Jesus Christ was sent down here to represent God. So that He could say, if you have seen Me, you've seen the Father. He said, "I do always the things that are pleasing unto Him." And I can do nothing except what I've seen My Father do. This commandment was given unto Me.

The church is the missionary arm of the Lord Jesus Christ. Its job is the salvation of men and women. I was reading verse 21 one time in the Greek and for the first time I saw it. For the first time in my life I shouted, alone in my study. There are two Greek words there, "As my Father hath sent me," that's one Greek word and it carries the idea of perfection. The Lord Jesus Christ perfectly represented the Father. The second word "even so send I you" is another Greek word and it let old Rolfe Barnard get in; you will not represent Me perfectly, but you're all I have. Get out there and occupy some territory for your Commander and Chief and say this land belongs to Jesus. I can't preach perfectly, but I can preach. I can't weep like Jeremiah did, but I can weep. I can't pray like Paul prayed, but I can pray. I can't live as holy a life as Enoch, but I can strive after holiness. I make many failures, but alleluia, what a privilege to be a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What does it mean to be saved? It means to be a person who hears the voice of the Son of God. Have you heard from heaven? That is a privilege, isn't it? My sheep hear my voice.

What does it mean to be saved? It means to be called to reflect the holy character of God. "Be ye holy even as I am holy." What does it mean to be saved? It means to be a messenger boy, a channel, an instrument of God's redemptive purpose. Amen! It means to be the salt of the earth; it means to be a saviour (2 Corinthians 2:14-16). Of course this is rooted in the doctrine of election. He who separated election unto salvation and election unto service was wrong. It's rooted in the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer. The priesthood of the believers means that I'm a priest for every man; the priesthood of the believers means that there are no spectators in the church of God. The priesthood of the believers means that every Christian has a ministry and a gift, so you can perform that ministry. To be a Christian means what Proverbs 18:16 says: "A man's gift maketh room for him...."

The priesthood of the believers means the committed hard chore of men and women vitally joined to the living Lord, Who is the Lord of Life: Who loves Him unto death and who will harass their life for King Jesus.

The gifted men who fill certain offices in Ephesians 4:11-16 just have one job to do. Get together, brethren, and make good ministers out of the people. Is that right? We need to be taught what it means to be a child of God. Amen! Every child of God has a ministry and you are supposed to proclaim Christ. Amen!

What does it mean to be saved? An instrument of the purpose of the redemptive program of Christ rooted in the doctrine that you didn't choose Christ, He chose you. Rooted in the doctrine that He chose you and gave you a ministry and a gift so that you could do that which God gave you to do. This is rooted in the concept of the will of God. My Lord prayed, "Not My will but Thine," if it kills me. He determined to do the will of God if it killed Him. That is Christianity, sure it is. If you do not live to save others; you are not saved yourself. God help us.

"Our Father, we beg in His blessed Name to please speak to

those who read this message and bring them to know what it means to be saved. Thank the Lord for having mercy on this poor sinner. May Christ be glorified. Amen!"

GOD'S REJECTION IN REPROBATION

We are speaking tonight on the subject that the preachers have entitled "The Unpardonable Sin." I believe that to be an unscriptural term. I believe what we have reference to is the act of God by which He reprobates or rejects a human being. I want to ask you to think with me tonight on the Bible teaching of God's rejection – reprobation – and I wish to bring three marks that describe a person who is under God's rejection.

We know this nation of ours is a wicked and adulterous generation, when we remember that one out of every seven people in New York City is a sexual pervert, a sodomite. When we remember that there are over 70,000 male prostitutes walking the streets of New York City. When we read the newspapers of the scandals like that which is happening in our government. When we face the fact of the multitudes of public preachers who have been discovered as being sodomites the last few years.

It seems that the folks in New York City who seem to be utterly out of reach of any hope are the people who were reared in so-called Christian homes and made Christian professions and apostasized. That is some statement. My conviction is that so-called Christian America has been placed, at least for a season, under God's awful reprobation. Apostasy, as I understand it in the Bible, is repudiation of profession, and that is true now in America. Long since this generation of church people have repudiated all effort to prove that they are God's people by being God's instruments of redemption and by reproducing the character of the God who called them unto holiness. This generation of people in America have not quit the churches; they give a little money, still do good, and try not

to do bad, and still attend the services, at least when convenient; but they have been sealed in their refusal to bring the fruits of righteousness that prove that they are the called of God. That person who is concerned about his own salvation only has missed Christ. God saved us that we may enter into His redemptive task.

So-called Christianity today is not making people Christians, and for that reason I have some trembling in my soul when I say that I believe America now is a reprobate nation. I believe with all my soul that the average institution that we call the church stands under the judgment of a holy God for not preaching a whole Gospel, demanding a full surrender from every person, so that every time we have somebody added to us they have accepted the Lord's commission in John 20:21: "As my Father hath sent Me, even so send I you."

To go back on the clear call of Almighty God and to refuse to get in the battle is the apostasy of the New Testament. Hebrews 3:12: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." That is the apostasy of this hour. And God's answer to apostasy is reprobation, rejection.

And for that reason, I read from 2 Corinthians 13:5: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

Jeremiah 6:30: "Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the Lord hath rejected them."

Mark 3:28-29: "Verily, I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation." They have committed an eternal sin and hell begins here in this life, and they will spend eternity in hell. A child of the devil, a reprobate. "The way of the transgressor is hard." There is plenty of hell on the way to hell. When God rejects a man, that means he is under the rejection of a thrice holy God, doomed for hell with no hope, and he enters the awful pangs of eternal separation from God.

The Scriptures speak of three classes of men: (1) There are people that are called the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (2) There are people called the children of wrath. (3) There are people called the children of the devil. In the Gospel of John we find the conflict between the Son of the living God and the children of the devil. Against much light they had rejected the truth until now there is no hope and they are told by Christ, "Ye are of your father, the devil."

Those people who are called the children of God in the Scriptures have been made the subjects of the redeeming grace of God, they are saved by God's grace. Then the people who are called the children of wrath are the subjects of God's common grace. These people have not yet been saved, but they have not yet been rejected. Then those who are called the children of the devil are under God's awful rejection – reprobation. I wonder how it is with you right now.

An unsaved man that has any sense can live as moral a life as a Christian. Many of them do. But there is so much difference in being moral and being a Christian. To be a Christian means to be committed to Christ's purpose of redemption. If you are not deeply concerned about your relationship to Christ, or lack of relationship to Christ, you are in a real bad shape. You are the only person who can be certain about yourself. You must examine yourself. Are you committed to Christ and His redemptive purpose?

There are three marks of one whom God has rejected and reprobated. A man is rejected, reprobated and turned over to hell in this life. No hope for him when the means whereby God resists your own evil nature no longer work. When the means by which a holy God resists, restrains that devil inside of you, if you please. When they no longer work, you can put it down, you are under God's rejection. That's a scary sign of this age. I am old enough to remember when there used to be things that were wrong, but most people think there is nothing wrong now. I have lived long enough to see America turn from a moral nation almost to an immoral nation; they just don't have any morals, good or bad.

The Bible tells us there are five great things that a loving God gives to men and women to make life liveable. To restrain the

beast within them and to resist that awful nature. God's common graces: (1) heavenly given wisdom; (2) heavenly given knowledge; (3) God gives them natural affections. Have you got a good job? If that doesn't lead you to Christ, you are in a state of reprobation. Has God given you a happy home and a lovely family? If that isn't used of God to restrain you and resist the beast in you and make you inclined toward the claims of God in Christ, you are in a bad shape.

And yet in America, the more prosperous we get, the more God has blessed us, the more good-bye to holiness and good-bye to commitment. Hold on to formality and going through the motions and live in such a way that we can sin and be comfortable with our god and be laws unto ourselves. A man is in a bad shape if God has given him a good wife and lovely children, a good job and a nice place to live, and that hasn't been used of God to lead him to Christ. Did you know that?

Then in Romans 2, the Bible speaks of the gift of God called a conscience. It is described for us in Isaiah 30:21: "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." All men have these gifts from God to restrain them. For it is still true that the goodness of God leads men to repentance. If the goodness of God does not lead you to repentance, and He sends judgment, that will be to punish. The Scriptures talk about how men deal with their conscience. 1 Corinthians 8:7: "Their conscience being weak is defiled." If you go on a little while sinning against it, you will get what the Bible calls an evil conscience.

Titus 1:15: "Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." And if you continue to sin and heed not the warnings of the conscience, it will become seared, 1 Timothy 4:2: "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." Then after awhile, it will arrive at the place where your conscience, which is given by God to accuse you, you have so defiled it and sinned against it until now it excuses you.

Romans 2:15-16: "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their

thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another; In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my Gospel."

There is hope for a man when he is wrong and he will admit it. But there is no hope for a man when he is wrong and he defends it. It is terrible enough to sin, but it is ten times more terrible to refuse to admit it and seek to hide it and cover it up. The second mark of a reprobate is when a man's conscience, that gift that God gives him, excuses him instead of accuses him.

The fifth gift of God's common grace is the terror of human government. The mayor and all of the law officials are servants of God to produce terror to the lawbreaker, but they don't obey the Word of God now, so no one is afraid of the law now. Wisdom is being used in the world now to try to banish God from His world. Knowledge is being used now to produce a generation who frankly says we have no need of God; we can get along without Him. Natural affection is now another occasion for turning the grace of God into lascivious living. Consciences now excuse us instead of accuse us. These are gifts of God, they are used of God out of His goodness to all men.

The marks of a reprobate – those graces and gifts of God intended for the good of men – no longer accomplish that whereunto they are sent. That means God has rejected when the conscience comes to the place where it excuses instead of accuses. This is the most solemn thing I ever faced. I believe American so-called Christianity has been placed under God's reprobation. Why? The most terrible mark of this age nationwide, church-wide, individual-wide is the silence of God. To be put under God's silence. It looks like God has said, "Let America alone." I do not hear people screaming in agony for the mercy of God as much as I used to hear and I can't find anybody that has lately. I do not see God break forth with the truth of His Word; I do not see the Spirit of God stab men as I used to, and I can't find any preachers that don't say the same thing. Everybody has got religion now and has told God good-bye, and it looks like God said okay.

What on God's earth can we do? Unto God we need to

confess we have been doing everything except making Christians out of people. We need to ask God for His mercy and cry to Him for His wisdom and try to warn everybody we can. Unto God, surely we have so sinned in this nation till God has marked us with the most terrible mark that God can place on any nation or person. He has just quit talking to us. Oh, my soul! The silence of God! Looks like He's not speaking with that voice from heaven. I've seen men have to be carried out of my meetings on stretchers so deeply convicted of sin as God called them and so deep in their refusal they couldn't walk. I've seen them when they couldn't get up out of their seat. I've seen a little evidence in past days that there was a living God and that He was disturbing men and crossing their path. It seems mighty quiet and still now. The silence of God. When God rejects a man, He quits talking to him.

We believe God speaks to a person. In the New Testament, 167 times the word "call" is found. God calls men. To be put under the silence of God means He doesn't talk any more. And there is no voice from heaven. You can hear my voice, but not His voice. If mine is the only one you hear, I've got no power in my voice. The silence of God! That is the most scary thing about this day we live in.

Does God still talk to you? Do you ever hear from God? That is a serious question, but it is a very important question because men are saved as God calls them. The Scriptures say: "Whom He called, them He also justified." 2 Thessalonians 2:14: "Whereunto He called you by our Gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 10:17: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Many hearing believed." That is not the Bible, that is God speaking through the Bible. That is hearing from a living God; that's how faith is wrought in a person, not apart from it.

To be put under God's silence is not to hear from God anymore. According to the Scriptures, the only way God has got to reach a man savingly is to call him. Men are in the prison house of sin and sin crushes and crushes, and if God can't reach you by calling you, He can't reach you. So if He quits calling, you are gone.

You had better listen to God so that if He is pleased to call you, you will hear Him. He calls men through the Gospel when the Gospel is preached by a man of God in the power of the Holy Ghost!

1 Thessalonians 1:5: "For our Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance."

1 Thessalonians 2:13: "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

Paul's Testimony Part 1 - Chosen In Him

Acts 22:1-15

"Men, brethren, and fathers hear ye my defence which I make now unto you. (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith), I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day."

And to prove my correct teaching and upbringing and parentage and my zealousness:

"And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women."

I did all of this to uphold what I had been taught, to defend my tradition, and to be true to the religion of my fathers and yours.

"As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me? And I answered, Who art Thou, Lord? And He said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, Whom thou persecutest."

I am the One Who your fathers stumbled over when I was here in My flesh; they looked Me over and heard Me and said: "We will not have this man to reign over us."

"And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of Him that spoke to me. And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there,

Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him."

Notice carefully verses 14 and 15 that God did this, God is responsible for this. It wasn't an accident, God laid His hand on you, He picked you out, He chose you. And here is a description of salvation: verse 14: "And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know His will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of His mouth."

In the Bible, salvation and service cannot be separated. It was God laying His hand upon you Saul; it was God Who was that light, that was above the light of the noonday sun, so bright that it blinded you. It was God in Jesus Christ Who spoke to you; it was God Who revealed Himself to you, it was all on purpose. God has chosen you that you should know the will of God; that you should see that Just One and that you should hear the voice of His mouth. Verse 15: "For thou shalt be His witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard."

That and only that, for only such a person will have anything to say that this old weary world needs to hear. God has determined, God has fixed it: thou shalt be His witness of what thou hast seen and heard. What a calling. This is the effectual call. Certainly this is not limited to an Apostle; this is true of everyone God calls. To separate being saved from being a God-called, God-anointed and God-sent witness of the supreme God, is deception. For thou shalt be His witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. Salvation is a seeing of Christ by faith with a spiritual eye, and a hearing of Him. God is responsible for you seeing His Son, and God is responsible for you hearing His voice. Right then and there the Apostle Paul's doctrine of what we call electing grace was born and that's the only way it can be born in your soul. If you seek to go from the doctrine of election to experience, you will go wrong. Paul went from experience to the doctrine. It must ever be that way with us. When I say in election, evangelism, commission, service, obedience; I am saying the same thing with different words. And when I say election and Gospel I'm saying exactly the same thing. I want what Paul received, and I want to keep on trying to preach a

Gospel that is full; and that the salvation a man claims he receives when he meets Christ included the giving to that person right there a vision of a God whose purpose is to save, and a vision of a waiting world who cannot be saved apart from hearing and believing that message. God deliver us from making a god or a place of refuge out of any doctrine. But, Oh! God give us afresh again and again truth in doctrine born out of experience of meeting a living God. That's what we want. Election is the Gospel. When a man says, "I am one of God's elect," he is not bragging on himself; he is describing the character of Almighty God, whose purpose is to save. He is glorifying God; he is simply saying, "God saved me"; "God laid His hand on me": "Glory to God He saved me." That's what he is saying. I long by the grace of God to preach the Gospel of a saving God, and in order to preach the Gospel of a saving God, I've got to preach a God Who sets out to save, Who saves on purpose, and I have to preach it. I must preach the Gospel of God's electing grace.

I must say that the bare unadorned doctrine of God selects that man and passes the other by, will kill everybody it touches and that's not it. But the Gospel of a God Who chooses men in Jesus Christ because God purposes to save; will bless everybody it touches. And that is the reason when Paul found out from the lips of Ananias that what had happened to him was nothing more or less than God laying His hand on him, that God changed him right then and there. The program of the greatest missionary this world ever knew was born in all of its fullness. And Paul got up off his face and knees there, rejoicing in the high honor of being selected as God Almighty's witness. We have this treasure in earthen vessels, but praise God, we've got it. Amen!

Paul went out from there a flaming missionary, it was settled right then and there. They didn't have to have a meeting six months later and get him to surrender to full-time service; they didn't have to have a study course to teach him missions. Brother, the Lord prepared him for missions and sent him out to be His witness of what he had seen and heard. Oh! that's what we need. I am interested in men and women meeting Jesus Christ and getting up from that meeting with a vision of a waiting world, and with a heart full of the

grace of a God Who would select me and you to be His witness in this world of sin and woe. So I come with that introduction to the text of Ephesians 1:4: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundations of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

That wasn't a dry doctrine when Paul could write to the saints at Ephesus; he was writing out of experience. He found out the Lord laid His hand on him. He went away from there with some things settled as far as his relationship to the will of God, as far as him keeping his eye on the Just One and as far as him fulfilling the qualifications of a Christian. My sheep hear my voice, and a stranger they will not follow. My sheep listen to me. Those are the marks of election, and the marks of a child of God, that you should know the will of God. Who does except those who have been called by God? Who else spends his time looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith and serving Him by doing the will of God? The Scriptures say we shall look on His face and we shall serve Him in the new Jerusalem.

Oh! how we need the full Gospel which will face men with the whole Christ and demand full surrender like Paul did and receive from Him our commission to be His witness of what we have seen and heard. That is it. So when Paul writes to the church at Ephesus, he said, "You have been blessed according as he hath chosen us in Him." Now I have been preaching nearly thirty-six years, and I've been looking at that verse of Scripture more than any verse in the Bible. I still don't know how to handle it. I would worship here. I would beg men and women to never lose sight of the fact that election can never be separated from Jesus Christ. The act of God in choosing men was not apart from His Son, but was in Him. That is the reason I say that the Gospel and God's election are one and the same thing. It is God laying His hand on a man and putting him in Christ, joining him to Christ, that's what it is. That is a blessed truth instead of an area of controversy. Do you get it? According as He hath chosen us in Him. If you preach election, that way back yonder God made a decree, then way down here somewhere Jesus Christ came along, you are wrong. However God worked it out, Christ was

right there. It was in Christ; it was in reference to Christ.

So I can preach that Christ is God's only remedy. I can preach that Christ is the Way, the Truth and the life, and that no man can come unto the Father but by Him. I can preach that election is nothing on God's earth than a God of purpose, laying His hand on a man and changing him and it is all in Christ. And that humbles me so that if you ask me if I understand it, I would say certainly not. But I want four things to be the result in my life of a heart belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. Glory to His Name. I can say God laid His hand on me.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever else it is, it is the act of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and whatever He does I want to say "Praise God," "Praise the Lord." And since I have no way of finding out that I've had God's hand laid on me except to experience His hand on me. The only reason I believe that God chose me in Christ is because God saved me. I heard Him, I saw Him, I felt His impact; I didn't find out that meant election till a long time later. Amen! But don't get discouraged. Paul didn't find out till Ananias told him and then you see, he could write to the church at Ephesus and it wasn't a cold doctrine; it was just a matter of rejoicing in the act of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He said, I tell you, God chose you in Christ. Isn't that wonderful?

And there are four things that will do for anybody that comes to it out of experience. (1) It will breed confidence in you, and we sure need confidence in this day. Brother, everything that is vital for time and eternity is subject to the most vicious powerful attack from the demons of hell this world has ever known. I am the weakest Christian, I guess, that ever lived; but I don't know that I am in much worse shape than you are. If I am, I'm a little bit sorry for you. Unto God I have to cry and pray and walk the floor and plead and weep to keep from being scared out of my wits these days, If I didn't have some heart belief in a God Who seeks men and Who purposes to save men; and proved it by seeking me and saving me; I wouldn't have anything that would stand me instead, when through the night hours the heavens are black and all hell is popping on my pillow,

and the accusations against me and the failures I've made ring in my soul. I think I would go crazy if I didn't have some heart belief that despite hell and all accusations; God is still on the throne and He is a God of election and He is a God Who purposes to save and He saved me.

That breeds confidence and it has a tendency to remove doubts. I thought by the time I got as old as I am I would be perfect, but I'm getting meaner all the time. The battle is getting worse all the time. I have to pray more than I use to; I weep ten times more now than I did ten years ago; my heart is broken ten times more than it was five years ago. Oh! my God, the awful burden of seeking to preach and teach and witness and live in the icicle atmosphere of the very demons of hell today. It is awful.

I look in myself and I see nothing there to give me the slightest assurance that I am a child of God and if you take away from me the blessed privilege I have, that praise God at the last resort, I am not shut up to my choice of Christ. I'm shut up, thank God, to His choice of me. That gives me hope in Christ. God laid His hand on me and I am His witness of what I have seen and heard. It is blessed to read, "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you." Oh! my sin and battle storm tossed child of God, if you are not tossing today, it means you are a disgrace to the Name of Christ. If you are not in battle on every side today, it means you are a traitor to the commission of Christ. You can't be on Christ's side now without going through hell, because this world hates Christ, and the very spirit of Antichrist is everywhere. Hear me, let no doubt within you; let no criticism from without you destroy your quiet assurance or make you question the reality of your experience. It is the eternal will of God in His decree that nothing less than that on which your new life rests. Alleluia! God thinks a lot of me – confidence. He laid His hand on me, He chose me. I am His.

The second thing that results from a heart experience of what I am talking about – not a head knowledge that will ruin you and everybody it touches – but a heart experience will result in a certain amount of boldness. Paul said, "I am a witness for Christ, He sent me forth." One king said, "I had rather face a marching army than

one convinced Calvinist with the Word of God." They might have been wrong in lots of things, but they were convinced that they were messengers of Almighty God. Oh! how this generation needs some people who have seen Christ and heard Him and been filled with the Holy Ghost and they became a faithful witness of what they have seen and heard.

This generation doesn't need to know about your doctrine, they need to know about the Christ that you say you have seen and Whose voice you've heard. God's children need to abide in the doctrine of Christ and tell men and women what they have seen and heard. Most church people today have never seen Christ and they have never heard His voice. If revival comes, I'd love to spend a day in it before I die. I would love to see God's children with a holy boldness as witnesses of God of what we have seen and heard. If a man has Holy Ghost conviction, he has been apprehended of God; he has been chosen of God; he has been appointed a witness of God, and there will be some boldness in there. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:1: "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not."

Moffit's translation says: "As I hold this ministry by God's mercy, I never lose heart in it." Boldness. Moods change, don't they? Feelings come and go, don't they? Difficulties arise, don't they? But behind all is God Who by His mercy gave us the ministry of His witness. Boldness.

The third thing that will affect a person who has a heart belief in what I am talking about will be amazement. I don't want to be in the presence of anybody who wants to argue about God's Word, but I like to be in the presence of somebody that hasn't yet got over being amazed that God saved him. Paul would look you in the face and say, "I am amazed that God would have mercy on a sinner like me." God has never called anybody to be His witness of dry truth; we are called to be His witness of what we have experienced of Him. Amen! I am amazed that He should ever save me. In God's Name don't ever get to where you can talk about God saving you without a sense of amazement that He selected you, that He arrested you, that He laid His hands on you. I am amazed. I am amazed.

Then there is the last thing that will be true to some extent at least. When it dawns on you that what has happened to you is God's doing, His electing grace, it is His salvation. Not only confidence, boldness and amazement, but for Paul a passion gripped him, a passion took charge. A passion to lead all men to the same source of blessing where he drank of the water of life. I look you in the face and say that a person who claims to be a Christian who is not gripped by such a passion is a disgrace to the God of election. Election simply means: God's purpose to save. Oh! Paul was literally seized and gripped by a passion to lead all men; not just some, but all to this same fountain of living water that had refreshed him. Paul said: "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." A passion gripped that man. God help men and women chosen to be witnesses of what they have seen and heard, to work at the job of keeping alive that passion that God gave you when He saved you, to lead men and women to the same source of blessing that you've been brought to. "Ah! If God would select me, He wouldn't have any trouble saving anybody else," Paul said, "and the rest of my life is going to be spent seeking to lead everybody I can to drink at that fountain." A man who met a redeeming God found out that God sought him before he ever sought God; found out that God chooses whatever He touches, and he went forth from that experience with a confidence, a boldness, and amazement gripped by a passion.

This old world is dying on its feet because it has become popular not to believe anything much today lest you get hurt. But oh! what we say we believe, if it is true, it is of utter necessity, and I covet for you what I covet for me: to have something of the awful necessity, the utter necessity that we find in Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 9:16, which says: "For though I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel!"

It is necessary. I can hear his heart breaking; I can see him looking at a waiting world for whom there is no hope outside of Christ. If he was here tonight when they are saying that God speaks

to men through every great religion on earth and that Christ is no longer unique. If he stood tonight in this congregation living in a world where the doctrine of universalism that God is so good and man is so worthy, that all men will finally be saved. That is the fastest growing doctrine in the world, but it is false and a lie of hell. I think I could see Paul stand here and lift up his hand and say he has committed this ministry of reconciliation to us and we stand in Christ's stead and let our hearts bleed over a waiting world and say: be ye reconciled unto God. It is an utter necessity. Let us pray:

"Our Father, in the Name of Him in Whom You chose us, we commit the message. We will have to answer for how it was delivered and the people will have to answer for how it was listened to. Do things in the heart of the preacher who delivered it; and the people who heard it, that will count in the kingdom of God. Lord, have Your way in somebody's life here that You may be speaking to. Glorify Christ even now. Amen!"

Paul's Testimony Part 2 – When It Pleas'd God

Galatians 1:20

I want to read of a man that was divinely ordained to be a pattern for every child of God; I am to seek to be like Paul. I cannot hide behind the excuse that I can't be like Christ, because He is both God and man, therefore I can't hope in this life to be as perfect as He is. But God in His wisdom has given us a pattern; Paul is divinely ordained to be the pattern for God's people, and the man whom God chose, and the man who took the things of Christ and lived them out. I want His God to be my God, his Lord to be my Lord, his faith to be my faith; God help me, a little of his zeal to be my zeal.

If somebody would actually come into contact with and feel the power and impact of the living God and be changed, and then go out to be a faithful witness of the things that he has seen and heard. Galatians 1:20 says: "Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not."

This is not truth he thought up, it is the truth that ran through his soul as he experienced the power and impact of God in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Long, long ago the truth was found; found in experience, not in fear, and a company of men it bound (who were the Apostles), the leader of the Apostles was this man. And that truth that bound them into a fellowship of committed men and women; who believed in a living God, and spoke with the authority of the Word of God and experience. There is no authority that packs the way as a man saying, "I know," "I was there, this took place, this is so." You can no more tell what you don't know than you can come back from where you haven't been. Let us read the testimony of this man. Galatians 1:6-19 says: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel; Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ."

And then in the language of authority this man who met the living God in Christ Jesus on the road to Damascus and never was able to be the same again; he could stand up without apology and

without rudeness, and be able to say: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Isn't that some statement? You have received the Gospel, I preached it to you, I knew what I was talking about, it was my Gospel. I have experienced the Christ, Who is the message of that Gospel. "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Have you ever looked at that verse? That is the only way to know the Gospel; by the revelation of Jesus Christ. "For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it."

Not Judaism that was so; but the Jews' religion; the perversion, the mixing of tradition with truth, that's the Jews' religion that hung Christ Jesus on a cross.

"And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace, To reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood; Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days."

He sat at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ for three years and was taught by Him. He didn't have to go to a Seminary to be taught how to preach. He sat at the feet of the revealing Christ, the only One Who can reveal the Gospel to us.

"But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother."

And I want you to know I am telling the truth. Verse 20:

"Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not."

Four things took place when Saul of Tarsus met the living God in Christ Jesus and God met Saul. I am sure aware of the fact that after his meeting with the living God, that for three years he re-thought, and re-experienced, and re-learned, and re-listened; but he didn't confer with flesh and blood; he got his Gospel the only place anybody can get it; whether in the pulpit stand or in the pew: directly from God. The Gospel cannot be learned, it cannot be taught, it can be proclaimed without explanation to the faith of men. But we are shut up to: "But when it pleased God," but I'd rather be shut up to His work than to be left to do as I please, or the teaching of men, however good. To me the most pessimistic verse in the Bible is John 5:40: "And ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life."

And the most optimistic verse in the Bible is John 6:44, which says: "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him...."

Bless God that isn't pessimism, that isn't fatalism, that isn't shutting the door; that is showing where it is. There is only one door, but thank God, there is one door. Jesus said in John 10:9: "I am the door; by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved"

A preacher said to me in Winston Salem: "I wish I could have you in my church for a meeting, but my people have heard you say: 'We are all eternity-bound men and women and unless God Almighty is pleased to work a miracle in you, and reveal Christ in you; you are doomed for hell.'" He said, "Brother Barnard, they just can't take that"; but that is the God's truth and there is hope there; because God is a God Who is pleased to reveal Himself. It is in the character of God to do for men and women what He did for Paul, who is our pattern. "When it pleased God." I'd rather be subject to His pleasure, than the weakness of my own resolves and determinations in the best of men.

I believe the Apostle Paul spent three years sitting at the feet of the revealing Christ; and God knows that we would do well to listen; and not simply to learn the truth he wrote down but to

experience the Christ of Whom the truth is written. We would do well to listen to a man who can come in a day when nobody wants to assume any voice of authority and say, "I am telling you the truth, I experienced it, I got this from the Lord, this is it."

There are four things that happened to Saul of Tarsus when he met God in Christ, and they must happen to you and they must happen to me if our profession be not false. If we too can stand up and speak with authority and say: "I speak the truth, telling you what I know, I'm telling you what I've experienced." Some things that always take place when a person meets God in Christ, for Jesus was God manifest in the flesh. When a man gets to Christ, manifested in the flesh he has got to God. Nothing short of that do we dare to call salvation. And any decision or profession or anything else that stops short of a meeting between a seeking God and a seeking sinner is not salvation. Paul didn't come to accept the doctrine of the bodily resurrection of Christ on the road to Damascus; Paul met the living Christ. He found out by experience that Christ is alive and he didn't believe that Jesus was alive. If Paul had seen a vision of a glorified Messiah, it would have confirmed his convictions that he was right; and Jesus was not the Son of God. But on that road he didn't see a vision of a heavenly Messiah, he saw the crucified Son of God, and that settled it right then and there. This One Whom they hung on a cross, was buried in another man's tomb; and these disciples going around here claiming that He didn't stay in that tomb; He arose, God raised Him. This was settled for Paul right then and there. These disciples had been telling the truth, that same person with the print of nails in His hands and the thorns on His brow and the riven side; Saul of Tarsus saw Him, and he was able now to identify Him as the God sent One. The One Whom his whole nation had rejected and said He is not the sent One. And all hell could never shake this man from that moment on. He said, "Christ is alive, I saw Him, He revealed Himself to me." The Christ of doctrine, the Christ of the Bible, the Christ of the bloody, bloody cross, He is alive, I met Him, He spoke to me, He changed me, He is alive. In the name of all that is high and holy this is it. If that same One Who was born in a manger, Who was crucified and hung on a cross; if He is alive then

that settled it. There is not a safe refuge on this earth for any being with his unbelief; all men now are shut up to faith, there is nothing else for the order today; if Christ is alive. Paul found out that what Stephen said was so, he found out what these disciples said was so: Christ is alive. Here is a man that said, "I know He's God sent one, I know He is the world's Redeemer, I know He is very God, I know because He is alive and I met Him and He changed me."

First Paul found out that the resurrection of Christ was Almighty God's act; what Jesus had claimed for Himself, and what His followers claimed for Him was truth. The resurrected Christ is God's signal once for all, eternal declaration and final decree, by the resurrection from the dead. God said, "This is My Son, and I can speak to you in and through Him and this is My message to a lost and dying world: this is My Son and I raised Him from the dead." Jesus' conquest of death could be nothing less than God in action. It was God making bare His right arm. Brother, if you want to see God in power, see Him as He raised His Son from the dead, that's God's power in action, that's what God can do. And when He raised His Son from the dead, He raised all of His people for time and eternity. Oh! how great Thou Art. Scripture after Scripture in the book of Acts says: "You killed Him, and God raised Him." Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father. Him hath God exalted. God raised Him and in raising Him, He raised to newness of life "all" who shall ever be bound to Him by faith. All of the Scriptures that I could summon that God acts, God's power, God's action, God's mighty acts; all of them point back to the startling truth which broke upon Paul in the very hour of his conversion that what we call Christianity is not based on tradition, it's not based on foolish inventions, but it is based on the mighty power and action of a Blessed Holy God.

When we read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, we see: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." That means He rose once and He is alive right now.

What a message! And Paul said: "I've seen Him, I've heard

from Him, I've experienced Him, I know He is alive." God is always the giver and man can do nothing but receive, but thank God he can do that.

The second thing that was settled was his attitude toward the cross of Christ was utterly changed. Most of the real conversions now are taking place long after people have claimed to be saved, when men and women actually meet God and become a member of the body of Christ. One who is committed to a person; the Lord Jesus Christ – and walk in loving obedience to Him. We are living in a day when we pleasantly accept things that can't be accepted, unless God reveals them. You are a fool if you believe that Jesus is the eternal Son of God on the testimony of anybody except God Himself. I hope someday I can learn how to preach the mystery of the Gospel of Christ. And here it is: and it comes not by learning, not by accepting what our churches teach; it comes by meeting this living Christ, Who was crucified, and then the Holy Spirit will do for you exactly what He did for the Apostle Paul: you will see the wonderful truth, He was made a curse for us. That is the most profound thing in the Word of God and nobody can accept that apart from the revealing work of God the Holy Ghost.

You can accept the hand-me-down, second-hand, something that passes for an experience; but what I am talking about is something that only God can bring to pass. Here at one sight of the living Christ as the One who had been crucified; not two different people but the same One; the mystery where justice and mercy meet; that no man can understand; but thank God they can experience. It was revealed to this Saul of Tarsus that God did what you just couldn't see in Deuteronomy 21:22 and 23 that man hanging on a tree outside of Jerusalem is accursed from God. But He was made a curse for me. If you believe that, it will change you. That will make you keep on with your face set like a flint toward the will of God, rejoicing in tribulations.

No wonder Paul said, "Pray for me that I may have utterance," authority to proclaim the mystery of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Multitudes are in hell who believed what they call a simple Gospel that a little child can understand; it is so profound

nobody can understand it. Only God could do it, only God the Holy Ghost can reveal the Gospel to you. When Christ was revealed to Paul, his whole thinking was changed from a conviction that Jesus couldn't be God's Son. He said, "He is." What happened? The revelation of the Holy Spirit that God worked a miracle: He made His Son to be a curse for us. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" (1 John 5:1a). Something has happened to him; he has received a revelation from God.

You see, nobody today has got time to get saved and preachers don't shut people up today: that this business is a meeting blood experience between a meeting blood sinner and a living God. He doesn't preach that a man has been set apart to live in the bounds and habitations that God marked out for him so that he may seek God and come into a living relationship to this revealing living God. Paul met Him and the proof that He couldn't be God's Son was shattered; and the proof that He was the Son of God was revealed to him. Yes, He had been made a curse, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me." I made you a curse, separated, rejected for me. From then on he was in a new sphere of being. Two hundred and forty-six times in his writings he calls that new sphere of being: "In Christ." It is foolish to talk about being saved, unless there is a moving from the sphere of self and sin and darkness into the sphere of Christ. Paul said, "I live in Christ." Paul's whole life and nature was completely changed. He is now a new man in Christ. That is what happened to him when he met the living Christ, and that is what will happen to you if you are ever saved. You must be "in Christ" or spend eternity in hell.

"Our Father, we pray in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, please speak to those who read this message; that they may seek the Lord while He may be found. May Christ be glorified. Amen!"

Running Scared

Luke 12:1-5

The body of Christ needs to meet together to hear the Gospel preached in its purity and its proper order; then go out and witness a good confession, whatever the circumstances are.

God's people have been conquered by the Lord Jesus Christ, and we are not our own, and we do not live for ourselves; we have lost our own life that we may gain it. If this is not true of us, we are not God's children. But you and I as God's children must face this signal truth that we are attempting to preach the Gospel today in a generation that has been utterly sinned against in that we have forgotten that the Gospel must be preached in its purity and in its proper order. And there isn't a person here that is old enough to remember when the pulpits as such paid any attention to the fact that a man cannot even hear the Gospel until he has been utterly slain by the law and left desperate with no hope within himself. Not until that time will he care whether Jesus is the Son of God or not; and whether He died for sinners or not; because he is not interested. Our task as God's people is to about face and turn around, and begin to be true to this generation; and take the only weapon that God the Holy Ghost has or ever has had to prepare men to listen and receive the Gospel; and that is God's holy law, God's holy requirements. Unless a man is desperate he cannot even hear, much less receive the Gospel of God concerning His Son. A man has to be desperate before he will cry for help or beg for mercy.

We have a "Jesus" cult today in America. Everybody thinks mighty well of Jesus; but "to hell with God." Is that too tough for you? But they do not know Jesus as their Lord, and God the Father as the lawgiver. Our Gospel has been wrong. Would you be interested in listening to the Truth long enough that the Gospel would be good news to you? If you ever hear the Gospel as Gospel, you will be saved right then. The Gospel means good news, and if you ever hear it as good news, you will be saved. The big need of every community now is churches with a man of God filled with the Holy Ghost preaching the Word of Truth like it should be preached;

so that some would definitely reject and some would be conquered by the Christ of the Gospel.

We want to speak on the subject "Running Scared." How can Rolfe Barnard as a brother member of the body of Christ that is sent in this generation to represent Almighty God to be God's voice, as God's witness, as God's testimony? How can I join with my brothers and sisters joined to Jesus Christ; conduct myself in the best possible manner, having been commissioned as I have to represent Jesus Christ? I think the only way that we can do it, we'll have to run scared.

I take my Scripture from Luke 12:1-5: "In the meantime, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trod one upon another, He began to say unto His disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light,' and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. And I say unto you, My friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you Whom ye shall fear; Fear Him, which after He hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him."

God knows if that isn't a word for this silly, giddy stuff that passes for salvation today. This familiarity with God.

When the Welch's revival was in progress, somebody asked, did they look forward to the assembling in little houses of worship, and these dear men of God who had learned something of what it meant when God was in the midst and His Presence was felt, they said, "No, they dreaded the time when they assembled together, they wanted to go off somewhere and hide," for when God makes Himself manifest in the midst of His people, His Presence is thrice holy, and about all the people can do is groan and sit around and sob in the Presence of God.

Oh, fear God! His friends are to fear God. Verse 8: "Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him shall the

Son of man also confess before the angels of God."

You don't do that by what you say, you do that by what you are, and I tell you, we've about done out now. And the only thing that is going to ride the storm that is ahead of us is not some people that are busy as bumblebees, but some people who are children of God. Your testimony is not worth a dime, your confession is what counts, and we are called upon to confess Christ before men; that has to do with character, and what we are; and not our activity. "Whosoever shall confess Me before men."

Verse 9: "But he that denieth Me before Men shall be denied before the angels of God."

How can you make a good confession? We have a brand of Christianity now that isn't worth a dime. Every one of you mothers now have been brought up on a perverted Gospel, where parents refused to do what God Almighty gave you to do. You were too lazy and so busy bragging about what a wonderful Christian you are and you turned over the education of your children to the State, instead of keeping your hand on it. Understand that all education must be Christian, not pagan. So we've said, "Jesus is Lord!" but we'll turn our children over to the devil to educate them.

How can you get your children to Christ now? Because by the time they go to public school six hours a day, then look at TV most of the rest of the time, they do not have any capacity to listen to the Gospel. You and I are facing the fact that we are going to have to let our children go to hell for one more generation in the public schools where you can't even have a prayer now, much less teach the Bible. You talk about having some churches; this nation is going to be pagan to the core and it is hurrying up. The only hope for anybody to come out of it outside the grip of Antichrist is to once more recover a Gospel that demands that everything – your finances, the way you make a living, your home life, your body, your mind, your social life, your church life – every phase of your life must be under the Lordship of Christ. For, brothers and sisters, if we do not bring everything unto Him now, we are going to be on the other side and we will all go to hell.

This is the time to realize the fact that it is all under Christ or

it is all under Satan. How are we going to make a good confession? We are going to have to claim everything for Christ Jesus. He is the LORD of education, He is the LORD of society, He is the LORD of government, He is the LORD of money, He owns it all. He's the LORD of conduct, He's the LORD of our thought life. He is LORD, He's the LORD of all. Romans 14:9: "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and living."

Confess Christ in this awful hour, confess Him in your business life, confess Him in your church life, confess Him in your home life. It is that or nothing, for if the Scriptures teach that on that bloody cross Jesus Christ bought the right to be the absolute Dictator and Ruler and Master and LORD of everything and every person, it is no small thing then, dear ones, to face this question: "How can I confess Christ so He won't deny me?" If we keep on with what we've called salvation and Christianity tonight and His Lordship in our finances. We are denying Him now, every one of us fathers and mothers who have turned over our children to a godless state to educate; we are saying God is dead, and He doesn't have the right to control the education of our children.

This nation is in an awful condition. Wonder why? Because we haven't preached Christ as LORD. Christ demands all. My Lord said, "You had better not be afraid of the folks who can kill you; you had better fear Him which after He hath killed, hath power to cast into hell." Fear Him. How can I confess Christ? It is not by saying, "I love the Lord." It has got to be by being what we are.

There was a man named Noah that lived in a day pretty much like these days; that you are called upon to witness a good confession for Christ. In Hebrews 11:7: "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

The Bible says in Genesis 6:8: "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." And what it means, verse 9b: "Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." The rest of mankind was going to be sent to hell except Noah, his

wife, his three sons and their wives. God was through with that generation and was going to destroy them with a flood and start all over again. Because of the same sin that is behind the moral degradation and spiritual corruption of America today; that's sex perversion. Now Noah lived in a day like that.

Young man, this is something solemn. God came to Noah and said, "Noah, judgment is coming. I am going to destroy these wicked people with a flood." All on earth Noah had to go by was God's Word. And the most solemn thing I face and the most crushing burden any human being can ever bear is the burden of living in a generation that doesn't believe a word of the Bible. And here I claim to believe it. God knows what a burden it is to live every day of your life among your neighbors and your relatives and your church members and the folks you work for, and you believe that every step men take is one step nearer the awful consuming judgment of God; and you try to talk to them and they don't believe a word of it.

How in the Name of God can I confess Christ in a generation that doesn't give a care whether He died or not; in a generation that doesn't believe in God; in a generation that if you talk to them about the judgment of God, they don't know what on God's earth you are talking about? And you believe it, and the fire burns within you. There's old Bill. He's headed straight for the judgment. There's my son; he's headed for the judgment, but he doesn't believe it, and I do. Now, brother, that's a burden.

And here's old Noah. He lived in exactly that generation. He believed what God said; he believed it enough that he moved with fear. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house." He went and bought some lumber, a hammer and some nails and he started tacking away, building an ark; to provide safety for everybody inside, and condemn everybody outside. That's the Gospel; that's Christ; in Him deliverance from the wrath to come. Outside of Him, no hope, no hope.

And old Noah believed that judgment is coming. He believed that people needed to escape it. He believed that there ought to be a way of escape. So he spent his life doing two things: preaching

righteousness and preparing an ark. That is how you can witness a good confession in any day. Running scared.

Is life worth living? I know it is foolish to claim to be a Christian unless you devote your life to just two things: (1) the proclamation of the holy character of God, and His righteous demands and commands. (2) Then pointing men and women who will listen to the only place of escape, which is in Christ. That is what Noah did: he ran scared, he believed something, he believed that God was going to bring judgment on men and women. He couldn't see it, but he believed it.

Leonard Ravenhill said some of these days some little humble believer was going to pick up the Bible and read it and believe it. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could believe it? Not argue about it, just believe it. And he said that little simple believer is going to make the rest of us folks ashamed of ourselves. I am familiar with these people who say: "Oh, I'm a fundamentalist. I believe the Bible from cover to cover." But they haven't ever looked inside to see what it says. And I am also familiar with the fact that this man believes only what he obeys; that's right, I just believe what I put into practice.

"Old Noah," God said, "judgment's coming," and he believed it. Poor old fellow didn't have a convert, but I tell you what he did. He prepared a place of safety and he warned men of judgment to come. That's about as far as you can go, bud. All this foolish business about how many people we have won to Christ. I know that has some meaning and we are to weep and warn and pray, and everything else. But not a one of us can win anybody to Christ. All we can do is witness to them and pray for them and preach to them, but we cannot act for them.

And old Noah for 120 years, as he hammered away on that ark, while the longsuffering of God waited, he preached righteousness and nobody believed him. And anybody that is preaching righteousness today in a church that is standing for it and saying that "Judgment is coming and God must punish sin!" and the only hope is to be in Christ: if you are doing this, there is nobody much listening to you either. But it is not our business whether folks

listen or not, you just got one business, and that is confess Christ in your day. Amen! That's right. If that means they are going to burn you at the stake, you've just got one job and that is to confess Christ. If you don't, He will deny you if you deny Him. God knows this is serious. All that Noah was called upon to do in his day was the same thing that we are called upon to do: Confess Christ.

"Noah, what are you building the ark for?"

"It's the only hope! Judgment's coming! Judgment's coming! The only place of safety will be in here!" That's confessing. He said, "All my hope and faith is here, this will be the only place of safety. Everywhere there will be judgment." That is confessing Christ. That is not saying that this is one way, but that is saying that Christ is the only way; and it is Christ or the judgment. Confessing Christ, he moved with fear, and he ran scared, tacking away. "This is the place! Judgment everywhere else!"

My soul! Our deepest need it seems to me. I know it is true for me and this is a battle. This isn't easy, to have a conviction of the coming of the judgment of God, and actually believe that it is in Christ or the awful wrath of the judgment of God for the best man that ever lived! And be so overwhelmed with that conviction that we move out to obey God, whatever it costs to warn men. That's the need of this hour, unto God, folks, it's time to quit trying to get somebody to take Jesus. They don't want Him, they don't have any need of Him. Unto God, it is time to proclaim Him in all of the glory of His Person and the perfection of His works, and warn this generation with tears.

It's Christ or the judgment. And there's only one mediator between God and man. 1 Timothy 2:5: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Unless you are in Christ, you have no mediator, and it takes a miracle that only GOD ALMIGHTY can perform to put you in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Everyone needs a mediator to stand between them and the stroke and lash and wrath of God's holy law.

If I had just one sermon to preach, and I was the only

preacher to preach and I could get out in some public place as the people of the world passed by and this was the only sermon the people would ever hear, I tell you what I would do; I would hold up my hands, and I'd lift up my voice and I would cry, "Stop, people! You are headed for a meeting with the holy law of God!" There is one thing that no human being will escape. Every human being has got to deal with God's holy law. Oh, my God! Won't it be awful to come and have to face God Whose will, and His way, His demands, His commands and His requirements are expressed in His law? No man is going to be judged about what he did about Jesus. He's going to be judged by what he has done about God's holy law. According to the Bible, everybody is going to come to the judgment. Some men's sins are judged before and others wait till the time of judgment.

1 Timothy 5:24: "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment, and some men they follow after." But there is one thing dead certain: we must all – either in this life or at the judgment – have to deal with God's holy law. It will be awful to have to deal with God's holy law by yourself. Oh, I beg men and women, don't go on, don't keep on taking another step, you are headed right into the holy law of God! And anybody that tries to deal with it in your own strength it will tear you to pieces! It will tear you to pieces.

Please don't spend your life in the pleasures of sin and never look at yourself in God's mirror. God has been good. He has fixed it so any human being can get a look at yourself, and see yourself as God sees you and see what God requires of you, and see that God will not ignore His holy law. The law is going to be satisfied. It is going to be vindicated in you. I don't care what you do. If you take a look in that mirror, you will do one of two things: you will say, "We will not have this man to reign over us," and go on to hell. Or you will fall and say, "Oh, my God! Is there any hope for me?" And when somebody tells you about the One Mediator, that will be good news to you.

Yes, there are ways that the law of God can be dealt with in Christ Jesus. All of His wrath falls on Jesus. I need Him as my

Mediator, I need Him as my substitute. If I do not have Him to deal with the law in my stead, I am going to have to deal with it in my strength, and that will be eternal hell for every human being that is not in Christ.

You need a mediator, the man Christ Jesus. That is the Gospel. My only hope, my only plea, Christ Jesus died and He died for me. That is my faith. That is my faith.

Galatians 3:23-24: "But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

The bitterness of death is sin unpardoned.

"Oh Father, may the Spirit of the Almighty God be pleased to convict men of their sinful lost condition; and their need of the only Mediator, the man Christ Jesus. We pray in His Blessed Name, Amen!"

Five Marks Of A False Prophet

Matthew 7:13-20

"Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

It is my conviction, not mine alone, that our task these days is three-fold in the public proclamation of the Word: (1) we must proclaim and enforce God's holy law; (2) we must proclaim God's holy Gospel in all of its purity, and in its proper order; and (3) we must lift up our voices and call to the people's attention the Saviour's plain admonition: "to beware of false prophets."

Let me call to your attention one more time that a false prophet is not necessarily an evil prophet. In the Old Testament, and sometimes in the New, there are evil prophets. They are malicious; they are satanically inspired. But a false prophet could be a fine fellow. He comes to you in sheep's clothing. But the fact that he is such a nice fellow, he is so earnest and he's so sincere, he seems to have such a passion for souls, and he seems to want to see people saved so intensely; which makes him all the more dangerous, because the people will hear him as he preaches a message that doesn't bear good fruit. I don't care how nice a man is, if his message doesn't produce good fruit, he is a false prophet. And the Lord tells us to beware of false prophets, and He tells us how we can tell false prophets by their fruits that result from the ministry of that fellow that preaches on the street, or over the radio, or from the pulpit stand or wherever he may preach. If his converts are not good, if his converts do not spend the rest of their lives as callers and seekers of the Lord, if his converts go to hell because they are depending on

some physical act they performed or some prayer that they said or something like that, then "beware of false prophets."

I heard a preacher over the radio today telling the sinners to pray the sinner's prayer, and he guaranteed that he would be saved. Now that is a lie of hell, and it came from the lips of a false prophet. He may be a nice fellow and be very sincere; but he knows nothing about the way God brings sinners to Himself. The reason he doesn't know is because he doesn't know the Lord, and has never been brought to salvation in Christ. "If sin is damning its thousands, religion today is damning its tens of thousands!"

And it is time now, in the battle of words and in the conflict of doctrine; and especially since you and I have lived all the days of our life when the fruit has not been very good. And we have to dig ourselves considerably to find the slightest evidence that we have a saving interest in the blood of Christ, and that we are truly united to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Scriptures tell us that we are a branch if we are a child of God, and the sap, the juice, the power and the life comes from the vine. And we look at ourselves in these days, when we can almost hear the death rattle of real Christianity, and it is hard for us to see that we have the slightest evidence in ourselves that there is any power flowing to us from the vine, and then through us to lost mankind.

This is desperate language and certainly this is the time for us to prick up our ears and beware of false prophets. To search our own experience and our own convictions and our own standing and condition to see whether or not we are on this broad road that is the road of religious profession where everybody on it calls Jesus "Lord." Where even some on it do some tremendous mighty acts: cast out demons and so forth. And where now we are living in a time when so many people are discovering that they had strong faith, but they had their faith in the wrong person or the wrong thing. Where the winds from a thousand directions are blowing and the confidences and assurances of multitudes of people that thought they were built on a rock is long since gone since they found out their whole spiritual structure is blown away and here we are. "Beware of false prophets!"

Now this is not just to be sneered at, since our Lord has so seriously warned us and admonished us to strive to enter in at the strait gate and thus walk the narrow way. And He also told us that there is a wide gate that leads to a broad way which leads to eternal destruction. The strait gate leads to a narrow way, and that narrow way alone leads to life. It is not to be just passed over that in verse 15, God says, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Verse 16: "Ye shall know them by their fruits." He wants us to be keenly alert to see to it whether we believe a lie or whether we believe the truth; for if you believe the devil's lie you cannot be saved. And if you do not prick up your ears, and cry to God to give you discernment, you will be like the folks who listen to the radio today: they believe everything they hear, and thus they believe nothing. Oh, beware of false prophets! We need to heed that warning, especially today when we live in a day of mighty low ebb of spiritual power and very little truth is preached. We are in a desperate state and the preacher knows it and feels it, and would do you good if he could.

Some people do not even bring their Bible when they come to preaching. What do they expect? What on earth has happened to us? The people in Berea were wise. Acts 17:11: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so. "If the Scriptures are true where my Lord said, "My sheep hear My voice and they follow Me," then when we don't use our Bibles, that is a mark of something that is terribly bad. I wish you had more interest in your soul. I wish I could jar you out of this state of death that we all seem to be in, and I wish the Holy Spirit would spur somebody to the danger of not absolutely measuring everything you hear, not by what Rolfe Barnard says, but by what the Word of God says, because there is the truth and I wish we believed it.

Beware of false prophets! We cannot ignore this. The Lord wants us to wake up to the fact that the way people get on this broad way is because they listen to false prophets, not bad men, but men who did not preach the truth, or they preached a half-truth and that is

worse than a whole error; because people will believe it quicker when it is a half-truth.

I want to mention from the Word of God five marks of false preaching that are peculiar to the hour in which we live. And these marks by which men and women who really have an interest in eternity and has some belief that out yonder there is another life, and that what happens these days down here will determine what will happen out yonder. I believe these five things are worthy of our close attention. I do not take the time to mention many of the marks of a false prophet that we find in the Old Testament and the New. But I pick out five that seems to me to be peculiar to the preaching of this age that has got us in this awful deathlike state we are in where it seems that we are powerless to pray and we have no hunger for the Word of God. It seems that we are just about half-dead, dragging along and hoping for the best.

The Lord says we can tell these false prophets by their fruits. And as I look about the fruit of our ministry for these 40 or 50 years, the fruit is getting worse all the time. The standards are going down all the time. The marks of death are growing all the while and the marks of life seem to be almost disappearing. I think these five things really make a picture of the type of preaching that we've had for these many years and it has got the multitudes on this broad way, and it is leading multitudes of people who are sincere. They are dead, but they are sincere. They are lifeless, but they have believed what they have been told. But they are on the broad way and they think they are all right. And only an awakening of the Holy Ghost will ever awaken them and unless this happens they will go to hell and will be greatly surprised because they thought they were all right.

The first of these marks is that a false preacher will speak peace to a sinner when God hasn't spoken peace. The Old Testament talks about men who speak peace when there is no peace. One preacher said, "I have a deep conviction that we've made decisions for multitudes of people these days. We have filled our churches and many of them are going to hell who have accepted a proposition, and know not our Lord." How many of you have accepted a

proposition instead of surrendering to the Lord Jesus Christ? We are all eternity-bound men and women, and unless God is pleased to perform a miracle in you and reveal Christ in you, you are doomed for hell.

We have literally substituted the winsomeness of our personality and the power of our appeal for the only thing that has got any power in it. The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. Let me give you an illustration: God had to come to the Apostle Peter and nearly kill him before he could get rid of his tradition and his Jewish prejudice, and finally He sent Peter down to Cornelius, who was down there praying and worshipping God the best he knew how. He was just hoping that somebody would come and speak to him the words of salvation. The Apostle Peter went down there and knocked on the door: "Come in."

"I'm the Apostle Peter. Are you Cornelius?"

"Yes."

"Well, I want to know, Cornelius, if you want to accept Jesus as your personal Saviour?"

No, he didn't do any such thing. There is no power in your little old invitation, and there is not a bit of power in any man's decision. But there is power in the Gospel of Christ. Do you know what Peter did? He preached the Gospel to him.

I'm telling you, for the last 40 or 60 years, church members did not know the Gospel themselves, and when they went out and did personal work they did not give the sinners a bit of truth. They just stuck out their hand and said, "Won't you accept Jesus as your personal Saviour?" and they did, and went on to hell.

chance to witness to a person, what are you going to tell him? Please do like Peter did. Give him the truth of God in Jesus Christ. And the Scriptures tell us in Acts 10:44: "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word." They can't get saved by your little old invitation; that isn't worth a dime. They just accept a proposition and go on to hell believing they are all right. And these false preachers have spoken they are all right. And these false preachers have spoken peace when there was no peace. The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto

salvation. I am pleading that we quit all this foolishness and get us a Bible and go out here and represent Christ instead of disgracing Him. And when we witness to a sinner, do what they did in Bible times. Give him the Word, and if the Holy Ghost falls on it, he will get saved while he is listening. But he won't get saved by you just asking him, "Don't you want to accept Jesus?"

Most of you folks are going to hell because all you got was a proposition you just accepted that somebody made, but there is no salvation in a proposition. The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation. Repent and believe the Gospel. Repent or perish.

These young preachers say, "Do you mean to tell me, when we go out to do personal work, we ought to just give them the Word of God?" That is exactly right; and pray that the Holy Ghost will fall on them while they listen, and they will be saved if He does. You can't improve on this. When you go out to do a little personal work, you didn't give them the Gospel; you just gave them your little invitation, and all they did was accept your invitation and you told them that they were all right. You spoke peace when there wasn't any peace.

Hear Brother Barnard one more time between eternity, between heaven and hell; there is only one voice that has been given the authority, the power and the ability to speak peace to a troubled soul, and that is the voice of God. If that old sinner has to have you convince him that he is saved, you are deceiving him. Only the Holy Ghost can comfort a sinner. And if He comforts you and gives you peace, that is fine. Romans 5:1: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." But if you got your hope of going to heaven because you accepted my proposition or somebody else's plea to accept Christ; I am afraid that your hope is false and you are deceived, and you are walking on the broad way that leads to destruction.

Another mark of a false prophet that is closely akin to this one is the Old Testament speaks of men healing the wounds of people slightly. I go from place to place and one time I see glorious things and another time deadness. I can't do it myself, so I just keep on and keep on. But I refuse to compromise. I have seen multitudes

make a profession, but I won't know if any of them got saved or not till I get to the judgment. I hope many of them did, but I've never done one thing, and so help me God, I never will. I will never stoop to these underhanded methods to get people to say they accept Jesus, if they do not want Him mighty bad. I'm telling you what's the truth, these dry-eyed professors who say they get saved and continue on in their sins – I've actually seen men claim they got converted in the service at the old mourners' bench and go right back out and light a cigarette. Why, there is no more salvation to that than there is in a monkey, and you know it. Their salvation didn't even clean up the outside! That's no good, and you know it's no good. Oh! healing the wounds slightly.

With the exception of John the Baptist, who was filled with the Holy Ghost in his mother's womb, and Jeremiah likewise, I'm on pretty safe ground when I tell you that in order to save a human being, the lovely Lord has to wound you. And a preacher who will heal the wounds of a sinner is a false preacher. We have a generation of people now who say they have peace but they never knew bitterness and they scare me. My lovely Lord, in order to conquer an old rebel, He crushes him to where he will bow to His blessed rule. My Lord is kind enough to wound sinners, humble them, and break them. Let God give them joy. He is the only One Who can give them joy and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

In times when I have seen just a little of what we call revival, I have thought sometimes that my old heart would break as I have seen men and women suffering under the wounds of Him Who loves sinners enough, that rather than see them go to hell, He will wound them, and He will wound them deeply. If He doesn't, they won't ever call on Him. We do not believe it, but it is so; a sinner will never call on the Lord if he can help it. God has to crush him and wound him. Don't heal the wounds of sinners slightly, don't do it. Let the One Who inflicts the wound. And if the Lord doesn't wound you, you are going to hell, I tell you that. The wounds of my blessed Lord go mighty deep. He has to wound you or you will go to hell. Don't speak peace, let God speak peace; don't tell a man what God has done for him, let the man tell you what God has done. You can't beat

the Holy Spirit for doing what God Almighty gave Him to do.

In the third place, false prophets make the gate a lot easier to get in than the Lord did. It is so hard to get in this strait gate. My Lord said, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:24). Oh, my soul! How easy it is made now, but it is only deception. But my Lord said, "You are dead in trespasses and sins, you have a heart of stone, you must be made a new creature in Christ or go to hell." The Lord must make you willing to bow to His rule and reign. That old wicked hostility in your heart has got to come out and you have got to be made a willing captive of bloodstained Jesus, with His will central in your life, and nothing but an operation of the Holy Ghost in the power of the blood of Christ, the risen Lord, is sufficient for your need. We know this is the truth according to the Scriptures. So what in the Name of God will this generation of easy-going, sinful living men and women, claiming to be children of God, how will they fare when they stand at the judgment, having ignored this admonition of the Lord?

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate." It is so difficult. You can't have this world and Christ, too; one of them has got to go. You can't have the spirit of this age and Christ, too; one has got to go. You can't have all of this and heaven, too; one of them has got to go. He told the truth. And I say to you that a false prophet who will preach this little easy Gospel, that you can keep your sins and do as you please and every once in a while you can get up in the church and say, "Now I am saved, but I haven't been living right," and that will make you feel better for a couple of weeks, and after awhile you will die and go on to hell. Ladies and gentlemen, this is serious. This strait gate is difficult, and the false prophet will tell you it is easy.

What are the marks of a false prophet? In this day, they make a way a whole lot broader than Jesus makes it. I know that this generation has not been told the truth. When I keep hearing people tell me, "I know I am saved, but I am not living for the Lord," there is something wrong. This narrow way hasn't got room on it for men and women in rebellion against Christ! Hear me! This narrow way is a Christ-disciplined way. I tell you now that I would do you good

and not evil at all. You had better bring your habits, your thoughts, your work, your body, your home and everything there is about you to Christ, and put them under His discipline. Too long we've had a generation of church people that decide what they will do and what they will not do. I tell you now that I would do you good. It is not given us to walk this narrow way except under the discipline of the Lord of glory, and that will call for daily repentance, and daily exercise of faith, and daily surrender and commitment, and that will call for daily getting your orders from the Commander and Chief, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We don't know much about what I am talking about now. My heart leaps within me lest we've missed Christ altogether. This disciplined road is not disciplined by what we claim, but by what we do. Matthew 7:21: "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." "Not the person who says he is saved, but is not living right; but the Lord says, "he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." The child of God wants to do the will of God, that is the desire of his soul. He is not in the broad way, he is in the narrow way because he is under the strict discipline of Jesus Christ, Who earned the right to demand of us that we bring our very thoughts into captivity under Him. 2 Corinthians 10:5: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. "That is a job.

I Corinthians 10:31: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

But the false prophet, his converts say, "Oh, I am saved," but the will of God is not the central thing in their lives, and there is no salvation there. A false prophet speaks peace where there is no peace, and heals the wounds of men slightly; he also makes the gate easy to enter instead of difficult, and the way broad instead of narrow. He not only does this, but he offers salvation on cheaper terms than God does. The terms have never been changed: any person who is able to repent – but repentance is not a once-for-all act. It goes on as long as you live. And anybody that is able to

believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; but that is not a once-for-all act, it goes on as long as you live. Anybody that can meet the terms of salvation, that is repentance and faith; he will be saved, thank God! 2 Corinthians 7:10: "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."

But they will not be lowered and they cannot be cheapened, and repentance is nothing more or less than the dethronement of you and the enthronement of God's Son in here. And faith is utter confidence in and absolute obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. Almighty God has to perform a miracle: He quickens you and shows you how sinful you are by His holy law, and when you cry unto Him for mercy, He draws you to Christ and reveals to you Who He is, and makes you a new creature in Christ. He gives you the faith of the Son of God so you can believe to the saving of the soul, and He also grants repentance. "Salvation is of the Lord."

But what we've known all the days that I've been preaching, you just go through some motions one time and the preacher tells you that you are saved, and you go on to hell comfortable in your sins, believing that you are all right. No! Every commitment between you and God needs to be made time after time. The Scriptures say, "he that believeth," he just keeps on believing. "He that endureth," he doesn't play out; it's "he that abideth," "he that drinketh," it's "he that obeyeth." We walk by faith. Every day calls for new commitment to the utter LORDship of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, utter dependence on His saving blood to wipe out the penalty of sin that God Almighty demands. And to make it cheaper than that is the mark of a false prophet. Utter dethronement of self, utter enthronement of Christ: Christ where you have been, Christ giving the orders, Christ in command. That's repentance.

I am going to look you in the face now. I will meet you at the judgment. Anybody on earth that will take the Bible and face it and find out what is in it will be faced with the absolute claims of God for His Son in your life. Anybody who will do that will either curse

God and hope to die, or it will bring you to deep repentance every day of your life. For the best saint that ever lived, when he is faced with all the claims and commands of God for His Son will have to continually face the fact that you are far off, so far short. His demands and His claims of His rule in your daily living, if it doesn't cause you to have tremendous experiences of repentance and crying to God for forgiveness and confession of sin, it is because you know nothing of Christ, you are a stranger to the Son of God.

McCheyne said, "Christ's war is to be preferred to the devil's peace." And if Christ is in here, He will disturb you till the day you die. If He is not in there, if He is just a profession to you, if He is just somebody you hope will keep you out of hell and leave you alone while you live, you will never know anything about what I am talking about. But if Christ is in you, He is holy and He will disturb you, and you will know to cry for forgiveness every day. You will know what it is to pour out your heart about your sins. The reason you don't think that you are a big sinner is because Christ isn't in there.

What is the awful price you pay for listening to false preachers? It will show up at the judgment. Matthew 7:22-23: "Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy Name? and in Thy Name have cast out devils? and in Thy Name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity. "That is the price people will pay for listening to false preachers, going through a wide gate of easy believeism, walking on the broad way that doesn't bring you under Christ's discipline every blessed day of your life. That is the price that the youngsters writing notes while the preacher is preaching will pay at the judgment. God will say: "I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."

My Lord said, "Beware of false prophets." Beware! Beware!

"Blessed Father, we thank Thee for warning us about false prophets in Thy Word. We thank Thee for our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost to guide us into all truth. Please speak to those who read this message and have mercy on them according to Thy will. We beg in the Name of Christ. Amen!"

The Difference In The Old Gospel And The New Gospel

Hebrews 12:2

Now my friends, I come to say that the Old Gospel of God's Grace is opposed to this "new gospel" of part grace and part man. The Old Gospel, which is the true Gospel of God, safeguarded some values which this "new gospel" loses. Will you hear me carefully now? The "new gospel" that we have today by a certain universal redemption and universal divine saving purpose compels itself to cheapen grace and to cheapen the cross of Christ, by denying that the Father and the Son are sovereign in salvation. This "new gospel" assures us that after God in Christ has done all that They can or will do, it depends finally on each man's own choice whether God's purpose to save him is realized or not.

Now my friends, this popular position has two unhappy results — this preaching that God has done His part and now He helplessly stands by while you decide whether or not his purpose shall be realized:

In the first place, this position compels us to misunderstand the significance of the gracious invitations of Christ in the Gospel. When we hear the invitations of these preachers who pervert the Gospel, they are not the expressions of the tender patience of a mighty Sovereign—they are the pathetic pleas of human desire. And so the enthroned Lord of glory under present-day preaching is suddenly changed into a weak, futile figure, knocking at the human heart which He is powerless to open. My friends, this is a shameful dishonor to the Sovereign Christ of the New Testament. In the second place, this "new gospel" as it is preached forces us to deny our dependence upon God; when it comes to vital decisions, it takes us out of God's hands. It tells us that after all, we are the master of our fate, and the captain of our souls. And it so undermines the very foundation of our relationship with our Maker. No wonder the converts of today are so often both irreverent and irreligious.

The Old Gospel speaks very differently in expounding man's

need of Christ; the Old Gospel stresses something almost ignored today. That something is that sinners cannot obey the Gospel any more than they can obey the law, apart from renewal of heart. On the other hand, declaring Christ's power to save, the Old Gospel proclaims Him as the Author and chief agent of conversion. It preaches Him as coming by His Spirit as the Gospel goes forth to renew men's hearts and draw them to Himself. Thus, the Old Gospel, while stressing that faith is man's duty, stresses also that faith is not in man's power. God must give what He commands. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Hebrews 12:2a says: "Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith..."

Thus the Old Gospel announces not merely that men must come to Christ for salvation, but the Old Gospel also announces that men cannot come unless God draws them. John 6:44 says, "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him..."

John 14:6 says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me."

John 3:27 says, "John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from Heaven."

Thus, my friends, the Old Gospel does what desperately needs to be done; it labors to overthrow self-confidence, it labors to convince sinners that salvation is altogether out of their hands, and to shut sinners up to a self-despairing dependence on the glorious grace of a Sovereign Saviour, not only for their righteousness, but for their faith, too. Thus the Old Gospel doesn't talk about deciding for Christ, as we hear today. For this business of deciding for Christ suggests voting a person into office. It suggests an act in which the candidate plays no part, beyond offering himself for election. Everything is settled by the voter's independent choice. I wish people would believe me when I tell you that we do not vote God's Son into office as our Saviour! Nor does our Saviour remain passive while preachers campaign on His behalf.

My friends, coming to Christ, resting on Christ and turning from sin in full surrender to Christ is far different from deciding for

Christ as your Saviour. Those who pervert the Gospel beg people to accept Jesus as their Saviour, and they will be saved. That is a lie out of Hell, because it is not in the Bible. If a person does not surrender to Jesus Christ as your Lord to rule and reign over you — Why! — You are not saved! We also hear these words spoken by preachers who pervert the Gospel: "Now sinners, God has done His part — the Devil wants you, and Christ wants you, and you have the deciding vote." But, my friends, that is a lie out of Hell! Christ didn't just offer Himself for office. He is working now, He is on a throne now ruling and reigning as Prophet, Priest, and King. He does not stand by while we try to get people to decide for Him as the Gospel is proclaimed.

He comes in the Spirit actively to draw men to Himself, and thus we preachers say that He is a Saviour for sinners. The Father and the Spirit draw sinners to Christ. Salvation is of the Lord. Thank God it is all in Christ. And to the question, "What must I do to be saved?" And this is the question of questions. The Old Gospel replies, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." And then, somebody says, "What does that mean?" The Old Gospel replies, "It means knowing one's self to be a sinner and Christ who died for sinners. It means to abandon all self-righteousness and self-confidence, and cast yourself wholly upon Christ for pardon and peace. It means exchanging one's natural enmity and rebellion against God for a spirit of grateful submission to the will of Christ, through the renewing of one's heart by the Holy Ghost. It means God taking a sinner and making him a new creature in Christ."

The next question, how am I to go about believing on Christ and repenting? Brother Barnard, you say I have no natural ability to do these things? I didn't say that — God says that! If I have no ability to do these things, how am I to go about believing on Christ and repenting? If you say I must — and I can't — how can it come to pass? To that perplexing question, and yet true one, the Old Gospel answers, "Listen, sinner friend, look to Christ. Quit looking to yourself; quit listening to your old bent and feeble will; look to Christ, seek the Lord, beg for mercy." 1 Samuel 2:8 says, "He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the

dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory..."

Isaiah 45:22 says, "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

Isaiah 55:6 says, "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near."

Jeremiah 29:13 says, "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

Cry to Christ, just as you are, cast yourself on His mercy, ask Him to give you a new heart, working in you true repentance and faith. Ask Christ to take away your evil heart of unbelief and to write His law in your heart. Draw near to Him, watching, praying, reading, and hearing His Word. And continue to seek the Lord til He speaks peace to you.

God Almighty has to perform a miracle in you and reveal Christ in you, for you to have eternal life.

John 17:3 says, "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent."

Luke 10:22 says, "All things are delivered to Me of My Father: and no man knoweth Who the Son is, but the Father; and Who the Father is, but the Son, and He to whom the Son shall reveal Him."

The Holy Ghost has to baptize you into the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13a says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..."

Our Lord Jesus Christ is not passively waiting, but is actively working to bring His chosen people to faith. The preaching of the "new gospel" is called bringing men to Christ, as if only men moved while Christ stand still. The true Gospel is the coming of Christ to men. As the Gospel is preached, and Christ is set before men's eyes, the mighty Saviour, Whom the Gospel proclaims busy — "Praise God" — doing His work through the Word. Not standing by, but visiting sinners with salvation, awakening them to faith and drawing them in mercy to Himself. Thank God, we don't have to use all these methods of the flesh to get somebody to decide to accept Christ! We

just have to proclaim Christ in the power of the Holy Ghost! We don't have to look at those poor sinners and know that it all depends on them. But we know that as we preach Christ, He is standing by, He is working, He is dealing with men. He is opening blind eyes and bless God, He is drawing sinners to Himself. Oh, how glorious it is to proclaim Christ Who came into the world to save sinners! Praise His Holy Name!

Luke 5:32 says, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Galatians 1:6-9 says, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another, but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

"Blessed Father, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank Thee for revealing the Gospel of Christ to us. Please reveal to Your children the Gospel of Christ and have mercy on sinners. We beg in His blessed Name. Amen!"

Why We Preach The Gospel And Particular Redemption

I want to bring out the difference of the old Gospel that proclaims a saving God, and the new gospel that proclaims the news about a salvation that has been made possible. Today I want to give you the conception of what preaching the Gospel is. I begin by saying that only Almighty God knows how desperately we need in this generation to be set free from the degenerate faith and preaching of this hour. And only God knows how we need to be set free to preach publicly and privately. I believe that every child of God is to be a witness of what you have seen and heard from God; and we are to do that wherever we have an opportunity to get men and women still long enough to listen. We are to proclaim the glorious salvation in Christ. We desperately need individual Christians, public preachers and every child of God to be set free; for we have been bound by our misconception and by the premises of the popular gospel of today.

We need to be set free to preach the Gospel, not what we think is the Gospel. And that humbles us, because no man is perfect and therefore no man can set in judgment on anybody else in this matter. We can as brethren reason one with another and seek to arrive at truth. My friends, we desperately need to be set free from our misconceptions and be able to preach the Gospel. Not just some gospel, but the Gospel. My Lord said, "Repent and believe the Gospel." The Gospel must be preached to everybody we can get to hear it. And we need to study and we need to pray. We also need to sob about this, and not get our knives out for anybody. But we need to be desperately on the mourner's bench personally and privately. And everyone of us must proclaim the Gospel whenever we have the opportunity.

The Gospel has been well nigh lost in your day and mine. You know, my friend, one proof of what I've been saying and I think that proof makes what I'm saying have a good element of truth in it; is that it is popularly imagined today that those who will not preach that Christ died savingly for every man is not preaching the Gospel.

It is popularly imagined and this is used on every hand by most preachers that every man who will not preach that God loves everybody and Christ died savingly for everybody; that such people are left with no Gospel at all.

It is quite common to this territory and I know what I am talking about; that unless we preach what they call universal redemption, and tell sinners that Christ died for them, and demand that everybody believe it, because we say it. That Christ in that way died for everybody; while we won't turn around and preach what that means. That means if He did, that everybody has to be saved. It is popularly imagined today that unless we so preach, we don't have any Gospel.

But my friends, a deep conviction of my heart is that every Christian who listens to me is engaged in this business whether he realizes it or not. For your mission is to preach the Gospel to people whenever you can. I want to be helpful if I can, so I say to you that instead of what is popularly imagined today as being true – on the contrary – what those of us who refuse to preach this new popular gospel are left with is just the Gospel of the New Testament itself!

Now I am either right or I'm wrong here. If I am wrong, God knows I'd love to be straightened out. I would not willfully misrepresent it. I wouldn't give my life to preaching a lie, if I knew my heart. I would not take the unpopular position that I have to take in these days, knowing what it costs somebody. And I stand to be corrected. But I am saying that this is a life and death issue. And the issue is whether or not we are proclaiming the Gospel. They say if you do not preach universal redemption and tell everybody that God loves them, and that Christ died for them; and tell everybody that Christ died for them in such a way that if they will do something, God will save them.

They say if you don't preach that, you don't have any Gospel. And I contend that if you do preach that, you do not have any Gospel. And that those of us who do not have all the answers, and you can pick us to pieces. You can ask us questions that we cannot begin to answer. And we make no claim to having all the answers. We are honestly facing the paradox of the Gospel of God's grace.

And we contend that those of us who refuse to get up before a public audience or a private individual and say: "My friend, God loves you and Christ died for you." We cannot possibly say that; we know that is not the Gospel. We do not believe that is any business of the preacher or the hearer. God's Word says He does not love everybody. Malachi 1:2b and 3: "Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord; yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau"

Romans 9:11-13 says: "(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."

Psalm 5:5b says: "... Thou hatest all workers of iniquity."

Deuteronomy 32:19 says: "... He abhorred them"

Psalm 11:5b says: "... Him that loveth violence His soul hateth."

John 14:21 says: "... He that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him"

Do you believe what the Bible says?

What does it mean to preach the Gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ? In order to preach the Gospel to all men, we do not mean that we are to tell men God has set

His love on each of them and that Christ died to save each of them. Now I label that, because that is what is being preached today. I've heard and you've heard preachers who say we must assure sinners that God loves them, and Christ died for them in their stead. When we tell sinners that God has set His love on them, and when we tell men that Christ died to save them, that simply means that if that is true, all men must be saved. It is absolutely impossible to tell a man that God has set His love upon him and that Christ has died to save him, then tell him that there is anything wrong with him. If God has set His love upon you, and Christ has died to save you, then praise God the joy of salvation, the assurance of salvation, the victory of salvation is yours, as you look not to somebody who possibly saves; but the One Who does.

Now will you follow me? The knowledge of being the object

of God's eternal love, and the knowledge of being the object of Christ's redeeming death; this knowledge belongs to the assurance of one who has already believed. This knowledge that Christ died for me, that God loves me individually is to be inferred from the fact that one has believed. And it is not to be proposed as a reason why one should believe. These things are just not true. No man can know that God loves him until after he has believed.

Now salvation and assurance must not be separated, but they are not the same. Let me call your attention to two Scriptures – Romans 8:33, which says: "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.-Verse 34: "Who is He that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us."

There is assurance. And everybody who is listening to me now, who knows the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you can say that, and you can rejoice in it, and the reason you can rejoice in it is you are not trusting in somebody who made salvation possible. You are trusting in God Who justifies; God justifies, so who can condemn? Why, nobody except Christ, because Christ was the One that died, and Christ was the One that was raised, and Christ is the One Who makes intercession for us.

It is not a proposition to lost people; this is a proclamation of a child of God. Galatians 2:20 says: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

This is not something to tell a sinner, this is a proclamation by a child of God of what actually has been made real to him. Praise the Lord. By experience he knows that he loves God, because He first loved him, and that Christ gave Himself for us. He came down here to be our Saviour; and not to make something possible. Bless God, He came to be a Saviour.

And we bid all men look, look away from yourself to One Who hung on a cross, and is now alive. Him hath God exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and the forgiveness of

sins. He is the Saviour of all who believe. He died for all who believe. Praise God. His death assures salvation to all who believe. We do not proclaim the Gospel by telling men that God has set His love upon them, that is the assurance of salvation. We do not proclaim the Gospel by telling men Christ died to save them, that is the matter of assurance. Preaching the Gospel is a matter of proclaiming to men as truth from God, which all men are bound to believe and act upon. And as we proclaim this Gospel which is truth from God, we bring forth four great facts to the attention of men and women. (1) We tell all men that they are sinners in the sight of God, and they cannot do anything to save themselves. That's preaching the Gospel. Every human being is a sinner in the sight of God, and no one can do one thing to save himself. This is truth from God.

Instead of us telling an old sinner that God loves him, and Christ died for him; we need to spend that time in the Word and preach the cross. And the first message of the cross is that it was sin that nailed Jesus Christ to the cross. And it was sinners who drove the nails. Judgment is coming, and God must punish sin. We proclaim to them as truth from God what all men are bound to believe. Nobody will ever get saved by somebody telling him that God loves him and Christ died for him. A sinner doesn't care whether God loves him or Christ died for him; he is not interested in knowing that, for that is just something we argue about. We are to tell all men on the authority of God and His holy Word that they are willful rebellious sinners, obnoxious to the judgment of God, and responsible to God in that awful pit that they dug themselves. They cannot change their awful sinful nature, and they are condemned by God's holy law. They are taken captive by Satan, they sit in darkness in the prison house. God Almighty has to perform a miracle if they ever get out. We are beginning to preach now.

In the second place, God's Son, is a perfect Saviour for sinners, even the worst sinner that ever was on the road to hell. We are to tell men with assurance of the Word of God that God's Son, Jesus Christ, is a suitable and a perfect and an all-sufficient Saviour for sinners. Oh! my friend, what that old sinner needs to hear first of all is not that God loves him and Christ died for him. He needs to

stick to this fact that Jesus Christ saves sinners; He came down here to save sinners. Everybody in the sight of God, before he is saved, is just an old sinner. The one who God is going to save and God knows He is going to save him. He looks at him as an old sinner. In Luke 5:32, Jesus says: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

So we tell all men that they are sinners and they can do nothing to save themselves. And if they will believe that, we tell them that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is a perfect Saviour. Not ap0ssible Saviour, but a perfect, suitable and available Saviour for sinners, even the worst sinners.

And then as we preach we tell sinners in the third place that God the Father and God the Son has promised that all who know themselves to be a sinner, and put their utter confidence in Christ; shall be received into favor, and none shall be cast out. This is something I can't understand, it is too deep for me. I can tell every sinner in the world and it is true according to the Scriptures. John 6:37 says: "All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."

Christ died for those who would believe. Christ died for those who do believe. I Peter 2:24-25 says: "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

Oh! what grace it is. God and the Son have promised in grace that every sinner who will face the fact that he is a sinner and he cannot save himself. And will face the fact that Jesus Christ is a perfect Saviour for sinners, so He must be a perfect Saviour for me. Then God tells him in the Gospel that both He and the Son hath promised grace this is, condescension this is, glory this is. Alleluia! That all who know themselves to be sinners and put their faith in Christ, and rest in Christ shall be received. He won't be rejected. Every sinner who puts his faith in Christ, the promise is, he will never be cast out.

Then we are to tell sinners these four things and when we do,

we are preaching the Gospel. (1) All men are bound to believe that they are sinners. (2) All men are bound to believe that Christ is a perfect Saviour for sinners. (3) All men are bound to believe that God promises in the Gospel that all who see and know themselves to be sinners, and (4) look away from themselves and look in perfect confidence to Him, rest in Him, they shall be received.

And then we conclude by saying that God Almighty has made repentance and faith a duty, requiring of every man who hears the Gospel. A serious full resting and rolling of the soul upon Christ, in the promise of the Gospel as an all-sufficient Saviour able to deliver and save to the utmost them that come to God by Him. Ready, able and willing through the preciousness of His blood and the sufficiency of His death to save every soul that shall freely give up themselves unto Him for that end. We are all eternity-bound men and women, and unless God Almighty is pleased to perform a miracle in you and reveal Christ in you; you are doomed for hell.

If sin is damning its thousands, religion today is damning its tens of thousands with this popular gospel which is a perverted gospel. Galatians 1:6-9 says: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have receive& let him be accursed."

"Blessed Father, please have mercy on those who read this message and may the Father be glorified in the Son. Amen!"

A Thankful People In A Reprobate Age

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

This is a reprobate age, an age that cannot be explained apart from the judgment of God. The most terrifying act of the day in which you and I live is the apparent absence and silence of God. The most horrible aspect of the judgment of God upon us today is His silence. This is the day when one wonders if especially America, has not for a season, been passing through a season of God's rejection, God's reprobation. The New Testament teaches that there is to be a falling away from the Apostolic faith of the Gospel. When did this falling away take place? It has been going on for nearly 2,000 years, it took place soon after the days of the Apostles, or it took place before all the New Testament was written. This falling away began away back yonder, God told us about it in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 and also in 2 Timothy 3:1-13. In verse five of 2 Timothy 3, we read: "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof from such turn away."

We need to know there has never been a day when it wasn't dark since they nailed Jesus to a cross. For 2,000 years the world has existed in a state of falling away from the truth. The last days of the Bible started with the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they will continue till He comes again. During all this time there has been a departure from the truth, and it will keep on that way until religious people with open arms embrace the Antichrist, and they will be sincere when they do it. John 5:43 says: "I am come in My Father's name, and ye receive Me not; if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." This world has not been receiving the Lord Jesus Christ now for 2,000 years. If another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. This falling away will continue till He comes and turns His face again to His people.

Professing Christianity is now in a state of apostasy. The basic principles of the Gospel are not believed by professing Christians today. They have not been believed or taught all these years. There have been individuals and small groups scattered here and there who believed the truth and taught it. If you are a trophy of

God's redeeming grace, snatched out of a generation that it has taken 2,000 years of departure from truth to get as bad as it is; you've got something to be thankful for.

Let's look at 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8: "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He who now letteth will let, until He be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming."

The meaning is that the Antichrist is going to appear in a civilization that makes his appearance absolutely necessary. People are going to be demanding somebody to liberate them. What this chapter is talking about is the most solemn thing I face in the Word of God; it shows that when God gives any person light and he refuses to walk in it; there is great danger of being deceived by the spirit of Antichrist. If you want to know why the hostility of this hour, it can be explained only by the fact that this generation is suffering from two things. (1) It's suffering from drinking deeply of the spirit of Antichrist, which is rebellion against Christ, and then (2) It is suffering from the judgment of God. For in proportion that men go into rebellion against God and His Son, in that proportion they invite the spirit of Antichrist, and in that proportion they come under the most terrible judgment of God. Let's read about it in verses 9 and 10: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the

love of the truth, that they might be saved."

Until the truth is sweet instead of bitter, until the truth can be rejoiced in instead of arguing about, they are subject to the deceiving power of hell, and Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. This day is marked by men and women being utterly deceived. Have you been? The chances are your next-door neighbor has. Have you? That isn't all that will happen. God will do something. Verses 11 and 12: "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion," [why will God do this?] "that they should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." This is an awful description of the deceiving work of Satan and the deluding work of God. How apparently God joins hands with Satan to bring people to damnation. Isn't that awful?

Imagine how the shouts would go up when He came to this word. Verses 13 and 14: "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth; Whereunto He called you by our Gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

We also would have some shouts in our cold Baptist hearts if we ever had the truth of the wonder of that in our experience. Paul said we just can't keep from thanking God when we remember, that you in the midst of departure, in the midst of apostasy, in the midst of the lying wonders of Satan, in the midst of the deceivableness of Satan, in the midst of God's awful judgment of delusion, in such a generation and atmosphere wonder of wonders, mercy upon mercy, grace upon grace through the work of the Spirit, and the belief of the truth, and the call of God in the Gospel has brought you to where it can be described as the brethren, beloved of the Lord; a thankful people in a reprobate age.

In July 1950, I was preaching in an Evangelistic Conference in Toccoa, Georgia, at Letearneau Camp Ground there. A fellow got in his car out in California and came to that conference. He is a millionaire, a contractor. He said the Lord had just saved him, and he heard about this conference on evangelism, and he got two men

to come with him. They drove from California to Georgia. And he brought a tape recorder with him. I brought seven messages at that conference on "The Gospel of God's Grace," and he taped them. I shook hands with him and got acquainted with him. I learned that he was a newborn babe. He took those tapes home with him and about four months later, he called me long distance and said, "I want this message to get out." He told me who he was, just a brand new convert, and he said, "Will you let me help you get that Gospel out?" I said, "I sure will." So he bought me a big five-pole tent. It would seat a lot of people. He bought the trailer truck, and he bought thousands of dollars worth of equipment. He furnished me with a song leader and everything I needed. And we went for some years all over the south in what we called city-wide meetings and he paid all the bills.

We were riding along in a car one day and we got in a fuss. I said, "I love the Lord more than you do." He said, "I love the Lord more than you do." I said, "It wouldn't be possible for you to love the Lord as much as I do. You weren't as big a sinner as I was; you weren't in as big a mess as I was." He said, "You are just dead wrong. You couldn't possibly love the Lord as much as I do because I was the biggest sinner that ever lived."

Oh! my soul, in a reprobate age where truth disappears more and more every blessed day. A thankful people in such an age must surely be the description of every child of God. If there is anything that can wound God (if He can be wounded), is for anybody to take for granted the "wonder" of being saved by grace. Who made you to differ? Who made you to differ?

I have thought if we would quit trying to win people and just gossip about "The Wonder," I believe it would be contagious.

Down in Chattanooga, the president of the biggest bank there came to hear me preach. He was a big church member, sincere and honest. He said the Lord opened his heart and he saw that he had missed the Lord. He became a seeker and he went through agony and then he said, "The Lord spoke peace to me." Then he came up to me and said, "Brother Preacher, may I ask you a question?" I said, "Sure." He said, "Tomorrow when I go down to the bank, should I

tell people that I'm saved now?" I said, "No, don't tell anyone." And a few days later, while the meeting was in progress, he came after the service and I thought he was going to kill me hugging me. He was so happy, he was just rejoicing. He said, "Preacher, I just got to tell you what took place today." He said, "My private secretary has been with me over thirty years. As I was dictating to her today, her eyes filled with tears. She got to where she couldn't see what she was writing. She said, 'I just can't do the work today.' I said, 'Is there anything troubling you?' She said, 'Yes. Could I ask you a question? What's happened to you?'"

What's happened to you?

That's what the Scripture says in 1 Peter 3:15: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

God help us.

We are living in a day when what is called salvation and Christianity just rattles because it is the counterfeit instead of the real.

Oh! my soul. We need some thankful people that instead of being given a strong delusion, they have been set apart for glory. Amen! Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

Praise the Lord for His great salvation in Christ!

"Blessed Father, we ask in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that You will be pleased to revive Your children that we may be a thankful people in a reprobate age. Glorify Christ even now. Amen?"

Why Christ Died

Our Father, we pray tonight that the Spirit of God may confirm the testimony You have given in Your Book as to why the Lord Jesus came down here and died, and God raised Him from the dead, He went back to glory and You exalted Him. We pray that You will press the claims of Christ upon our hearts afresh tonight. In Christ's Name, Amen.

I hope I am led by the Spirit of God tonight to have a Bible study on "Why Christ Died." It looks like American men and women are determined to miss out on what God's purpose is for a people in the death of His Son. I hope I can give a clear testimony as to what this business of salvation is all about. I think we need a lot of preaching today on what it is to be saved. I want to preach tonight and give a few Scriptures that are the testimony of the Holy Spirit as to the purpose that God had in hanging His own Son on a cross. We will present some Scriptures to show the purpose of God in dying for sinners in Christ. It is not that we might be saved from hell, but that we might be made holy and live lives to the praise and glory of God under the rule and the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

I believe that a profession that does not bring forth a holy life is a false profession. I believe that a Christian lives as the main purpose of his life a holy life of obedience and love to Him, Whom he loves because he found out that God loved him first. I believe that Christianity is rotting at the home base in America because we have separated Christ from His way of living, and we have people who are anxious to call Him Saviour, but who are not concerned about bringing forth the good works that God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

It is certainly true that Ephesians 2:8-10 teaches not only that "We are saved by grace through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship; created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. "We are His product. A Christian is not somebody who has done something himself, but a Christian is somebody who God has done

something to and for. If you find a man who is not walking in the path that God outlined for him before the foundation of the world, you have found a man who has missed Christ. That is solemn, but it is true.

Everywhere I go I get in trouble because I deny the popular doctrine of backsliding and that just ruins their teaching; because they are determined to have a nice little salvation that doesn't affect the way they live. They get saved, but pretty soon they backslide and just before they die the Lord brings them back. But in the New Testament we are forced to face the fact that the people that God called backsliders were never saved in the first place; they were merely people who were members of the covenant and had access to the blood, but never by faith availed themselves of the blood of Christ.

We have also built a philosophy of revival on 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

We have said that we could have a revival in America if God's people would humble themselves, so God has got a bunch of proud people. We could have a revival in America if Christian people would pray, so Christians don't pray. We would have revival in America if Christians would seek God's face, as if they do anything else, and we could have revival in America if Christians would turn from their wicked ways; as if God owns men who are proud as His; but that is an insult to God. To say that God Almighty went to the trouble of hanging His Son on a cross and then planting Christ Jesus in us as the hope of glory, so we could be proud people, not humble, so we could be prayerless people, not a praying people. So we could be a people who seek every-thing else except His face and so we could be a people living knee deep in sin; I don't believe a word of it. I believe if an old hell-bound sinner is ever brought to the place where he knows that he is lost; because the Holy Ghost has pricked him in the heart by the Word of God and revealed to him his sinful lost condition, he will beg God to have mercy on him. And

when God is pleased to make him a new creature in Christ, he will be in love with the lover of his soul and he will delight to do the will of God and walk in loving obedience to Him.

We've got a stuff called salvation now that makes the death of the Lord Jesus Christ a joke and makes God a minister of sin and speaks peace to men where there is no peace. It is filling hell full of church members who believed these lies that are being preached. The only people who will bring praise and glory to Christ are those who are under the guiding hand and the rule of Him Whom God hath appointed and decreed to be Lord over all mankind. I say that the Gospel is a holy making Gospel and that we do not live a holy life in order to be saved, but we live a holy life because we are saved. And when a man is justified by feasting on the blood of Christ, that is the beginning of a holy life. That's where holy living starts and that person who is not on the road to the time when he will be like Christ is traveling on the wrong road and Christ is not his Lord. In the churches today Christ is offered to men and women as One Who will keep you out of hell and let you do as you please, but the Lord Jesus Christ demands holy living.

If sin is damning its thousands, religion today is damning its tens of thousands.

I judge people by their attitude toward the Word of God. A lost man doesn't believe the Bible, a saved man does. You know God has to work a miracle in a man to get him to listen to something he doesn't believe. The Lord said to the Jews of His day, "If you believed Moses, you would believe Me." People don't believe the Bible is God's Word and yet the only way a man can get saved is by listening to that which he doesn't believe. What a miracle it will be if God ever fixes you so you'll not just attend services, but where you begin to listen to God's Word. I think I have been preaching all these years to a generation of people who seem to wish to trust in the work of Christ, but not fall in love with Him. And thus hell is full of people who believed a fact, but never have been joined to the Lord Jesus Christ. I cannot understand that type of salvation or what a sinner expects when he doesn't desire to be under the rule of Christ, but only rebels against His rule. I cannot understand a salvation that

turns out men and women who do not intend in the deep recesses of their soul to become willing bondslaves of the Lord Jesus Christ. I say to you, my friend, that church members who live in known sin, who do not pant after holiness, who have no love for Christ; I say to you, they are in mortal danger and they are on the road to hell and know it not.

With that introduction I ask you to turn with me to about seven Scriptures that give us the purpose of God as to why the Lord Jesus died and was raised from the dead and is now at the Father's right hand where He must reign until everything is brought into subjection to Him. In these Scriptures God tells us what His purpose in the death of Christ is. Please turn to Romans 14:9: "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and living."

Now here is a verse of Scripture that from one angle encompasses the whole purpose of God; for the only way on earth that you will ever be made like Christ is to be brought under His rule and Him take you by the hand and lead you in His way from glory to glory in His image world without end. That person who hasn't found in Christ a new Master; that person who hasn't found in Christ a rule from above that he rejoices in, and that doesn't make him mad; that man has missed Christ. I believe that this Scripture means that for this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the spiritually dead and the spiritually living. In dying on a cross Jesus Christ purchased every human being that ever lived. In that sense He is the only Saviour of all men, especially of those that believe. 1 Timothy 4:10: " For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, Who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

But Jesus Christ in one sense of the Bible teaching, redeemed this world by His precious blood. Now redemption is not salvation, it is a part of it. But one thing my Lord Jesus Christ did, when He died on the cross, God Almighty turned every human being from Adam down to the last man over into the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. And the biggest question any human being ever faced is: What is your Lord going to do with you? He bought the field that

He might gain the treasure, and all authority has been given to Him, and all flesh has been given to Him, that He might give eternal life to as many as the Father has given Him.

When the Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth, He offered Himself with all the credentials to the Jewish nation as King; and had the nation received Him as King, they would have found salvation in His Kingship. But when the nation through its leaders rejected Him; He turned to individuals and now He has been ordained and declared to be Lord of every human being. And the man or woman who receives Him as his Lord, as his Master, as his Dictator, as his Ruler, will find salvation under His Lordship and nowhere else. That conception of salvation that conceives a Jesus as somebody to keep you from going to hell when you die never was in the Bible.

The only way on earth a man can be saved is to be translated by the Spirit of God from the power of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son. The word kingdom in the New Testament means rule. The only way that God has of making you like His Son is to redeem you by His blood and lead you by His rule until you meet Him, and when you see Him you shall be like Him, and that is salvation. There is no way on earth that a man can be saved who doesn't come under the rule and the reign of Jesus Christ here on this earth. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and living.

That blasphemous thought that Jesus Christ becomes your Lord by something you do was born in hell. Jesus Christ became your Lord by God Almighty's eternal decree and He earned the right to you and to do with you as seemeth good in His sight by purchasing you with His own precious blood on Calvary's tree. That is right. The most solemn thing that I face today is when I see crowds, it just pierces my old heart. God help us! American men and women are absolutely living like they have never heard of a Bible, and they refuse to believe that judgment is coming and God must punish sin. And the one issue that God has today is the issue of His Son and He says: "Mister, He is your Lord. I have appointed Jesus as your Lord, you bow to Him." The only difference between a

saved person and the person who is not saved, it is not a question of whether they are going to surrender to Jesus as Lord, it is a question of when. Every human being is going to confess Jesus as Lord, every human being is going to bow to the rule and reign of Jesus Christ, even the devil is going to do it; for everything is going to be brought into subjection to Jesus Christ. Thank God, brother, all hell can't defeat God's purposes. Salvation by grace simply means that ahead of time, by persuasion, men and women are made willing to gladly receive Him as Lord, by the work of the Holy Spirit.

And later God will force the wicked people to bow down to Jesus and confess that He is Lord. But this will not keep them out of hell. That is a solemn thought.

Everyone that God was pleased to choose in Christ before the foundation of the world will be made willing in the day of His power to bow to the Lordship of Christ unto salvation. Those who continue in their rebellion will be forced to bow down to Jesus Christ to the glory of God, and will be sent to hell. He is Lord by God's immutable decree, whether you like it or not, He has been appointed to be your Lord. Man was made to be governed and man is governed. There are two sovereigns that are mentioned in the Scriptures. One is sin.

Romans 5:21 says: "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

A man who talks about salvation by grace apart from God setting up the rule of His Son in that man's heart is preaching disgrace and not grace at all. God never plants the flag of peace in a man's soul until He sets up the rule of righteousness in his life. God's people are not running around here with rebellion against the Lordship of Christ. God's people can rejoice in the gracious rule of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:28 says: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

In this verse we see that those who are the called of God according to His purpose are people who love God. God has a

people who love Him. Any salvation that doesn't cause you to love God and want to obey Him is not worth having. The heart of the law is love. Jesus said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." And if you don't love the Lord thy God with all of your heart, and your soul, and your mind, you are silly to talk about being a Christian. Romans 8:29 says: "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

This is God's eternal purpose; this is why Christ died. God wants a family of people in the image of His beloved Son. We were ruined by the fall and we are not over it yet and won't be until we are conformed to the image of His Son, and that's what it means to be saved.

A person who is saved is a fellow who had a crisis experience when Jesus Christ was placed in here, the hope of glory; and he walked under the Lordship, under the kingdom rule of Jesus Christ until one day when he has another crisis and he sees Jesus Christ as He really is, with undimmed view, and that look, brother, will make you just like Jesus. This whole business of being saved is in a look. It has three stages. A man is never saved except by a look at the Lord Jesus Christ. There is life in a look. Isaiah 45:22 says: "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

It is the real seeing with eyes of faith of One hanging on a cross and Paul said we look as in a glass. Look where? We look at the face of Jesus Christ, and there we see the glory of God and thus we are changed more and more into His image. And one day with undimmed eyes, Him Who we first saw on Calvary and Whose face we looked into as we fed on Him in life's Christian journey. Then we shall see Him as He really is, and when we do that, we will be really saved. The Christian life cannot be lived by anybody apart from a look at Christ to start with and a daily look to go with. There is no eternal life anywhere else except in Christ; He is the only One Who has got life. There is no hope anywhere else except in the face of Christ. The glory of God doesn't shine anywhere else. Listen to the

truth. Multitudes are deceived concerning salvation, and they have to convince themselves over and over that they are saved; because we don't pay any attention to the fact that salvation starts with Christ being placed in you, and God has to do that. And salvation continues as we serve God and look in the face of Jesus Christ, and salvation will be complete when we see Him as He really is. Then we will be saved.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 says: "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again."

Here the Holy Spirit talks in a little different language, but it is all saying the same thing about why Christ died. In this day of confusion it is awful. We have had to plead and pray and agonize to come to some truth. I am telling you the truth, God loved sinners enough that He hung His Son on a cross. The Son of God actually died for sinners. God pity you if you go through this life and don't get interested in why did He love sinners. Why did He die on a cross? What a purpose God has. It says in verse 15 that he for who the death of Christ is accomplishing that for which it was intended; more and more he lives less for self and more for Him. That will set you to praying, unless you are willing to go to hell.

Ephesians 1:3-4 says: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

Every blessing that we receive is in Christ, and all of it together makes up that great word salvation. Whatever election is, it's in Christ, it is God working in Christ, and it is glorious. It is the act of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ according as He has chosen us in Him, and He works according to His purpose. If you know about it; unto God become a seeker to have the Holy Spirit take you out of darkness and put you into the sphere of Christ, then you have eternal life.

Everything that God has got for men and women is in Jesus Christ, and this is something that He did in Christ before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

Galatians 1:3-4 says: "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father."

Here was God's purpose, this means that somebody for whom the death of Christ has availed, it means that somebody who has coveted an interest in the blessed work of Christ, may obtain mercy in Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil world according to the will of God and our Father. Heart separation from the anti-Christian spirit of this world, is what Christ died for.

Titus 2:10-14 says: "Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

They will be a peculiar people in a godless age because they are zealous of good works. Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. He is going to have a pure people.

Romans 6:17-18 says: "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

Those in Christ are not the servants of sin. 1 John 3:3 says: "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."

We are all eternity-hound men and women, and unless God

Almighty is pleased to perform a miracle in you, and reveal Christ in you, you are doomed for hell.

"Blessed Almighty God, we thank Thee for telling us in Thy Word that Christ died that we might be made holy, and live lives to the praise and glory of God under the rule and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. And all men have been given to Him that He might give eternal life to as many as the Father has given Him. To Whom be glory both now and forever. Amen!"

Sovereign Mercy

1 Timothy 1:11-13

"According to the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, Who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry: Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."

Paul was given a two-fold ministry; he was a minister of the Gospel of God's grace, but he was also a minister of the church, and he understood that the two go together. Living in a day like we do, when there is a great controversy about what the Gospel is; it behooves every professing child of God to take seriously the truth that the whole New Testament is a protest against the division between what we call the preacher and the people. In the New Testament every child of God has a ministry, every one of us are to be heralds and proclaimers of the Gospel.

I wish we believed that. We don't, but it is so. Every child of God had better face seriously his part in the proclamation of the Gospel of the glory of the blessed God which was committed to your trust. It is not simply for what we call public preachers, it is for every child of God to become a witness of what you have seen and heard from the Lord. We must tell others that salvation is of the Lord. If we keep this, we will lose it, but if we proclaim it, we will gain. Do you know of anything more wonderful than having a part in telling this good news of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God which was committed to your trust?

In the book of Exodus we find the first mention of the glory of God, and if we want to find out what the Gospel is, we should turn to Exodus 33 where in verse 18, a man by the name of Moses made a request of Almighty God. Surely if God is a living person, and not a creed, and the good news about His Son is the good news of that which brings glory to God. Surely if the Old Testament that speaks so much about the glory of God which filled the Temple; and the glory that clothed Adam and Eve before they sinned. Surely the Old and the New Testament that speaks so much about glory, the

glory of God, surely the greatest thing on earth that could happen to any eternity-bound human being would be to get a glimpse of that glory. And Moses said, "I beseech Thee, shew me Thy glory." And the Lord said, "I will grant your request, but not one hundred percent, for that would kill you." We sing that old song "Oh! that will be glory for me, when by His grace I shall look on His face, that shall be glory for me." We are told that when the Lord shall appear; we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. If we did it now with undimmed view we couldn't take it. That look, as we see Him as He really is, will complete our salvation, and we will be like Him. Oh! to just get a glimpse of this glory is so wonderful. According to the Gospel of the glory of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

One day I would love to be able to preach on the glory of God. Surely if I could just get a little glimpse of His glory, it would meet every need I've got, encourage my faith, put unction in my voice, tears in my heart, joy on the way to heaven, the glory of God." The glory of God seen in the Gospel of God, concerning His Son, that which we take for granted is so wonderful. This generation has never gotten a glimpse of the glory in the cross of Christ or in His throne.

The Gospel of God's glory is the Gospel of God's marvelous grace. The best definition for grace that I have ever found is "in spite of." God saves people in spite of their awful sinful nature. God gets glory in spite of us. I have never found a man that I thought God could use. He uses them in spite of them. I've never preached in a church that deserved a single drop of blessing from God; but if they get any blessings it is in spite of them. Oh! the depths of the grace of God and yet it is in His grace that He shows us a little glimpse of His glory.

Now Moses, are you ready? I've got you in the cleft of the Rock and I got My hand before you, so you can't see My face, if you did, you would die. Verses 19-23: "And He said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the Name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. And He said, Thou

canst not see my face; for there shall no man see Me, and live. And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by Me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away Mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen."

I'm going to give you just a little glimpse of my glory.

The Gospel of the glory of God has three points: (1) it is the story of the goodness of God; (2) it is the story of the Authority of the Lord Jesus Christ; (3) it is the proclamation of the fact that God must do right, and He may show mercy. If I have studied anything in the Word of God to try to come up with what the Scriptures teach, it's the sovereign mercy of a thrice holy God. And long since I've learned that a Gospel that is not soaked with the goodness of God is not the Gospel of God. Long since I've learned that a Gospel that doesn't proclaim the utter, absolute authority over everything, men, women, events, and everything else. If it does not give the preeminence and rest all glory and all authority in the only begotten Son of God, it cannot be the Gospel of God's glory.

I can remember preachers crying out in their pulpits, "Rolfe Barnard is a liar. You can have Jesus as Saviour without having Him as your Lord." But I am not a liar; I was not a liar then. The Gospel that preaches Jesus any other place than sitting on a throne, exercising all authority, and power, and dominion is not the Gospel of the glory of God. Oh! I will proclaim the Name of the Lord, that is the authority. Then the Gospel brings us into that realm of mystery, the Gospel is not the Gospel if it does not treat God as a God, Who is gracious to whom He will be gracious. The Gospel is not the Gospel of God if it doesn't preach about a God Who shows mercy to whom He will show mercy. Long since I learned that it isn't doctrine that is the center of controversy. I learned that we have come to the hot issue whether or not we shall preach a Gospel that leaves men and women with one thing they can brag about; or whether we will preach a Gospel that fills churches full of men and women who can say from their heart "but God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ." The Gospel that

allows one person to glory one bit is not the Gospel of the glory of God.

I do not profess to be able to enter in the depth of this expression, "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will shew mercy to whom I will shew mercy." I don't know whether I understand that or not; but I know it is the language of the Apostle Paul, who repeats it and it is his way of reducing men and women to where they will face three truths: (1) God's saving, sovereign mercy is not owed to men; (2) it is not something that men deserves; (3) it is not something that men can demand of God; if it is, it's no longer mercy. All my days I have preached in a so-called religious, or church, or Christian? atmosphere; in a generation with what we call the Gospel has spawned a nation and churches that actually believe that every human being is entitled to be the object of God's divine mercy that is preached and taught and engraved and buried in mankind. And this is an offense of the Gospel of the glory of God, for it is desperately true that if any man is entitled to God's mercy, then there is no such thing as mercy, for mercy is something that undeserving people receive; but if they deserve it, they are no longer candidates.

I know that the Holy Ghost led Paul to write Romans 9:16: "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy."

There is deep water here! He is telling men and women that if they have unclaimed mercy like Paul said he did, God gave it to them. He didn't pay it to them, but He gave it to them. God must do right or He won't be God, and He may show mercy.

I know that when Moses was told by Almighty God one part of the Gospel of the glory of God; he was to tell men and women what seems to be terribly offensive, that salvation is not a swap, it's not something that you can bargain for; it's not something that you deserve; it's not something that you can pay for. No sir, it's a gift and God bestows His mercy as He wills. Now if a sinner insists on justice, he may get it, but if he insists on justice according to the Word of God, hell will be his portion. The only hope for a sinner is to bow to God's judgment upon him, and cast himself on the mercy

of the court and plead just one thing, "I am guilty," and stand there in the presence of God with an empty hand saying, "Lord, if Thou wilt, please have mercy on a sinner like me."

Years ago I was in a meeting in South Carolina and my preaching was so different. The pastor asked me to meet with the people on Sunday afternoon and answer some questions. So we did and the preacher said, "Brother Barnard, doesn't God give everybody a chance to be saved?" And I said, "Salvation is not by chance, salvation is by God's grace." And that answered all the difficulties. Salvation isn't giving everybody a square deal and a fair chance, salvation is God in spite of; giving men and women salvation, the gift of eternal life. When you get that settled it will unravel all the other problems. God said to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy."

Paul said, "I was a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious, but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." Saving mercy must be obtained from a living Lord; saving mercy is in the nail-scarred hands of the Man in glory. A man cannot obtain sovereign, saving mercy without doing business with the crucified Son of God, Who is alive forevermore. He is the One that deals with sinners. God raised Him from the dead and made Him a life-giving Spirit. 1 Corinthians 15:45: "The first Adam was made a living soul, the last Adam [Who was Christ], was made a quickening Spirit. "The sovereign mercy of God is now under control of the living Lord.

This generation of church members are on the road to hell believing the creed or a doctrine and not being joined to a living Lord, but imposing on the mercy of God and taking it for granted. But you cannot obtain mercy like Paul said he did, unless you are confronted in the Scriptures, in the Gospel, in the power of the Holy Ghost, with the same risen Lord that he was. Paul was on the road to Damascus and he met a person, and that person was the Lord Jesus Christ.

And unless God is pleased to reveal to you that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, you will never know Him, and you will never be able to say with Paul, "I obtained mercy." It is not

a creed to believe, it is a blessing to be received. Oh! you have to do business with the living Lord to obtain mercy.

The Apostle Paul was led by the Holy Ghost when he wrote Romans 9:18: "Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth." That's some verse of Scripture, and we can't fathom the depths of it, but I know that any person who can truthfully say: "I obtained mercy," ought to be mighty thankful, and give all the glory to God, because Almighty God says that some people He will harden. And the Lord, when He was here, said in John 5:21: "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom He will." Romans 9:16: "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy."

What do those Scriptures mean? They show that our will is limited. It certainly means this: my salvation is in His hand, so we must face that. It certainly means that I can't pay for it or deserve it. But it means more than that. It means the offer of mercy is as wide as the heart of Almighty God. I do not believe that a single one of the Scriptures that I have read is meant to discourage anybody, except somebody that is trying to tell God what they think He ought to do. I believe that these Scriptures instead of being some to discourage you, they open wide and teach that the most wicked sinner out of hell may rightly become a candidate for the mercy of God.

If I pick up a Bible and it claimed to be that which I am to live by and die by; and salvation was extended only to people that I decided to extend it to, that would be a scary proposition. But if I can preach a mercy, that God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same God who turned His back on His own Son, when He cried out: "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me." And God Almighty turned His back on Him, and the earth shook and the sun refused to shine in protest. A God Who will do that, I'm not afraid to trust the wideness of His mercy, and I'm not afraid to tell the most wicked sinner on earth that God is a merciful God and He delights in mercy. That's good news. These verses teach this poor preacher that this side of God's rejection and this side of death, God's mercy flows

mighty freely in the direction of anybody who is interested in not being a subject of God's justice, but being a candidate of the grace and mercy of God.

I read in the Word of God where He talks about Rolfe Barnard being dead in trespasses and sins. I was a child of disobedience, taken captive by the devil, a child of wrath by nature, and I followed the course of the awful anti-Christian spirit of this present age. But I read in Ephesians 2:4-9: "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved: And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

He's got plenty of mercy. A person doesn't deserve mercy, and if he knows it, he is a candidate of the grace and mercy of God. I read in Romans 10:12: "The Lord is rich unto all that call upon Him." "This is a precious verse. We all had better humble ourselves and say, "Lord, I don't deserve nothing but hell, so Lord, here I am on Your hands. I have no claim on You, and I know if I had any claims on You, then that would be justice, and we wouldn't need any mercy," so we are just a beggar of God's mercy. So when I read, "But God who is rich in mercy unto all that call upon Him." i can preach to men and women who can't deserve salvation, they can't earn salvation, they can't buy salvation, but bless God, they could become callers. Nothing this side of hell could stop them if they would. So be encouraged, God is rich in mercy to all who call upon Him. If God could save a man like the wicked Manasseh, He wouldn't have any trouble with you. If He could save a man like Saul of Tarsus, who was a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious, He wouldn't have any trouble with you. Oh! I like to preach the Gospel of the glory of God. He gets glory by showing mercy on the worst and the wickedest of sinners.

I'll never forget a poor fallen woman in Canada. I was up

there preaching in a church where no one had been converted in nine years. They were mighty orthodox, mighty separated, and mighty dead. I said to them, "You ought to get acquainted with folks," and they took me seriously. So we went out ringing doorbells up there and inviting people to come hear me preach. It was twenty below zero, and I was going around with a deacon from house to house and we came to a wicket gate. I unlatched the gate going up to the house and started to go in. The deacon said, "Brother Barnard, don't go in there." I said, "Why not?" The deacon said, "I don't want to say, but don't go in there." I said, "Why not? Oh! I couldn't tell you, but please don't go in there." I said, "I'm going." He said, "It will ruin the meeting." I said, "Why? Well, preacher, that is the most notorious woman in this section of Canada. Oh! if you went in there, it would be terrible." I said, "I'm going," and I went and knocked on the door and a nice looking woman, not yet betrayed by her sinful life, came to the door and said, "Hello, big boy." I said, "Howdy. I am a preacher and am holding meetings down here at the church. I have come to invite you to come and hear me preach tonight." She began to laugh and I said, "It is no joke." She said, "Are you really a preacher?" I said, "Yes." She said, "I believe you are." I said, "Yes, I'm from the south, and I'm preaching here." "Oh!" she said, "I heard about that fellow from the south, and you're him? Oh, yes." She said, "Do you know who I am?" I said, "Yes. I've been told that you're the most notorious woman in this section of Canada." She said, "I guess that's right. Do you mean you want me to come up to that church building tonight? Yes, I want you to come, because I want to preach to you." She said, "Why, if I come up there, it would shock them to death." "Well, they need a good shock and I want you to promise me that you will come." And bless God, she did. I've never seen the Holy Spirit challenged when He didn't work. I preached that night and before we could get started singing, here she came, just running down to the front and fell down there and sobbed and sobbed and sobbed, and after a while she stood up, tears running down her cheeks, the glory of God on her countenance and she witnessed a mighty good confession. The congregation was singing people, so they began to quietly sing "Amazing Grace, how sweet

the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see." They had an old eighty-year-old woman there and she was the mother of Israel of all that section. A fine woman. I wondered what that nice gang of church members were going to do. There was that ex-prostitute standing there claiming the grace of God had done its work of Christ in her life. Tears running down her cheeks, she just stood there while they were singing. Nobody moved. I looked back and saw that mother of Israel pull her glasses up and wipe her eyes. Then pretty soon she pulled them off and took her handkerchief and wiped her eyes. Pretty soon, here she came down to the front, put her arms around that ex-Magdalenia, kissed her on both cheeks and loudly enough so the congregation could hear her, she said, "Welcome sister, welcome sister." Praise God, at the foot of the cross, objects of the mercy of God; the best and the worst woman in town in the same crowd.

The difference, "the mercy of God," which because His blessed Son hung on a cross, He's able and willing to show mercy, God's sovereign mercy, to the worst sinner that ever stayed out of hell a little while. And when that woman did that, the people's hearts were broken and sinners all over the congregation began to cry out and once again we saw the glory and the wonder of that simple Scripture, "Whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved."

Alleluia.

"O Lord our God, please have mercy on those who read this message on 'God's Sovereign Mercy: We beg You to please show sinners their awful sinful lost condition so they will seek the Lord and beg for mercy. Praise the Lord for having mercy on a sinner like me. May Christ be glorified even now. Amen!"

The Ascended Lord

Philippians 2:9-11

There is a nominal Christianity which is accepted and approved of men, but the pure gospel is still despised and rejected. The real Christ of today, among men, is unknown and unrecognized as much as He was among His own nation nineteen hundred years ago. Christ in doctrine, Christ in Spirit, Christ in life; the world cannot endure as King. It is allright for men to chant about Him in cathedrals, or sing about Him in synagogues, or preach about Him in pulpits; but Christ honestly obeyed, followed and worshipped in simplicity, without pomp or form, Christ exalted as prophet, priest, and King (not later, but now), they will not allow to reign over them. It is a spiritual Lord that Christ claims sovereignty among men.

Somewhere in my reading I came across the expression, 'The richness of the ascension'. I was struck by the expression because so little is said or written these days about the tremendous act of both the Father and the Son by which the Gospel of God concerning His Son is brought to its climax. A gospel that does not speak of an ascended Lord is not the Gospel of God. If the gospel is Christ and Christ is the gospel, and surely this is true; we must proclaim a Christ risen, exalted and reigning. He must be preached where He is now and identified as the pre-existent, virgin born, sinlessly living, vicariously dying, Son of the Living God. Always the apostles preached the Living Christ and worked backward, a decided reverse from the gospel of today. This is God's good news. How can Christ be preached if He is not preached where He is now. If Christ be risen and exalted, the rest is easy to accept! If not, the virgin birth and everything else cannot be accepted. The whole pattern of the gospel story sinks or swims on the truth or falsity of the resurrection and exaltation. In the classic passage, Phil. 2:9-11 Paul says, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name - that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." The word *hupsoo*, which is translated 'exalted' is never used of the Resurrection. It is the word for, 'ascension' or 'exaltation'. Thus it was by His ascension

that Jesus was marked out to be Lord, as by His resurrection He was marked out to be the Son of God in power (Rom. 1:4). By the resurrection Jesus Christ is seen to be Victor over death and corruption. By the ascension He is seen to be Lord, with all power in heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18). As sin was shown to be subject to Him by His sinless life, as death was shown to be subject to Him by His resurrection, so all things in heaven and earth are shown to be subject to Him by His ascension. It was not that the ascension effects His lordship any more than the resurrection effects His victory over death. Rather, the ascension is the designation and the demonstration of His Lordship. It is the designation in that it is the reward of the Father for His perfect obedience. In His humanity He was subject to His Father. It is demonstration since He ascended of His own will, His own power and in His own right. It is true to say that God raised Him and that He raised Himself. God took Him up and He ascended of His own power.

Peter points out the tremendous significance of the ascension as he comes to the climax of his sermon on the day of Pentecost. He quotes first from Psa. 110, and then says, "Therefore (in view of the ascension), let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made the same Jesus, Whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Messiah." The climax of gospel preaching must be here. This is God's answer and act. Men killed Jesus, God exalted Him. Let us preach this Jesus. Peter writes, "Jesus Christ is gone into heaven and is on the right hand of God; angles and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him" (I Peter 3:22). This is true. It is true now, not in the some distant future. Where is the crucified Christ now? He is at the right hand of God. All things are under Him now. Brethren, the hour is late. It is long since time that this generation hear the 'gospel', not just a part of the chain but all of it. The whole Christ is the gospel, nothing less, nothing more.

The apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:8 quotes from Psa. 18 and portrays a wonderful picture in this connection, "He led captivity captive." The ascension is the triumphal return to heaven of the Son of God. He has conquered and He returns with the captives of war. Sin and death, those enemies of man and God, those tyrants which

had enslaved men, are themselves now subjected and held captive to Him who openly triumphed over them. The power of sin is broken; it shall not lord it over the believer. Death is swallowed up in victory, its reign ended. Christ the Conqueror rules and He shall rule 'till He hath put all enemies under His feet' (I Cor. 15:25). For the apostles here is greatly needed help and hope. They see now that the resurrection proclaimed a King after all. The suffering Servant is enthroned, this same Jesus. His kingdom indeed is not of this world. He will (and does) reign, but not simply from an earthly throne. His kingdom is and shall be glorious, but it shall not be the glory of this world. He is and shall be victorious, but His victories shall not be achieved through the blood and steel of men. The cross was the decisive and atoning conflict. The resurrection was the conqueror's return with the captives of war which issued in the enthronement of the victorious King. Away with the preaching of a pitiful, helpless Jesus. He is not an exile hopefully watching to see what happens. He is the enthroned Lord into Whose nail-pierced hands the control of all things and all men has been given. It needs to be shouted from the housetops now as perhaps never before that everything depends on a man's union with a living, present Saviour. In the absence of that union, even the gospel of the cross loses its saving efficacy. "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (I Cor. 15:17). Atonement remains impersonal and largely irrelevant until we make contact with the One Who atones; and contact of a vital kind is possible only if Jesus is risen, alive and on the throne now. James Denney in his book "The Christian Doctrine of Reconciliation", says that "nothing could be more curiously unlike the New Testament than to use the resurrection to belittle or disparage the death." But we do not disparage the death of our Lord, we simply insist that unless Christ is now enthroned, the death is powerless to save. We insist that without a living, present, reigning Christ, with Whom, through faith, the believer can come into union, all the benefits of His death would have had to stand unappropriated forever. It was on the resurrection and ascension fact that the church was built. This was the gospel of the apostles. It was the experience of union with the risen, exalted, living Lord that made them

conquerors. Let their gospel once more be preached.

How God Saved Me From Infidelity

Psalm 14:1

Nobody has got a right to dare to believe salvation by grace, unless he knows what it is to water that message with the hot tears of intercessory prayer. We are to pray for the lost and warn them with tears. I can tell you the name of the man who wouldn't let me go to hell. He knew that truth never won anybody – you can preach truth until you are blue in the face, but truth isn't the only answer. That man was an intercessor. God laid me on his heart, and he was a man that was asking God for a broken heart. He wouldn't let me go to hell.

The only hope for sinners is for God to cross their path and He does that somehow or another in connection with intercessory prayer. We are to seek tears; break up the fallow ground in your own heart, afflict yourself. You do it – break that old heart, and the next day you have to do it all over again. God give us men and women a little like the Lord Who actually loved the unloveable. These were the words of the Apostle Paul in Acts 20:3/: "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Poor old Paul was just a very religious fanatic; he was just as full of zeal as he could be. If he could he would have killed every Christian in the world and thought he was serving God by doing so. But when he was saved, he went just as hard in the other direction, and that was a good evidence that he was saved. I do not believe that anybody is saved who doesn't spend his life trying to wash the stripes of people he wounded and led astray before he met the Lord. This little glib stuff where we say "It's all under the blood now"; it is just not so. This generation of church people that got "saved" and all the past is taken care of now – they know nothing about a life that's spent running scared because of all the hell you wrought while you were living in rebellion against God.

Romans 14:7 says: "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Therefore I sometimes dread when I come to the judgment and have to see a lot of people sent to hell that I

influenced mightily when I was on the road to hell too. I carry it in my own soul and it is a thorn that will be with me till the day I die, and I don't know how it will be dealt with when I come to the judgment. I have led a lot of people to hell. You don't live to yourself and the memory of some people lingers. Sometimes at night I can see the people that were under my influence, because I was in a position that I was a leader of evil and a lot of people followed me. It is so much easier to lead people down the broad road than it is to lead them to Christ. I have wondered how it will be when I face those people. I will have to be a witness at the judgment. I'll be there and I will have to watch people be cast into hell, and a lot of them I influenced to go to hell. How can a man sleep or eat unless he is at least trying to say, "Thank You, Lord," and undo as much of the past as he can? He can't do it all. We can pull a lot of nails out, but the scars will still be there. What we can undo, we must.

Psalm 14:1: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." The translators made a mistake here. Everybody knows there is a God, they just say, "No God for me!" For four years I preached to others that there is no God, but I knew it wasn't so. I knew I was a liar. Even a fool has got sense enough to know there is a God. I know everyone of you know there is a God, and you have God to thank for that because you are His creation. The reading of this verse is, "The fool hath said in his heart, No God for me." America is not full of people denying the existence of God – there are no atheists in America today. There are not many people claiming to be atheists today. Most every-body has joined the church and gotten powerfully religious, and the one they call "the Man upstairs" is awfully popular now. It is not a question of men and women who do not have beliefs today; it is a question of men and women whose beliefs are centered on the wrong person and not on the Lord Jesus Christ.

America is full of infidels now, in the practical sense of the word, the kind of infidelity I know about. For years I just joined the ranks of most people who are alive in America today, and I was very pious in my orthodoxy and very pious in my phraseology. I just lived a life that said God can't tell me how to live; God is not going to run my life, "no God for me!" I mouthed that I didn't believe there

was a God, but you won't believe it, while I claimed by daytime to be an infidel, there never was a night I didn't beg God to save me before I went to bed. By night all of my infidelity was gone.

I know what it is to seek God, to pray to God, to beg God, to fuss at God, bargain with God and proposition God. You will never get saved that way. I prayed every night for four years before I went to bed. I was scared to go to sleep without praying. There is something else involved in getting saved besides asking God to save you. The preacher that says you walk down the aisle and pray the sinner's prayer, "God be merciful to me a sinner," and He will save you – that preacher is a liar; he does not know what he is talking about! That preacher who says he is an expert on salvation; "You come down to the front and I'll tell you how to be saved" – he doesn't know what he is talking about! That preacher who isolates the Scriptures and says, "If you call on the Lord He will save you," using Romans 10:13: "For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved"; that's true in its context. It is true of men and women who have been brought to faith in Christ, for the first evidence of faith is calling. 1 Corinthians 12:3: "Wherefore I give you to understand that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."

They say that I am hardboiled, but salvation means something to me because I went through hell before it happened. "No God for me"; I was born a rebel. The Bible says Satan was subtle and he deceived Eve by his subtlety. But Eve just propositioned her husband, and knowing the penalty, for love of his wife, Adam disobeyed God. He deliberately did what God told him not to do. And the Bible says that I was in Adam, but I can't explain that. The Bible also says in Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." I was preaching in a place and I asked the people to rub out that word "have," because nobody will deny that. They say, "I know I'm not perfect." Everybody will admit that they have sinned, but that is not what the Bible says. It says that when Adam did what he did, I did it too.

People say to me, "Do you mean to tell me that men don't

have free will?" No, sir. I don't mean to tell you any such thing. The only time Rolfe Barnard was free, perfectly free, I reached up and pulled something off a tree. That's where I lost everything. You aren't going to hell because you curse, you are going to hell because in the garden of Eden you rebelled against God, and that old deceitful, rebellious heart of yours still leads you to rebellion. And unless God breaks your rebellion by giving you a new heart, you are going to hell. Jeremiah 17:9-10: "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." You are a hell deserving sinner the moment you are born, because you were born a rebel against God. You were born guilty of the high crime of refusing to live in God's world under God's rule.

I have fought a battle over America, and time after time preachers have said in their pulpits, "Rolfe Barnard is a liar," when I preached it – but I am not a liar when I say, "Any salvation that doesn't bring you to a glad, happy submission to the rule of God in your life is not what Jesus bought on the cross." This little stuff they call salvation now, that allows men and women to claim Jesus as Saviour without their wills being broken to His will, and without gaining glad submission to where men and women rejoice in the rule of Christ Jesus – that is no salvation at all!

I must tell you that you were born a rebel like I was, and I must tell you that rebellion is going to be crushed – the purchase price of it was the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. And God Almighty is going to break your rebellion now and save you, or then and damn you. But whether He saves you or whether He damns you, He is going to break your rebellion!

Yonder at the right hand of God the Father sits a Man in glory. In His hands are the prints of the nails that wicked men put there. On His brow are the prints of the thorns that wicked men put there. His side is still open where it was riven by the spear. Thank God, there is a Man in glory and He is sitting there, and He is reigning, and He is going to reign until all authority, all power and everything is brought under subjection unto Him. Hallelujah! Thine

the glory. What a Saviour! You can't win!

Everything is going to be brought back to the Garden of Eden setting, where the rebellion started. Jesus is going to do what heaven didn't do. He is going to subdue this universe. He told Adam to subdue things; He gave him the power to be the ruler. Adam lost it by his rebellion; Jesus is going to redeem it. Nobody will ever breathe God's air without finally being brought under the sovereign rule of the Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! He works now by persuasion, He will work then by power. Whether by persuasion or power, He will bring you under His rule. That's right. If you ever see that deep down in your heart, you will know what salvation by grace is.

It seems like all over America now people think that salvation by grace is like this: God used to be holy, but now He has found an easier way. But salvation by grace means that the same Living God Who doesn't have to do one thing, just leave you alone for a while and finally make you bow to His rule – salvation by grace is that ahead of that time by persuasion (never by actual force) He woes rebellious men and women and brings them to Himself, and makes them His children. How does God save people? He brings them under His rule – that's what it means to be saved. How do people get lost? By rebelling against God's rule. How do people get saved? By being recovered to God's rule in the Lord Jesus Christ, for the Father has turned everything over to Him. How are men saved? They are saved when God in grace brings them back to a glad submission to the blessed rule of the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is in the hands of the Lord. He is the only One that can give eternal life to people, and the only way you can get eternal life is as He gives it to you. You will find the Saviour is the Lord Jesus Christ, and if you want to be saved you must surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord, and under His gracious rule you will find that He has fixed up in virtue of His blood to dispose of this world and to save a people for Himself.

Salvation is in the hands of the Lord. Psalm 3:8: "Salvation belongeth unto the Lord." Psalm 37:39: "But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord." Psalm 68:19-20: "Blessed be the Lord,

Who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah. He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death, Jonah 2:9: "Salvation is of the Lord." Isaiah 25:9: "And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Isaiah 45:17: "But Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation."

Salvation is in the hands of the Living Son of God to give as He pleases. Oh, how does God save men now? One day He will bring them back into His rule, but too late for salvation; it will be by force. But now He brings them under His rule by persuasion. Now if you are just determined that Jesus Christ shall not be the Supreme Dictator of your life, the chances are that God will let you win the battle – but HE is going to win the war.

God saves men and women by crossing their wills at the point of their rebellion. Your will is going to be broken now unto salvation or it will be broken then unto damnation. God is going to break your will. That's how you got in trouble. You are like the devil who said in Isaiah 14:13-14: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.' I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High." And every unsaved man has the same Satanic spirit. That's what got into Adam and he put his will up against God Almighty's plain command.

If you are not saved, it is not because you don't know enough; it is because there is a spot in your life that you are not willing for Jesus Christ to be Lord of. We know this is true because Jesus said in John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:19-20: "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the lest his deeds should be reprov'd." The reason you are on the road to hell – you are not willing for the Son to be your Lord. It is not because you

haven't heard enough, it is because you don't want the light to really shine because you love your own way. And the reason you love darkness rather than light, Jesus said, is because your deeds are evil. I wish you would listen to me, my friend, you are in a mess. You are going to hell because you are rebelling against the Lord Jesus Christ, the only One Who has got a right to rule. This Bible is true, there is only one Person that has been given the right to rule your life absolutely, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. And He tells me why you are not saved: you don't like the light.

In the Scriptures Jesus Christ demands total submission and surrender to Him. It is strange but it is true, man's rebellion always heads up at one place. I think that is what it means in James 2:10: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." The average unsaved man is willing to be saved of everything except one thing. He is willing to come under the rule of Jesus Christ everywhere except one place. Your rebellion heads up at one place.

They will tell you that they are not ready to be saved. They don't want to be saved, because they understand that there is a changed life involved in salvation. They have told me, "I'm afraid I can't hold out" – they have something in their life that they are not willing to be delivered from. And if we do not deal honestly with him there, the sinner will just make a profession and go on to hell in his rebellion. Our rebellion always heads up in just one place, but God is going to break you of that. I hope He will break you unto salvation, but He is going to break you if He has to damn you. This is God's world, and He meant business when He hung His Son on a cross. He meant that in that blessed life laid down on the cross, the rebellion was going to be put down. God is not going to put up with rebellion forever on this earth; He is going to put it down.

Where is your point of rebellion? It may be a big point or it may be a little one, but I want to rid your mind of this idea that salvation is one thing and submission to Jesus Christ is another. I want to warn again about this damnable stuff about being "saved" and then sometime at your convenience submitting to the Lord Jesus Christ. It just can't be that way. I'm not talking about a deeper life, I

am talking about salvation. The doorway to the kingdom of God is the Lordship of Christ. No one will ever find the Saviour except in the realm of the blessed rule of Him Who won the right to rule in your life by dying on a cross for your sins. What is your point of rebellion? What is it that keeps you from bowing at the cross and receiving Jesus Christ as Lord? Whatever that point of rebellion is, that is the battle you are fighting.

We need to be very careful lest we not be true to men's souls. I tell you the truth, it is an awful sin to talk about the shed blood of Jesus Christ and then not demand that men and women give absolute submission to Him Who shed His blood! "The government shall be upon His shoulder." You were made to be ruled, and ruled you are either by s-i-n personified, or by the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 6:16: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, His servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" There is somebody running your life. There is not a day in your life that choices are not made between the Lordship of Christ and the lordship of sin. Every day it takes place. That is the reason that every time in the New Testament that God is said to give everlasting life to men and women, He promises to raise them up at the last day. John 6:40: "And this is the will of Him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life,' and I will raise Him up at the last day." Verse 44: "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him; and I will raise him up at the last day." Verse 54: "Whoso eateth My flesh and drinketh MY blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." It is in the context of a faith that you have right now, that is working now, not what happened ten years ago!

I was in a meeting and one woman there was a product of the ungodly preaching in many sections of these states, where they make grace lasciviousness and an excuse to live like hell, bragging on the fact that they are one of God's elect. This woman came up to me in all seriousness and said, "Dear Brother Barnard, I want you to join me in prayer for my husband; he hasn't drawn a sober breath in 30 years. He has ruined our home and we are losing everything; he

is just a drunk." Then in all sincerity, having believed the ungodly way of preaching grace so it becomes a disgrace, she said, "I get down on my knees every night and thank God that He saved him before he became a drunkard." They have got a little stuff that they call salvation now that does not change the way men live, but it is not the salvation the Bible talks about. 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 6:17-18: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing,' and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Where is your point of rebellion? Where is the rotten spot in your life that keeps you from total submission? There are lots of Baptists in hell that can tell you when they were "converted," but they have never met the Lord Jesus Christ. Where is your point of rebellion? For God's sake, drop the controversy, quit telling God you don't want to go to hell and you would like to be saved BUT... drop the BUT; it has got to be dropped. You can't tell God what you i won't do; that is rebellion. And He is not going to plant the flag of peace in your soul while you are in rebellion against His Son!

With me, my point of rebellion – I knew there was a t God and I knew that being saved was being brought to where I would seek to do His will. Any salvation that won't change you to where you will do His will is no good. The worst sinner can be saved if he wants to know what the Bible says is so. Jesus said in John 7:17: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself." There is no excuse for anybody to go to hell. If you wanted to do the will of God, you would find out this is so. The trouble with you, you want to join the ranks of the church members of this day that prate about salvation and know nothing about the will of God in their lives. I knew that being saved for me meant I would have to be a public preacher. And I did two things to try to handle that situation: I became an infidel by day and a prayer by night. By day I got so bitter, I got so miserable that I had to find a refuge, I had to crawl into the dust just to get a

little peace. So I found out there wasn't any God, I said. I organized an infidel club in my college; I had 300 young Baptist college students to join. By night I would pray to God to save me. I was an orator in those days, college debater, college Shakespearean actor. I was a big shot in those days. I was the most prominent man on the campus when I organized my infidel club. I led a lot of people to hell. I had to have something to get a little peace out of. But I didn't know all that was taking place.

When I was 11 years old, I walked down the aisle of a church one time. A missionary was there and he said, "Are there any here that will make a vow tonight to God?" He quoted that song, "I'll go where You want me to go, I'll be what You want me to be, I'll say what You want me to say." I thought I was saved, but I wasn't. Before I knew it, I was down that aisle and I said, "I will." You may not believe this, but if you give God anything, He never trades back, He keeps it. I had made a vow. I didn't know that back of my actions that night, my mother and father never told me (they both are in glory now), but before I was born they gave me to God to be a public preacher. They never did tell me. God knew about it. I'm telling you, if you give one of your children to God, He will take it! Our papas and mamas knew about this in other days. They just said, "Lord, he is Yours." That is a serious business. A boy can't win against odds like that; it just can't be done. He has got Mama and Papa and God against him! You had better quit before you start! Ten million times better than leaving your kids a bunch of money to go to hell on would be to give them to God before they were born, then remind God about it every day, "Lord, he is Yours." I was up against it!

I have you to understand that I had a scholarship in the best law school in the world. I have you to understand that I had the offer already of a junior partnership in the biggest law firm in Texas when I was out of school. You wouldn't catch me preaching, being a little old hitchhike preacher living on cornbread and water and everybody cursing me and talking about me! Now there never was a day in my life that I didn't want to keep out of hell, but I wasn't going to preach. I was cursing God by day and begging God to save me by

night, but "I ain't going to preach!" You can't get anywhere doing that – "I want to be saved, God, but" NO BUTS ABOUT IT! "I don't want to go to hell, but this is not going and I am hanging on to that." No matter if it is only a dime sin, you make it a point of controversy with God and He will break you of it in this life or send you to hell in the next!

You say, "Brother Barnard, I know how to get saved; I'll just ask God to save me!" I did that for four long years. He didn't do business with me. Hope you have better luck than I did! Of course, I was always saying, "Lord, have mercy on me," but you get nowhere like that.

Anybody that has ever been saved – there was something done about it before you were born. 2 Thessaionians 2:13-14: "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: whereunto He called you by our Gospel to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 1:3-4: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. "And if you are saved so the will of God becomes supreme in your life, there was something done about that before you were born. So of course if a fellow is going to be a preacher, he has to be called to preach before he was born. If you don't get the call before you are born, you will never get it afterwards. I didn't know all of that, but I began to go through hell on earth.

This may be strange doctrine, but I knew for five long years that salvation for me meant I had to be a public preacher. And I believe it meant for you to do whatever the will of God is for you. For me it was this: I knew that surrender to King Jesus meant I would have to be a preacher – and that was the one thing I was not going to do! So I did what it seems that most professing Christians have been able to do (I couldn't get the job done though!). I tried to get God to save me without throwing down my rebellion, but that

just won't work. You just can't do it and call yourself a Christian. If you do, you're certain to go to hell. Until your rebellion is crushed, and you surrender to do His will, there is no salvation.

For five years I tried to get God to save me and every time I said, "I will not preach!" I don't care how little it is, if that is where your rebellion heads up, it must be crushed; if not, there is no salvation. I know what it is to pray and cry, seek and everything else. This easy-believe stuff to get somebody to cry a little bit and make some kind of profession and call it salvation is deception. You must be willing to surrender your all to the Lord Jesus Christ and do His will. Christ must be revealed to you; that is salvation. John 17:3: "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. "Luke 10:22: "All things are delivered to Me of My Father; and no man knoweth Who the Son is, but the Father; and Who the Father is, but the Son, and He to Whom the Son will reveal Him."

Men have got to have some peace, but the only thing that will give you real peace and ease your nerves is a good dose of the Holy Ghost. Man has got to have something to relax him and calm his nerves and there is nothing like the Holy Ghost. If you don't have the peace of God and the joy of the Holy Ghost, you have got to have something. I had to have something so I called myself an infidel. Now an infidel is spelled "in-for-hell." I knew there was a God, but He wasn't going to tell me what to do! I knew better, but I decided to claim there wasn't any God. And by day, I would preach there was no God, and so help me God, by night I would beg Him to save me! That is the truth – for five years I never went to bed at night without getting down on my knees and talking to the One I had been cursing during the day. I would say, "Oh, Lord, if You won't kill me tonight, I'll surrender to You tomorrow." But when the sun came up in the morning, I said, "Phooey on that," and went my same way. A man has got to have something, a refuge, so I got one, and I went so far that I organized an infidel club in a Christian college. God help me. Every Friday night we would meet and if we didn't have a special speaker, I or one of the others would speak, and we were bold. But everytime I would go home from that meeting, I

would get down on my knees and vow to God if He wouldn't take me that night, I'd surrender.

I sure am glad that God does invade people's will. I'm glad God Almighty kept after me. I'm glad He didn't cut me off. I'm glad He didn't say, "OK, big boy, you can go your own way." Blessed be God, that's where my salvation is, in a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God! That is the only reason I am saved and the only reason anybody else ever gets saved. 2 Peter 3:15: "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you." 1 Timothy 1:16: "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting."

I graduated from that school and I went out to the Panhandle of Texas to teach school. I was going to work a year before I went on to law school and pay a few of my debts. I got out there and, of course, I was a good Baptist all that time – I passed for a good church member, so they didn't turn me out. Anybody that wants to can be a church member now; it is the easiest thing on earth to get in, and just about impossible to get out. That's the church now. Well, I was a church member and also president of an infidel club in that school. But I went out to teach school and in those days you had to be a church member if you got a job teaching in the public schools. So the first Sunday, I marched down the aisle and joined the church there by letter. Of course I didn't go back that Sunday night – no use being a fool about this religion business! And I didn't go Wednesday night, when they had a business meeting and elected me to be a teacher of the men's Bible class. That's right! And there I was. I supposed they didn't know anything about me and I could put on a good show you know, and I knew more Bible when I was a kid than those men did, and so we just had a storm! If I didn't go through hell, I'll choose up and take sides. I taught that Bible class – and then the preacher resigned and we went two or three Sundays with no preaching. Then one Sunday I went to my boardinghouse from Sunday School, and I never did know why, but I went in a room and

locked it. I could have gotten out, but I didn't want anybody to come in and bother me. I threw my Bible down on the floor and I buried my face in it and said, "Lord, whether You save me or damn me, I will preach from now on!"

If ever I got saved, that's all the salvation I've got – when I was able to surrender to the claims of God in Christ for me. I don't know whether I got saved or not; I hope so, I think so; brother, I am not as cocky about it as some people. Our old-time people had a hope. Colossians 1:27: "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles,' which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:5: "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the Word of the truth of the Gospel." Where is your hope?

"Blessed Father, we ask in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ that You will take this message and testimony and use it to speak to those who have never surrendered to the Lord, and reveal to them their sinful lost condition. May the Holy Ghost bring them to complete surrender to the Lordship of Christ, and under His gracious rule they will find salvation. May Christ be glorified. Amen."

The Record Of God's Revelation To Sinful Men

1 Kings 18:36-39

I am going to bring some messages on the fact that the Bible is God's Word and the Bible faithfully records what God has said and what He has revealed to man. This is the issue of issues today. And whatever your attitude shall be along that line has a lot to do with determining what your destiny out yonder in the life to come shall be.

Now without doubt all through the ages there have been three great issues that have concerned men as they have sought to relate themselves to Almighty God and their eternal welfare. These three issues are brought before us in 1 Kings 18:36-39. I want you to remember that in this chapter we have a record of the contest between Elijah, the prophet of the true God, and Ahab and the prophets of Baal. Any of you could quote almost by heart the record of the conflict of Elijah with Ahab the king – how Elijah dares the prophets of Baal to produce a god who is alive, and how they bring the offering and dig the ditch and pour water on the altar – and then Elijah saying, "We are going to let God decide, we are going to test, we are going to prove; and the God that answers by fire, let Him be God."

When the preparation for this contest was fulfilled, the prophet Elijah, I think, raised his eyes and looked up to heaven, and in verse 36 and following, which we have as our text, we read: "And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy Word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that Thou art the Lord God, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, He is the God; the Lord, He is the God."

Now there are three great issues in this prayer of Elijah to Almighty God, and as I mentioned a moment ago, I think they are the three issues that have been in the thick of the fight between heaven and hell; between Satan and the Lord Jesus Christ; between the people of God and the people of Satan. The three issues are simply this as they are recorded in his prayer. First, Who is the true God? Secondly, Who are the true servants of God, the true prophets of God, the true preachers of the Word? And thirdly, Is the Bible the sure enough record of God Almighty's revelation to man? Notice how these three issues are encompassed in our text here in verse 36: "Elijah said [here is the first issue], Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and [the second issue] that I am Thy servant, and [here's the third big issue] that I have done all these things at Thy Word!" There's the issue.

Praise God, there is just one true God. There in Elijah's day there were gods many, and there are still gods many, but there is just one true God and eternal life is to know the only true God. John 17:3: "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent." Luke 10:22: "All things are delivered to Me of My Father; and no man knoweth Who the Son is, but the Father; and Who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him," And so the issue in the midst of all the conflict around the world with gods many, with men making their own gods out of the wickedness of their own hearts, with men taking their pocket knives and creating a god with whom they can be comfortable, with the heathen gods, with the gods of men and women everywhere – the issue still today is, "WHO IS THE TRUE GOD?" Who is the true God? And if there is only one God, if there is a true God, if there is only one true God Who has revealed His will and His mind and His purpose and His ways to sinful man – Who is He?

My friends, that brings us right back to the Bible. Is the Bible the record of what God has said to men? The conflict rages everywhere now as to whether or not the Bible is the Word of Almighty God. We have so many answers now, and I think I am

dead right when I say that every issue that is afloat in the so-called Christian world heads up in the right answer to this question. When I take up the Word of God, written on the cover there is the title "Holy Bible" (that was put there by man of course), and I open it to the book of Genesis and thumb through until I come to the last "Amen" of the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ –Whose Book is that? Is it a cleverly contrived way to pull the wool over people's eyes? Is it some truth and some error? Is it the product of the best salt of the day in which it was written; or do we have here a miracle of God's grace, preserved through hell and high water, through controversy, through burnings many and through persecutions? We have the opportunity to sit down in the quietness of our own rooms and open a book called the Holy Bible, and read as the Holy Spirit opens our eyes and makes the record to mean something to us. Can we actually read words that come from God Almighty Himself? That is the issue.

We have got the Bible of the modernists. We have got the Bible of the heathen. Even Khrushchev has been over in this country now, and he has been referring to God in Whom he said he does not believe at all, and everybody is getting religious. Everybody believes in some kind of a higher being, and everybody is for home and righteousness, and Motherhood, and God, but nobody pays much attention to the revelation that God has made of Himself, that revelation written down in a Book preserved through every persecution until this very hour.

But oh, my! It will not do to worship the Bible. It will not do to be superstitious about the Bible. It will not do to put the Bible in the place that we ought to put God. It will not do to say, "I believe the Bible," and never pay attention to what it says. The issue, my friends, is this: If God has revealed Himself and His will and His way in a recorded word and this Bible is that record, the faithful record, the true record of God Almighty's revelation to man, and the Holy Spirit is here to interpret the Scripture and open blind eyes and take the wax out of ears and give you a new heart, so that the Word of God will be real to you – if that is so, I tell you, all of our eggs are in this one basket, "Is the Bible the Word of God?" Is it the record or

the revelation of Almighty God?

2 Peter 1:21: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

I read this poem many years ago, and I have carried it with me, I guess, 25 or 30 years. It reads like this:

We've traveled together, my Bible and I,
Through all kinds of weather, with smile or with sigh!
In sorrow or sunshine, in tempest or calm.
Thy friendship unchanging, my lamp and my psalm.

We've traveled together, my Bible and I,
When life had grown weary, and death e'en was night.
But all through the darkness of mist or of wrong,
I found there a solace, a prayer, and a song.

So now who shall part us, my Bible and I?
Shall "isms" or schisms, or "new lights" who try?
Shall shadow for substance, or stone for good bread,
Supplant Thy sound wisdom, give folly instead?

Ah, no, my dear Bible, exponent of light!
Thou sword of the Spirit, put error to flight!
And still through life's journey, until my last sigh,
We'll travel together, my Bible and I.

I thank God that I am just an humble fool enough to believe that, in spite of every effort of Satan and his tools, we still have the record of God Almighty's revelation to sinful men! With old Elijah, every time I preach I can say, "Oh, God, visit us, not just for my word, but You let people know by the work of the Holy Spirit that what I am saying came from Thee!" And I am delivering to you, "Thus saith the Word of a Holy God." That Word has been put in a Book, and that Book is the Bible, and it is a true record of God's revelation to sinful man. I thank God I can believe that in spite of all the scissors

that modernists have used to cut out of the Bible what they cannot understand and do not think is acceptable – despite of all the maneuverings on every hand from one direction and another – I still believe the good old Book!

I still believe the Good Old Book,
And tell the robbers to their face,
They should have given, ere they took
The Old, a better in its place!
I still believe, and in believing grace receive.
I still believe! I know to some belief is an old-fashioned
thing.

But I still believe, and in believing truth receive.
The unbeliever's point, I fear, provides him nought worth
mentioning.

But I still believe, and in believing truth receive.
I still believe that Jesus died,
That Jesus cleanseth in His blood,
That saved ones shall be glorified,
And live beyond death's icy flood.
I still believe, and in believing heaven receive.

What I am saying is this, "I don't care how much evidence they bring and that the scholars say, 'Well now, we are not able to believe so-and-so. We have reached the place now where we are able to sit in judgment on the Book, and this part may be acceptable but that part we will have to cast away.' The results of scholarship as they call it now –this part or that part of the Bible is no longer accepted as the Word of God." But bless God, I don't care how they talk; I have got something now that I didn't have when I was a boy! I've got some inside information about this old Book.

I don't think I am speaking to anybody now who didn't, when you were a child (especially if you were brought up in Sunday School and church) hear preaching and hear Mama talk about the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ, and you used to wonder if it were so. I know I did. I heard everybody talking about Jesus being the

Son of God, and I said, "I wonder if that is so." I thought, "That couldn't be. God couldn't be down here. God couldn't have been born as a little baby in a woman. God couldn't do that." And I used to wonder about it. Now I can tell you that I don't wonder about it anymore. I don't have any more proof to offer than I had when I was a boy, but I know the Bible is so. And I am as sure as I am sitting here right now that I have had a real encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. Brother, I don't care what you do. You can tear up everything and throw everything away, but here is one old sinner who believes that Jesus died, not on the testimony of Mother or anybody else, but on the testimony of the Holy Spirit as He has taken this old Book that I am talking about this morning and made it real to my old sinful heart. And I have seen Christ. I have beheld His glory. Have you?

I tell you, everything depends on whether or not, in the Word of God, we have a record of what God has to say to men. Isn't that so? Why, you tear up the Book and remove it from every place on earth, and as soon as this generation of people who had a living encounter with the Son of God have gone on, then you wipe Christianity off the face of the map. But, thank God, He has given us a Book that they haven't been able to destroy. They have tried to. Bless God, I've got the Book, and I have the ONE Who wrote the Bible, and bless God, I am perfectly satisfied! Psalm 100:5: "For the Lord is good,' His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 117:2: "For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 119:41: "Let Thy mercies come also unto me, O Lord, even Thy salvation, according to Thy Word." And Psalm 119:11: "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

I remember many years ago I was a student in the seminary at Fort Worth, Texas, and I had what they called a student pastorate. I lived in Fort Worth and went out on the weekends and preached to the people. One day I got a telephone call and they said, "Mr. So-and-So is dead and we want you to come and preach his funeral." I left my classes and got on a bus and went out to my little church

about 60 miles from Fort Worth, and I went into the home. There was that dear widow with a lot of dear children, and there in the casket, already laid out, was the still body of her husband. I was a very young preacher. And I remember that pretty soon after I got there, this dear woman brought me the Book and just handed it to me and said, "Pastor, read out of the Book. Read out of the Book." Why, sure! Read out of the Book. It is God's record. Don't let anybody rob you of that. When death comes, read out of the Book. It is God's Book. If you need a Saviour, read about One in the Book. It is God's Book. If you wonder about the future, bless God, read out of the Book. It is in God's hands. I still believe the good old Book. Do you? Do YOU? The issue of this hour is simply this: Has God revealed Himself, His will and His way in the Book? And is that Book the Bible? With all my heart I believe it and I am going to preach it. Thank God, I am not trying to doubt it; and I commend to you the Bible, the record of God's revelation to sinful men!

Psalm 68:11: "The Lord gave the Word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalm 138:2: "I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy Name for Thy lovingkindness and for Thy truth; for Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy Name."

1 Peter 1:25: "For the Word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the Word which by the Gospel is preached unto you." 2 Peter 1:21: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." And we conclude with some of the last words in the Bible about itself. Revelation 22:18-19: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the Words of the prophecy of this Book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this Book. And if any man shall take away from the Words of the Book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this Book."

What Is Salvation?

Psalm 45:6-7

The Gospel must be preached in its proper order. That is, the first message of the cross must be proclaimed, its demands, or what the Bible calls God's Holy Law. Men do not need to be converted; they need to be slain. They have to die in order to be saved. That is exactly so! The Gospel must also be preached in its purity. We have a statement from the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

That word salvation, what is it? What is God's great salvation? Somebody says, "Brother Barnard, we already know about that." But it is my deep conviction that many of us do not. This old preacher believes that long since we lost the Bible meaning of words like this. In humility and holy boldness, I trust, if I can with the Holy Spirit's anointing, I want to approach the subject of what salvation is. People say, "Well, I am saved." What do they mean by that? What do you mean when you say, "I am a Christian"? This is very important. What is the salvation that the Gospel of Christ is the power unto? If a man says, "I am saved," what is he saying according to the Bible?

WHAT IS SALVATION? My text is in Psalm 45:6-7: "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; the sceptre of Thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows."

These words are God's words to His only begotten Son. In these verses, I believe we find the key to the Bible teaching of what salvation is made up of, what it consists of. What is God's purpose to accomplish through His only begotten Son? What did God have in mind to bring to pass in the giving of His only begotten Son to be hanged on a cross and be raised and enthroned in Glory? Here in Psalm 45 we have it. "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; the sceptre of Thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness,

and hatest wickedness; therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows." This is quoted in Hebrews 1:9. This is the Father's Word to His Son, and this is the Father's description of His Son: "Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness, and because You do, Thy God hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows." The biography of the Lord Jesus Christ in one single verse is what the Holy Spirit has been pleased to give here. This is a perfect description of Jesus Christ. He perfectly loved righteousness, and He perfectly hated wickedness. You cannot love and not hate. You cannot hate and not love. One is the opposite of the other. God hates the enemies of the truth. Jesus Christ, the only perfect human being, perfectly loved righteousness and He hated wickedness. You hate sin in the proportion that you love righteousness, and you love righteousness in the proportion that you hate sin.

THE BIBLE TEACHING OF WHAT SALVATION IS, is nothing more nor less than God reproducing the perfect character of Jesus Christ in a human being, or God picking him up out of his sinful condition and making him like the Lord Jesus Christ. I know of nothing that would help us more than to get this truth before us. I believe with all my heart that the vast majority of honest, sincere church people honestly want to believe in Christ, but I don't think they have ever been able to do it. I do not believe that a person is a child of God unless day by day the character of the Lord Jesus Christ is being more and more reproduced in his daily living. For I know that salvation is nothing more nor less than God reproducing His Son in the lives of men and women, boys and girls. That is a long way from the modern-day conception of what salvation is.

God has but one measuring rod and He does nothing except for one purpose. That is wrapped up in the Lord Jesus Christ. The only reason God saves anybody – it is not to keep that fellow out of hell, but to bring glory to His only begotten Son. That's right. We have quit believing that, and we thought we loved souls more than God did, so we perverted the Gospel and used some man-made methods to talk people into making a profession that they had accepted Christ. Now our motive was that we loved them and we

wanted to see them saved, but that is the wrong motive, that is not the Bible motive. The Bible motive is that we long to see Christ glorified. That's so – for Christ's glory. Isaiah 53:11: "He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied, by His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities." Satisfied; in human language He was able to say, "I'm sure glad I died for them."

That is fundamental, but away back yonder we threw that out the window, and now we pride ourselves on what a tremendous love we have for people. And while we were doing that, we lost the glory of God, because we had put the cart before the horse. We did not remember what 1 Corinthians 10:31 says: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." "Whatever we do, whether we do personal work, or preaching, or whatever it is, do everything for what? For the salvation of souls? NO. NO. "For the glory of God!" That will change your message and your method, and God knows it needs to be changed. God might begin to bless us if we start paying attention to His teaching and obey Him.

Salvation is what? It is the reproduction of Christ a human life, and it must have a beginning. Baptists to believe in what we call being "born from above," and that is a miracle that only God Almighty can perform. If that ever happens to you, you will hate sin and love righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." There was a time when you couldn't become a member of a church without giving a creditable experience of being changed, of submitting to a new Master and a wholehearted desire and determination that the will of God should be the first thing in our lives. That time is long since gone, and oh how we do need to return to it.

This salvation has to have a start, and it starts with a miracle where Christ comes inside. A Christ not in you is not yours, but the Scriptures speak of Christ in you in Colossians 1:27-28: "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every

man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

This salvation has to have a progress. It has to continue, and the Scriptures tell us how that takes place – this is true of every child of God – 2 Peter 3:18: "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever." Titus 2:11-14: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

The Apostle Paul tells us how we make progress in becoming like the Lord Jesus Christ in 2 Corinthians 3:18: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." How does a child of God spend his time? He spends his time beholding the glory of God in Jesus Christ. We must feed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and as we do we are being changed from glory to glory into the image of the Lord. Measure yourself by what they call being a Christian today, and be honest one time and compare that with the declaration of the Word of God. How does a child of God spend his time? A child of God spends his time looking at the Lord. Hebrews 12:2: "Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. "He first got acquainted with Him by a look; there is life in a look! Isaiah 45:22: "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. "And the child of God spends his time beholding His glory.

Then this salvation has to have a consummation. It has to come to full fruition and that is also brought to pass by a look. We are told in I John 3:2-3, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He

shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." We look at Him now as through a glass. We don't see Him in all of His glory – our eyes can't see that good – we have to have glasses – our view is pretty dim. But one day everybody who got in on this by being born again and by a look at Christ and now spends his days in beholding the glory of Christ – one day with undimmed view we shall see the Lord Jesus Christ, and that look shall get the job done and we shall be saved.

Salvation is making men and women to be like the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what salvation is all about. A man needs to be dead certain about two things: First, that his start introduced him to the Lord of Glory, and secondly, that his daily walk is spent beholding the glory of the Lord of Glory. And if those things be true, bless God, in God's good time, we shall see Christ with undimmed view, and that will finish the job, and we shall be like Him.

I praise God for this, for out of Adam's ruined and fallen world of sinners, God Almighty through the Lord Jesus Christ has eternally determined to make some people like His Son. There is my hope. Praise the Lord, He is a God Who never goes back on what He sets out to do. He will do exactly what the Scriptures said He would do. I shall be one of the company of people who when God gets through with us, praise God, we shall be conformed to the image of His dear Son, the lovely Lord of Glory, Jesus Christ. Isn't that wonderful? Now that's what salvation is!

The Scriptures tell us that before the foundation of the world, God had a purpose and part of that purpose is to redeem a people and make them exactly like His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. That's God's eternal purpose in the matter of salvation. Romans 8:29-20: "For whom He did foreknew, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called; and whom He called, them He also justified: And whom He justified, them He also glorified."

Now five times in the Scriptures this eternal purpose of Almighty God is described. In 1 Corinthians 2:7: "But we speak the

wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory." The Gospel is not the wisdom of men. It is the eternal creation of a Holy God, Who wrought it out on purpose, and no wonder that good news is the power of God to accomplish salvation to every one that believeth! Always in the Bible, the five times that God uses this word "ordain," He speaks of persons, never of things and never of circumstances or events. Never does He speak of predestinating a happening, but always He predestinates about persons. The Gospel was foreordained and predestinated and worked out by Almighty God. The only way this can be explained is "Christ is the Gospel and the Gospel is Christ."

Thank God, five times in the Bible we have this blessed word that God Almighty fixed it out, marked it out, determined that it would take place, and every time it means the same thing, that those people whom He would save, their salvation was said to be determined, and that He would make them like the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the heart of the Gospel.

Now because this word is abused so and the preachers make so much fun of it and laugh at the Word of God, it is necessary that we stand for the truth and expose error. Nowhere in the Scripture does it say that God predestinates this fellow will be saved, and that fellow will be damned. The Bible doesn't use that kind of language. Nowhere in the Bible does the doctrine of election speak about the damnation of anybody; it just speaks about the salvation of somebody. And it is a glorious truth to a saved child of God. Many people in their willful, sinful ignorance are going around blaspheming the Word of God by their mouthings, and they don't know a thing about what they are talking about. If you want to fight the Bible teaching of predestination, for God's sake, find out what it is, then if you want to fight it, you are welcome. But when you fight it, you are fighting the part of God's Word that tells us what salvation is.

In Romans, chapter eight, and Ephesians, chapter one, four times God is said to predestinate somebody, not some happening. I hear people that can tell you all about the Bible, but they never read

it, and of course they hate the truth, because they live unholy lives and want to claim to be Christians. And their ignorance is willful because they are striking at what salvation is, and they don't want to face the fact that salvation is not a way to keep out of hell merely, like most everybody hopes it is, and let you live on as you please. NO! Salvation is making you like Christ! And of course people will buck that, and if you want to buck it, you are welcome. The way to stop people's mouths is by telling them that predestination is simply this: That God Almighty has determined that everybody who is able to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be made exactly like Christ before God gets through with him. God has determined that and everybody that is a Christian is going to be made like Christ, and if you are not being made like Christ day by day now, you are not a Christian.

No wonder this generation of church members are so ignorant of the truth! Methodists used to believe this, way back yonder Baptist churches were started on these great truths, the confessions of faith taught this. Some of you folks fight it because you hate holiness, but if you are interested you will keep your mouth shut and let God teach you. That would be wonderful.

In Ephesians, chapter one, God plainly tells us twice of His predestination. Anything that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ does is bound to be all right, so we are going to read what He has done. Ephesians 1:3-4: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." If you can get to Christ, you can get in on this, because it is in Him. He did that before the foundation of the world, so it must be in the depths of the heart of God. It must be something God did Himself because He purposed to do it. He did all of that, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. That is this awful teaching of election that so many preachers hate so much. Then He tells us what predestination is in verses 5 and 6: "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the

praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved." Predestination is not election. It isn't deciding that you are going to be saved. No. No. It is deciding what your salvation is and God has determined that this is it. Most of the Baptist churches, the Methodist churches, and the Presbyterian churches hate this doctrine now. Presbyterians used to believe it, but now they are getting a new confession. They are going to throw out these old doctrines. But Baptists don't have that courage. It used to be that in order to be a member of a Baptist church, you had to subscribe to a covenant. You covenanted with one another to do some things. But not anymore. There is a message for all of God's children in Jude, verse 3: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

God Almighty has determined that salvation is not just making a profession of faith, and that's all there is to it. Salvation is to be brought to Christ and made a new creature in Christ, to look unto Him and walk with Him in loving obedience till you see Him as He is – and then you will be made exactly like the Lord. This is the heart of the Gospel. Now in love having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, and He did that according to the good pleasure of His will. Then in Ephesians 1:11-12 we read, "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ." In other words God said, "I'm going to have some people, and I am going to be proud of them." He can say, "Look what My love did; look what My grace did." Listen to this:

Mercy is God's favor that holds back from us what we deserve.

Grace is God's favor that gives us what we do not deserve.

Oh, what a wonderful Lord God we have. Psalm 103:8: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Every old sinner that God finds in the pit of his own

rebellion, and puts His everlasting arms underneath him and draws him and saves him, and one day transforms him into the very likeness of Christ – that will be to the praise and the glory of Almighty God! Sure this is a battleground, because we want to glory in ourselves, so we've got to get rid of the Bible. Now in Romans eight, two times we find this terrible doctrine of predestination. I believe in this doctrine, and you do too, if you are a child of God. Oh, yes, you do! If you don't believe this, you brand yourself as being a hater of what salvation is. Verse 28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." That doesn't mean some terrible thing out there that happened to you is working for good. NO. NO. The next verse tells us exactly what it means – what God did in the next verse is what makes everything turn out right. God did these things for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Verses 29-30: "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified; and whom He justified, them He also glorified." Foreknow – that's election. Verse 31 then says, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

A Christian may say to these things, "Hallelujah, Praise the Lord!" The Lord said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." There's my hope. Praise the Lord.

What does salvation mean? Bless God, it means salvation is God making men and women like the Lord Jesus Christ. He is promoting righteousness in you, and a forsaking of wickedness in you, and one day you will be exactly like the Lord Jesus Christ. There are so much sorrow, sickness, and deaths in this life; but God's children can rejoice in this promise in 1 John 3:2-3: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him: for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." He will strive after holiness, for he understands that salvation is being made like

Christ, and the deepest part of his soul is to be more and more like Him. That's what salvation is.

This terrible doctrine of predestination is nothing but God's determination to make the people whom He saves exactly like the Lord Jesus Christ. Isn't it amazing how they lie about it? God's people should start shutting the mouths of these ignorant malicious devils that are making fun of the heart of the Gospel. In the entire Bible you find this word predestinate only five times, and every time it talks about persons, not happenings. He didn't predestinate that you would cross the street and get killed. He predestinated that if He saved you, He would adopt you into His family and make you His son. If He saved you, it would be to the praise of His glory. Hallelujah!

I remember years ago a preacher got on the radio and he said, "Brothers and sisters, I have got a broken heart this morning; you know these damnable doctrines of election and predestination are creeping into our Baptist churches." Wouldn't that be awful if the old Bible wasn't made fun of in our Baptist churches? Wouldn't it be awful if these holy doctrines that promote what salvation really is, and insist on the holiness of God and what it means to be a Christian – wouldn't it be terrible if they got back in our Baptist churches? Oh! I hope they do! I hope you young men will support this pastor and start shutting the mouths of these ungodly people fighting the heart of the Gospel. This is worth fighting – not to prove a doctrine, but to tell men the truth that a Christian is somebody that's being made like the Lord. He can't glory in anything he does; it is all of the Lord.

There isn't any hope of any person keeping out of hell, unless God Almighty lays hold on you and stays with you till one day He will make you exactly like His Son. That's our hope. A man or woman is in the way of salvation when he has been brought to the place where he wants to be joined to that company of people whom God hath determined to make like His Son. What does it mean? According to the Bible, it means, "I want this business of being made like Christ to get started in my life." For years it has been taught in America that salvation was some sort of joke that we decided by making some sort of decision, but it didn't have anything

to do with our daily living or our panting after holiness. But true Bible salvation is becoming like the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Brother Barnard, I want to be saved." What do you mean? "Well, I don't want to go to hell when I die." That's not the Bible way. "I want to be done with sin and I want to be made like Christ" – that's the Bible way of wanting to be saved. The old grey-headed daddies and mothers heard the old preachers and they said a man had true Gospel faith when he came to the Lord and said, "I want to be holy. I want to be made like the Lord. Here I am: I turn myself over to You to make me what You want me to be." That is the language of a person that truly wants to be saved.

I was in Texas speaking to some young pastors, and the Dean of the Bible College was one of the speakers. He came to me the last day of the meeting and said, "Brother Barnard, only God knows how this generation of professing Christians need a Bible vocabulary. They need to be taught like the Bible talks." Wouldn't it be wonderful if it was crystal clear what salvation means, and this was taught in the churches? This preacher will say, "If you just accept Jesus as your Saviour, He will save you." Another one says, "If you believe this Bible verse and repeat the sinner's prayer, you'll be saved!" These statements are lies out of hell, and a deception to all that believe them!

Why don't we come back to the Bible? I know I am telling you the truth – this is Bible language – this is using Bible words: "Christ being formed in you." Galatians 4:19: "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." That's what Christianity is. Oh, young people, men and women, you've lived all the days of your life in a generation where we have used our language instead of the Bible's; where the word saved doesn't seem to mean much now, for all of us seems to be so dead in tradition and in sin till there is not much sign of life in us.

I call you to witness now that the purpose of God in saving a man is the reproducing of the Lord Jesus Christ in him. And instead of fighting this, I thank God that He is determined to bring it to pass. I look men and women in the eye and tell you that Gospel faith is coming with a thirsty appetite to be made like the Lord Jesus Christ.

I was in Huntington, West Virginia, in a Bible Conference and my hotel phone rang one day. A pastor some miles away asked, "Brother Barnard, what are you teaching tonight?" I said, "They asked me to expound the teaching of the Bible on predestination tonight. I will be teaching what the Bible says about that." He said, "A man is here that I have witnessed to and been praying for – and I believe God is dealing with him – I thought we would come and hear you." So he brought this unsaved man with him to the meeting that night. So I just taught what this wonderful determination of God is, and how there is hope in it. If you believe what God says, and you are not trusting what you can do; just trust what God set out to do. I tell you now, I've got more confidence in Him than I have in you or me either. I don't know whether I can do what I set out to do or not, but if GOD is determined that this be brought to pass, I've got some hope. And after the service the pastor brought the man around and introduced him, and we visited a little, then they left because they had to drive some 30 or 40 miles.

The next day that pastor called and told me what happened after the meeting. They got about five miles out of the city and the unsaved man was driving; he parked on the side of the road because he could not see, his eyes were so full of tears. He turned the switch off and said to the preacher, "Did that man tell the truth tonight?" He said, "Yes, I believe he did. I believe he told what the Bible teaches." Then the man said, "Oh, Preacher, I wish I could be holy. I am so tired of the filth that I've lived in. I wish I could be made holy." And the pastor led him to the Lord. Anybody that wants to be made holy, it is just like feeding milk to a baby to get them to Christ. They want to be made holy, for God has done His work in them. That is what it is – true Gospel faith is coming to Christ with a thirsty appetite: "I want to be made holy, I want to be made like the Lord." Hallelujah, Thine the glory! God has determined to bring it to pass in every person He saves. That's what salvation is! We are all eternity-bound men and women, and unless God Almighty is pleased to perform a miracle in you and reveal Christ in you, you are doomed for hell (John 17:3; Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22). Read it!

The Record Of God's Written, Permanent, Revelation To Mankind

2 Timothy 3:14-17

The Bible claims to be the Word of the Living God! When you put somebody on the witness stand, you must listen to what he has to say. And when we are looking into this most vital issue and the center of all controversy in your day and mine, we must have the defendant state his case. That we propose to do in this message – let the Bible speak for itself and give us the claims it has within its covers as to where it came from and Whose Word it is. Now I believe that is vital, and I want you to notice these Scriptures.

In 2 Timothy we have one of two letters the Apostle Paul wrote to his son in the ministry. He is telling the young preacher Timothy some things he is going to come up against. In the third chapter he wants Timothy to recognize that in the last days perilous times shall come, and he is telling us the kind of people Timothy will have to deal with. He will bring to us the fact that Satan is in this warfare and then he will talk about evil men and seducers waxing worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. Read verses 14-17: "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures (Paul called the Old Testament the Holy Scriptures), which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Then Paul makes this tremendous statement. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

Then listen to this old preacher talking to the young preacher in chapter four, verses one and two: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; preach the Word." Preach the Word! Now it's Somebody's Word. In the verses beforehand, he says it is the Word of the Holy Scriptures. In other words, Paul absolutely claimed that the Old Testament was the Word of God and

he told Timothy, "Now the only weapon that I want to see you staying with in all these conflicts and attacks of Satan is the Word of God. In the light of the fact that God is going to judge the quick and the dead at His appearing, I want you to PREACH THE WORD!"

Continue reading at chapter four, verse two: "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears [they will like for folks to brag on them!]; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

Here in this charge of the old preacher to the young preacher is the definite, purposeful statement from the pen of Paul, the great apostle, that the Old Testament is the record of the revelation of God to man. Now he couldn't make that statement of the New Testament, for he was just then helping to write it, but the books go together, and altogether they constitute the 66 books of what men call the Bible. Someone has said that "this Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here in this Book Paradise is regained, heaven is opened and the gates of hell closed. Christ Jesus is its great object and subject. Our good is its design and the glory of God its end. This Book should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, read it frequently, read it prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment and remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility; it rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents."

It has been my good pleasure down through the years to know some people who have had great faith, satisfying faith that the Bible is the true record of a Holy, Loving God to sinful men. I am

thinking now of a dear old white-haired lady way up in her 70's, who lived down in the state of Texas. I remember when I was a student soon after I had been saved and started preaching, one weekend I went to preach for another preacher and this preacher was greatly loved. He sent a letter by me and I found out later that this letter disclosed to the little congregation his resignation. I remember that I preached a "whale" of a big sermon, you know, that Sunday morning! The people sat there and wept just like their hearts would break. I thought I was such a big preacher, but I learned later that they had passed the letter around. The people had found out that their beloved shepherd had to leave them and their hearts were broken. They had not heard anything I had preached that morning!

After the service this dear old white-haired saint of a woman asked me to go home with her out in the country for dinner. She fed me enough to kill a mule, and after the dinner she entertained me by talking. I didn't know the dear old woman sort of took a shine to me! She was very blunt spoken and said, "Son, I have sort of taken a liking to you. It might be that the Lord will make something out of you." She said, "You are just a kid, and you don't know what it is all about." That is the way she talked to me! But she continued, "I am way up in my seventies now, and I have known the Lord Jesus for over 57 years, and I have been walking with Him. I am a widow. I have been alone for these many years, and I am poor." But she said, "I want to tell you something that I hope may be a blessing and a help to you as you go down through your ministry. You don't know whether the Bible is so or not. You have heard that it was, but you don't much know it. But I do. For these many years I have been testing the great promises of God in the Word of God, and for 57 years that has been my practice and has been my joy." Then she said, "Son, this old white-haired woman can tell you this – every one of them is true! Every one of them is true! I know they are true, because they have been made real in my own experience. Praise the Lord!"

Somebody wrote that verse, "Every promise in the Bible is true," but we don't know that except by experience. I've thought of that dear old saint of God many, many times. By experience she had

plowed through all the controversy, and she had found in the Book the revelation of a Holy God in Christ Jesus. She had found out the promises of God are "yea and amen," and that God makes good all of His precious promises. This has been a blessing to me down through the years. I can truly say that I have tested some of the great promises of God's blessed Book, and bless your dear heart, I know they are true! They are true!

I shall never forget when I was ordained. I remember my dear friend who has been in glory now many years preached the ordination sermon. I was just a young fellow, and of course, knew "everything," therefore knew nothing much! I was full of vim, vigor and vitality, and I thought that if they would just turn me loose on this old world about a year, I would have the whole outfit converted. And there I was. I remember that preacher standing up there, and among the things he said in his ordination sermon, he said, "Son, you don't know what you are getting into. You are yet able to believe, but there will be nights when you will walk the floor. Your wife can't comfort you; your loved ones can't comfort you. The heavens will be dark, and you will want to die. You will never know what heartaches you are letting yourself in for. You don't realize the opposition of Satan or the absolute depravity of men, even good men." He said, "I just want to remind you of one thing: Rolfe, always be as narrow as the Bible – don't be any broader than the Bible. Let your mind be taken captive by the revelation of God to men that we call the Bible. And preach the Word! Preach the Word!" And so I have given you something of what somebody else said of the Bible.

But now I want to call the Bible to the witness chair, and I want the Bible itself to speak. I think it is dead certain that internal evidence is the best evidence on earth – what somebody knows inside. Here is a Book now, and without any shadow of doubt it is the center of controversy. Everything we believe and everything we hope for has just gone down the drain if the Bible is not a true and trustworthy revelation of the mind, and the will, and the purpose and character of Almighty God. So that is the issue. If the Bible is not a record of God's revelation to man, we know very little about God. If

the Bible be not a record of God's revelation to man, we know nothing whatsoever about the Lord Jesus Christ. And so this is vital. So we are calling for the next few moments on the Bible itself, and we are saying, "Bible, you sit down in the witness chair and you swear to tell the truth, so help you God." I want us to look within the covers of the Bible and let it speak for itself. Time would fail me to begin at the beginning and go to the end. We are familiar, of course, with the thundering note that dominates the whole of the Old Testament: "The Word of the Lord came to me," Ezekiel would say. "The Word of the Lord came to me," Isaiah would say.

We read, "The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah," and so on. God will say, "Go tell them what I have said." All the prophets and all the writers say, "Thus saith the Lord." This is what God said about it. The Bible just says, "This is God's Word." Isaiah 43:1: "But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel Fear not; for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name, thou art Mine."

When we come to the New Testament, time would fail me, of course, to go into all the books. I want to call your attention to a statement in the Scriptures that the Holy Ghost led the Apostle Paul to write, "A-L-L, all Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). Now that is Paul's claim. He says, "Timothy, all Scripture is given by inspiration of God." By that he meant all of the Old Testament. How much more he meant, I am not in a position to say, but I do know he meant at least all of the Old Testament that we have is inspired – it was given by direct inspiration of God.

Look at that expression, "is given by inspiration of God." Here the Apostle Paul used a certain, definite, particular Greek word, which literally interpreted means, "God breathed on purpose every Word of the Bible." Now that is what Paul said God did. He said, "Timothy, you can just put this down. I am telling you, don't you depart from the Word, for that Word was given on purpose. Every Word of Scripture. God breathed it on purpose: God gave it on purpose." Do you see it? "Paul, you are telling me," asks Timothy, "that the whole of what we call the Bible is God saying something on purpose because He meant it, because men are to live

by it and be judged by it? Yes, sir, Timothy, that is exactly what I am saying!"

We have here in the New Testament this expression that Paul dares to claim that the Bible is a Book of purpose, that all Scripture is God-breathed, that all Scripture came from God on purpose. For without a doubt, any Greek scholar will tell you that this expression, "given by inspiration of God," literally interpreted means, "All Scripture is breathed on purpose by Almighty God."

Now why did Paul use this particular word? Paul used such an expression as this, "All Scripture is God-breathed on purpose." God breathed on purpose every Word that came from the lips and pens of prophets in the Old Testament. Paul, under the inspiration of God, under that God-breathing-on-purpose of the Holy Ghost on him, is telling Timothy the plain, simple truth. "Every Scripture, all Scripture, is God-breathed-on-purpose, because God meant it that way." He wrote this word down here, "All Scripture is God-breathed-on-purpose," because that is exactly what the Holy Spirit had revealed to him!

The only other explanation of the use of this Word by God's servant, the Apostle Paul, is that God did purpose it, and the reason Paul used this Word is because it is so. The Scripture is breathed upon by God on purpose, the Bible is a purposeful Book. God meant to give us a revelation of what He wanted us to know, what was good for us to know. The Bible is the result of the purposes of God, not to conceal Himself from man, but to reveal Himself to man. So when we pick up this blessed Book, we are looking into a Book that God wrote to His prophets on purpose, and we can have confidence that the thought, and the material, and the Word, and the symbol, and the teaching, and the prophecy, and the exhortations – the whole business of it – came right from the heart of a purposeful God! Therefore we can with confidence approach the Scriptures and say, "Well, bless God, that is what God said, and He said it because that is so, and He said it because He meant it."

Exodus 31:18: "And God gave unto Moses, when He had made an end of communing with him upon Mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God."

Exodus 32:16: "And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables." Exodus 34:1: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the Words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest."

Therefore, I can stake the destiny of my soul for time and eternity on the Word of the Living God, because I believe we have the Word of the Living God, and I can trust what God has to say. Those words entered into the Bible are recorded on purpose. God meant exactly what He said, and if you believe that to be true, to be God's Word, you will fling yourself out on its promise to be saved. That is all I have, bless God! I believe when I open the Word that I am not looking at the wisdom of man but the revelation of Almighty God, and that He had these words put in there (glory to God!) on purpose, and that I can stake everything on them! I can join old Abraham and believe God. I can join Paul when the Lord Jesus spoke to him on the Damascus road, and I can believe Him. And I can have confidence because I have staked my whole self for time and eternity on the written, God-breathed, eternal, true, immutable, irreversible Word of the Living God!!

Isaiah 45:22-23, 25: "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by Myself, the Word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.... In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory."

John The Baptist Comes To Town – Part 1

Luke 3:1-18

With your Bibles opened to Luke 3:1-18, let's read the account of the ministry of John the Baptist: "Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea, and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the Word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

"And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages. And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with

water; but One mightier than I cometh, the latchet of Whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose; He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and will gather the wheat into His garner; but the chaff He will burn with fire unquenchable. And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people."

Suffice it to say to begin with that John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness a very unusual message, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of God is at hand." Luke 3:3: "And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

Now the baptism of John was not Christian baptism in the sense that it is practiced today, but it was a national symbol of repentance. When a person had repented of his sins, hated them, when his mind had been changed about them, when he had come under a sorrow for them and turned from them, then he presented himself as a candidate for baptism. As it is written in the book of Isaiah, some 700 years before John the Baptist was ever born, there it was prophesied that one would come as a forerunner. Isaiah 40:3-5: "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

Now he says that the Lord is coming, the One that had been promised, the Lamb of God that was promised to Adam and Eve in the Garden; the One Who was going to die for sins, and put away sins by the sacrifice of Himself – that One is coming. Before He comes, there is a work that has to go on. There has to be a foundation laid, a preparation made. That preparation has the form of leveling. Every valley, every depression, every deep place is going to have to be filled up, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low.

John says if you are going to prepare the way of the Lord, you are going to make His paths straight. There is going to be a

straightening of crooked paths. That is the preparation that John had to do. There had to be some crookedness straightened out, and the rough ways are going to have to be made smooth. Now the job that John the Baptist is trying to do here is not something you do with a toy shovel, but it's a bulldozer operation. There is going to have to be a terrific work going on in preparation of the coming One Who was to die for the sins of mankind. Then in the sixth verse John says that "All flesh shall see the salvation of God," but not until the preparatory work has gone on. Now the ministry of John the Baptist was the ministry of this leveling, of this making the crooked ways straight and the rough places smooth. His ministry was to prepare the people for the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and their Saviour from their sins in this life and the life to come. Now my friends, in this way we see the pattern of God's work with men. In this way we see how God prepares the people to receive His Son. God sent His forerunner; He sent His witness before the Lord. And even so today, He sends the Holy Spirit, the Forerunner to witness before Him, and it is prophesied of the Forerunner that "He shall glorify Me, for He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you. He shall not speak of Himself, and when He is come, He will convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come. "In the ministry of John the Baptist, therefore, we see a "way" being prepared for the Lord, and the Lord Jesus was not revealed until this work was done. Even so in this day, until the Holy Spirit has done the work in a bulldozer operation – until He has brought low, and filled up and straightened out crooked paths, until those changes are effectually wrought in one's life, and not until then, will a sinner see the salvation of God!

And John the Baptist said to the multitude who came forth to be baptized of him, "O generation of vipers "You say, "Preacher, I don't think people ought to use such language in the pulpit. It ought to be soft and easy; we ought not to offend people." Old John had not learned how to softsoap his congregation. All he knew to do was to call a spade a spade and a club a club. That's just exactly what he did. He had not received all the education that some of us have received, and he just thought that the best way to do it was to tell the

people the facts as they were; so he said, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Why are you coming? Then he said to them, "Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance." You do something to show that you are ready. You show evidence in your life that your ways are changed. This, my friends, is the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. If you have truly repented, it will reflect itself in your conduct!

Then he said, "Don't begin to say unto yourself, 'We have Abraham to our father;'" Don't say, "We're all right; we don't have to go through that. Why, we are Methodists!" He said, "Don't begin to tack such a label onto yourself. We're all right; we're Americans. You know all Americans belong to a Christian nation – we're all right!" But John said, "God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham." That won't satisfy. But somebody says, "Well, we're Baptists; we believe Baptist doctrine." "All right," he said, "bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. Bring forth some evidence that the crooked ways have been made straight, that the mountains have been brought low, that the valleys have been filled up, and that the rough places have been smoothed out. Bring forth evidence that the operation of God has gone on in your life, whereby you have come to present yourself as a poor, repentant sinner to receive whatever God has for you."

John says again, "Begin not to say to yourselves, We have Abraham to our Father; for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid to the root of the trees. "It's already there; God's judgments are about to fall. "Every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. "Every soul that does not show evidence of true repentance and a changed attitude toward sin, a changed attitude toward Christ, a changed attitude toward his old nature, and a changed attitude toward God – everyone that brings not forth evidence of it shall be hewn down and cast into the fire regardless of the title that he bears, regardless of the position that he holds, regardless of how much he can trace his blood back to Abraham, unless he has brought forth fruit worthy of repentance he shall be hewn down and cast into the fire. Now that was preaching

in the confidence of the Spirit of God, and the people cried out, "What shall we do then?" Bless the Lord, in the New Testament times when they preached, it got so rough, it got so hard that the people were held to the issue, so that they cried out in their sins, "What shall we do? What shall we do?"

In Acts 2:37 it is said that some were cut and stabbed to the heart until they cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" In Acts 16:30 the Philippian jailor cried out, "What must I do? What must I do?" My friends, this kind of religion that we have today where you have to get hold of a man's arm and pull at it, and stand behind him and push him, and finally drag him down and talk him into it, and douse him down under, and that's all there is to it, just ain't salvation. They didn't know anything like that in John's day. John stripped men of their veneer. He laid them out before the Lord God of heaven, and when they found themselves faced with the Holy God in the midst of their sin and despair, in spite of the fact that they claimed to be children of Israel, still they cried out, "What must we do?"

John begins to tell them. He said, "He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none, and he that hath meal let him do likewise. "Now, John, you just can't ask us to do that. We'll have to give up some things that belong to us, that are our rightful possessions. That demand is too great. He struck at their selfishness; he struck at their covetousness; he struck at their idolatry. John said, "That's got to go – it's got to go! Give evidence that you really mean business about this thing." Then there came the publicans – I can see them coming up to him and saying, "What do you want us to do?" And he said unto them, "Exact no more than that which is appointed you." See them look at one another. "Why, that will put us out of business. That'll just kill us off." Why? Because the reason the publican was in business was in order to illegally extort money from the people. The Roman governor would assign these scalawag fellows a certain amount of taxes to be collected from their district, and anything they could get over that they pocketed for their own. So they said, "Now we want to get right with God; what must we do?" And he said, "You must stop taking anything more than that

which is appointed to you to take." "But that's why we are publicans! Why, you mean we'll have to quit?" He said, "Yes, sir, you'll have to quit." And they said, "That's too hard." He said, "Already the axe is laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire."

Then came the soldiers, and they said, "What will we do? We'd like to get in on this; we'd like a little salvation. We'd like to be right with God. We'd like to have our sins forgiven. What do you want us to do?" He said to them, "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages." "But that's why we are in the soldier business. Do you not know you will put us completely out of business; if we have to quit this and have to quit that and have to quit the other thing, it will ruin us!" John said, "You'll have to be ruined then; God is not going to accept you; He's not going to have anything to do with you." There's no Lamb of God, there's no Sacrifice of Calvary for that man who will keep on in his sins. But they say, "We can't do that." All right, the axe is already laid to the root of the tree, and every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire. And I hear one of the soldiers say, "Fellows, we can't do like we've been doing from now on. We cannot play the games we've been playing at the guard house. We are going to have to stop talking the way we've been talking."

My friends, the mountains are being brought low, are being cut down. Some valleys are being filled up, some crooked ways are being made straight, some rough places are being smoothed out, and that is the necessary operation before the revealing of the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. How different it is in our day! Some people walk down the aisle of what we call our churches, and they say, "What'll we do?" And we say, "Well, do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?" And they say, "Yes." "Well, give me your hand that you will accept Him." And they say, "All right." And the preacher says, "All right, that's all you do; come right on in, we'll take you," and we tell them they are all right. My friends, old John the Baptist, if he'd come back to this country and see what's going on, he'd roll over in his grave!

I hear a soldier saying, "We don't believe God requires that of any man." John says, "All right." They say, "We are Abraham's children, and we believe that's enough." He says, "That's all right; go on; the axe is laid to the root of the tree." He said, "Some mountains have got to be cut down, some hills have got to be brought low, some deep places and depressions are going to have to be brought up to surface, all those crooked ways have got to be straightened, all those rough places have got to be made smooth." You say, "Well, now, preacher, that's the way John preached, but that's not the Gospel for our day." But I ask you, When did it change? Do you mean my Lord would shut out the rich young ruler for one tiny defect and let the poor fellow go on to hell, and then He lowered His terms a little later on? No, sir! Somebody else lowered it, but my Lord didn't.

The Scriptures say all the people were in suspense; they thought he was Jesus. I can hear them talking, "Maybe he is the One; we never heard anything like this before in our lives. What strange new doctrine is this? This is awful! He must be the Christ." So John answered saying unto them, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I cometh, the latchet of Whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose; He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." My friends, this is just preparation, but when He comes, He'll really do a work in you.

You'll never get over it. He's going to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He's really going to do something. The bulldozer operation will take place, and the Lord's going to come, and on that level spot He's going to rear a structure that will be incorruptible. Storms may rage, floods may come, and winds may blow and tornadoes may strike, and all the world come tumbling down around it, but on that level spot, when He comes to do His work, He's going to build something that's going to last forever and ever. He's going to plant there a new life. He's going to build there a new house. He's going to establish there a new dwelling place, and He Himself shall come and live within.

And so John the Baptist came to town and he gathered a great group of people around him who brought forth fruits worthy of

repentance. They had been baptized in the Jordan confessing their sins, and then one day the Lord came along and John said, "Behold the Lamb of God – here He is, the One you've been waiting for! There's the One to take away your sin." Now the blessed Saviour is revealed. What took place? They left John to follow the Lord. Yes, sir! They were ready. Therefore you find John saying, "He must increase, and I must decrease." What did he mean by that? He meant that the following after Jesus increased as they left John. His preparation had been done; they had come repenting, confessing their sins, acknowledging their condition and bringing forth fruits worthy of repentance. And so, when John said, "There goes the Lord Jesus," they said, "This is what we've been waiting for," and salvation came to their house!

This is the work of God that must take place, and if you'll turn to Matthew, chapter 13, you'll discover the reason. There in that chapter the record tells us, the sower who went forth to sow the seed found four different kinds of soil. He found soil by the roadside; it was hard, it had never been broken up, never been plowed under. There was no growth when the seed hit on that soil. The birds of the air came and picked it up; it never had a chance. Some of the seed fell on rocky soil. The rocks had not been cleared out – they were still there, so when the seed fell there they struggled for growth for a little while, but when the sun came up, it withered because it had no root. Down underneath the external surface there were rocks that had never been removed. In the third type of soil, the soil that was infested with thorns and thistles that had not been plowed under or rooted out, the seed still did not have a chance; it was choked out.

But the soil in which seed was sowed and produced fruit unto everlasting life was soil that felt the sharp edge of the plow, that had been cleansed of the rocks, that had the thorns and the thistles and the briars taken out of it, and it was prepared to receive seed. Now, my friends, that's what the Scripture means when it says you've got to repent or you'll perish. The soil that received the seed and brought forth fruit unto everlasting life was soil that had experienced a preparation. My Lord never takes up habitation in any kind of heart or soul until that heart has been plowed up and broken

up. He does not find any growth or root in any life that has not the stones cleared out. Jeremiah the old prophet said, "Break up your fallow ground." Hosea 10:12-13 says: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you. Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies; because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men." It's time for you to break up fallow ground.

What is fallow ground? It is ground that has lain idle, and infested with stumps. It's got to be broken up; it's got to be prepared to receive the seed. Isaiah in the 40th chapter, verses 6-8, says, "The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field! The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever."

All flesh is as grass, and it has to be withered. Will you hear me? My Lord Jesus Christ enters only a broken heart. Psalm 34:18 says: "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." It seems that old David had not caught up with our new theology which says, "No use being sorry for your sins, no need of quitting your sins, no need of this repentance business," but he says that the Lord is nigh unto those that have a broken heart and He saves those that are contrite. Psalm 51:16-17: "Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it." Simply going up to the temple, putting in my offering, partaking of the ordinance, will not satisfy the Lord. David said, if it would, I would surely do that, but that will not satisfy. "Thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

So, my friends, there must be a work of the Holy Spirit in your life and mine. The mountains of our pride, of our boastfulness and our self-confidence must be brought low. The deep depressions and the things that are hidden from view, the filth of our mouths, the stories that spew forth from the venom of our souls, our slanderous tongues, our harsh sayings, the cesspools of our hearts must be filled

up. The crooked ways, the little trimming of corners, the little falsifying the truth, the little deceit, must be made smooth. Isaiah 57:15: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity Whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

The Lord says He's particular about where He lives, and He says He does not come in to take up His dwelling place except in a contrite and a humble heart. Has the Lord's Spirit plowed your old wicked heart and brought you to the place of coming clean with Him? May God speak to your heart!

"Blessed Almighty God, we praise Thee that we can come to Thee in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank Thee for this message that the Holy Ghost led John the Baptist to preach. We pray that You will be pleased to speak to every person that reads this message, and show each one their true condition before Thee. Please bring some to a full surrender unto our Lord Jesus Christ, that they will find salvation in Him. Speak to Your children and revive us again, that we may glorify Christ, to Whom belongs all honor, glory and praise, both now and forever. Amen!"

Anytime we are not doing what God tells us to do in His Word, we are not led of God. "Just one life, 'Twill soon be past; Only what's done for Christ will last!"

John The Baptist Comes To Town – Part 2

Matthew 3:2

Calling Men To Come Clean With God

Last Lord's Day we dwelt at length on the fact that Almighty God laid the axe at the root and that every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit was going to be hewn down and cast into the fire. I want to continue our study on the ministry of John the Baptist, "Calling Men to Come Clean With God" and to throw down their arms and to cease their willful violation of God's Holy Law and to submit their lives to the rule and the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ before it is everlastingly too late.

John the Baptist laid the axe of God's coming judgment at the very root of the sinful condition of men and women, and we desperately need again and again all over this country men of the like, of the persuasion, and of the character of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ, to come and insist that men shall come clean with God. There is no excuse now; God Almighty will not accept any plea of ignorance. He commands all men everywhere to repent. John the Baptist said in Matthew 3:2, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Mark 1:14-15: "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the Gospel." Acts 3:19, "Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Read Acts 17:30-31, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent; Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man Whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead " Luke 13:5, the Saviour Himself says, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

I've been amazed as I go up and down the country to find out how many preachers have found out that repentance is not to be

preached to the Gentiles. We have Bible teachers who tell us the Jews were supposed to repent, but that all a sinner has to do now is to simply receive Jesus Christ as his Saviour by what they call simple faith, and they'll be saved. But the Scriptures nowhere separate repentance and faith. Sometimes repentance alone is mentioned, and it always supposes faith; and sometimes the way to God is faith, and it is just mentioned alone, but it always presupposes repentance. Somebody says, "Which comes first – repentance or faith?" I do not know; they come together, but you cannot have one without the other. We desperately need in these desperately wicked days the clarion call to go forth everywhere, for God commands all men everywhere to repent. To repent! That's the desperate need of this hour. Dr. Harry A. Ironside said, "Shallow preaching that does not grapple with the terrible fact of man's sinfulness and guilt – preaching that does not call on men everywhere to repent – that kind of preaching results in shallow conversions. And so we have myriads of glib-tongued professors today who give no evidence of regeneration whatsoever. They go about prating about being saved by grace, but they manifest no grace in their lives."

Dr. L.E. Maxwell of Prairie Institute yonder in Canada in his great book, *Crowded to Christ*, tells of a young preacher who graduated from one of our Bible institutes, and he went over yonder to India and preached the nice smooth Gospel that he was taught in the Bible institute. The Bible teachers have the dispensations all arranged, and they've got everything fitted nicely into little pockets, you know – this is for that time, the other's for some other time. This young preacher had gone over there and preached his nice little easy believism over yonder in India, and everybody over there had believed. Why, sure! And they took Jesus as their Saviour and put Him up on the shelf with the rest of their gods. And this young man went over there and built a great church membership of people who believed in Jesus, but as he continued to preach he noticed there was no fruit. There was no fruit, there was no zeal, there were no tears, there was no passion, there was no compassion. There was no "ache" to warn men everywhere, and finally in his desperate condition he

came to the conclusion that led him to disband his congregation and start at the bottom and begin all over again. Then instead of preaching his easy believism, he began to preach the truth as it is in God's Word, that God Almighty demands that men come absolutely 100 percent clean with Him and throw down their arms, and put their shotgun down at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, throw up their hands in utter submission and quit rebelling against the rule of Christ in their lives, quit violating God's Holy Law in their daily walk!

And I wouldn't be surprised if that's not what this nation needs. We have thousands of people who attend some sort of church service this morning; some of you listening to me now – and the earlier it is the better. You'll go to some of these early morning services now so you'll have more time to feed the lusts of that old body and that old mind and that old flesh and that old carnality that's in you. And we're turning America into a Protestant Catholicism, where we go and pay our tribute to a Holy God one hour on Sunday morning, and then we do as we please the rest of that day that God Almighty says is His Day, and is to be kept for the glory of God and the rest of the body. I say to you, my friends, that there is no evidence of regeneration inside unless it is evidenced by the fruits of repentance, an obedient, abundant, abiding, victorious persevering faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in our daily lives!

I tell you now that in spite of the Bible teaching to the contrary notwithstanding, the preaching of repentance is the demand of Almighty God to all men everywhere. Calling on men to repent is not contrary to the preaching of the grace of a Sovereign God, but the preaching of repentance prepares men to be interested in the gracious provisions of God in Christ, wherein He imputes not the sin of the world to men, but puts it on Jesus Christ. We've got lots of people today, especially in this Piedmont section, who are mighty, mighty afraid lest the sinner will have something he can claim a part in and have merit in. But I tell you, there is no merit on the part of a sinner, for that sinner enabled by God's grace to recognize his desperate need.

The Scripture says, "They that be whole need not a

physician, but they that are sick, "a man who's covered with putrifying sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head, like the sinner described in Isaiah – the sooner he finds out that he is sick, the sooner he may be calling, screaming for Jesus Christ the Great Physician to put the healing balm of Gilead on his sin-sick soul and rescue him by His marvelous power. My friend, there isn't one bit of merit at all for a sick man to call for a doctor. There wasn't any merit in the prodigal son who left home and wound up in the hog pen –there was no merit for him to crawl and go back home and say, "Father, I have sinned!" He merited no pardon, but when he did go back and take his place in the dust of repentance, it did put him in a place to receive a pardon and salvation. I tell you, there is no sinner who was ever saved apart from the grace of God. Know assuredly that a sinner can never receive the grace of God who does not recognize (watch it!) his need, and his need is for repentance, and this is not contrary to the grace of God, nor does it limit the grace of God, nor does it accrue merit to the repenting sinner – but it is God's way of preparing the sinner to hear with gladsome ear the good tidings that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.

We desperately need what I am talking about this morning. Oh, my soul! Isn't it a tragedy that we try to soften the terms upon which God proffers Jesus Christ to men and women! The terms are repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you and I right here in this city are living in a day of lawlessness. Shameless impenitence marks the actions of this generation of people. You know there is some hope for people as long as the conscience pricks them, and their hearts bleed over their wrongdoing, but people today do as they please and say "Phooey on God." If God gets in their way, they'll import them some Bible teachers to say, "Well, that's not for us today." Or they do something, and they'll say, "Well, I'm not concerned; I'm getting along fine, thank you!" I say that men are in desperate condition now because they are shamelessly propagandizing the fact that they don't give a whoop what God says in His Word about the way they do. They joined the church, took the preacher's hand, were sprinkled or

ducked, they went to service once early on Sunday morning; and the priest in Protestant garb will put a little hypodermic needle in their arms and give them a little spiritual cocaine shot, and make them feel better so they can go out and sin some more!

We desperately need some John the Baptists to go up and down the land in our day in all the fury of Sinai's thunders and terrors and shout out again that the Law of God has not been repealed, that God still demands men to repent, and that God still demands men to believe, and God still demands that men surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all the avenues of their lives. We need men now to call men to repentance. We need desperately to read sermons like the Lord preached on the Mount. Now our nation is full of Bible teachers who tell us that the Sermon on the Mount is not for today; it's for the Millennial age, they say, and it's universally ignored now, and they tell us the exalted demands of the Sermon on the Mount will be a lot more easily obeyed in the Millennial age when the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and the knowledge of the Lord shall cover this old earth as the waters cover the sea. But I look you in the face and tell you, my friends, that the Sermon on the Mount is for T-O-D-A-Y, today! And the ethical standards that we are told are too high, and that men cannot possibly live up to them now, are still God's measuring rod for the character of His citizens of the eternal kingdom both in time and in eternity.

Ah, they tell us, we couldn't turn another cheek when somebody slaps us, and when somebody steals our coat, we couldn't give them another, and we couldn't pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us, and we couldn't do this and that and the other that the Scriptures tell us to do. Man's ethical standard today is not too high, and we go up and down the country and whittle down the claims of God Almighty's Holy Law. But I warn you now that A-L-L, all Christ's teachings are meant by Him on purpose to be unacceptable to this old carnal, godless, dirty, filthy flesh of Rolfe Barnard and everybody else.

You know, the early Christians who became martyrs (most of them) followed through what I'm preaching to you now. They could have muzzled an open confession of Christ until that command

could have been more easily obeyed, but they didn't do it. Many of them paid with their lives, but they gained heaven and the glorious hope of Christ in eternity.

Walk the streets of this nation if you don't believe it –see the women sporting their bodies and showing not, it must be done.

I wish God would raise up people to hear me. We are getting on other radio stations to get this message out. I wish God's people who hear me would pray for me. I want an old fashioned baptism of Holy Ghost power. I wish I could burn these warning messages into the hearts of these self-satisfied, God-dishonoring, Christ-rejecting, Holy Spirit-denying and despising, lawbreaking generation of men and women who are going to hell so fast they are kicking up the dust in the devil's eyes, and going to hell listening to us preach.

I tell you, John the Baptist came and said, "God's laid the axe to the root," when men came to him and said "We've been listening to you preach." As we learned last Lord's Day, they came with this one cry, "What must we do? It must be our move now." Oh, my soul! Oh, to hear men once again interested in what the holy claims of God Almighty are. And John the Baptist wielding the sword of truth in the Spirit crossed these people just where they lived in order that the one thing might bring them to the dust of death and the death of self, and therefore resurrection in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The soldiers came and said, "What must we do?" And he crossed them on the thing nearest their heart. The publicans came and said, "What must we do?" And he told them to turn from the thing that was nearest their heart. The Pharisees came and he told them, "Ye generation of vipers! Who hath warned you!" And he told them to bring forth fruit worthy of repentance. Ladies and gentlemen, listen to me! All of man's rebellion is usually wrapped up, heads up, in just one thing. These publicans, their rebellion and their lawlessness came to a head (like a boil, you know) over their stealing money. And the same with the soldiers, and the same with the Pharisees. God always crosses a man at the point of his rebellion; and when God's will and man's will cross, something's got to give. If man's will prevails he'll go to hell, but if God's will

prevails He'll conquer that sinner. You know, my friend, it's obedience to the command of God – or it's death!

It's to be shut up with all our inability to face our responsibility, and to remember that God before He raises anybody first kills him, and that God demands unconditional surrender to the Lordship of His blessed Son in your life and mine. My soul! I wonder where your rebellion is headed up. I wonder just what one thing comes up before you every time the claims of Christ are pressed upon you. You are willing to give up everything except one thing, and I tell you that that'll go, that'll be cast at the feet of Jesus Christ! You are going to turn in abhorrence and hatred of that, you're going to pull it out of your life and cast it at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, or you are going to eternal hell. That's right, my friend.

How about you, sinner, your rebellion and violation heads up in one place, and you want to go to heaven but you won't drop the sin, and you don't want to go to hell, but you won't drop the sin. I tell you, God Almighty demands that you drop it and throw it at the feet of Jesus Christ and come clean with Him, or you are going to be sent to burn in eternity forever and ever by a God Who loved this world enough to give His Son to die for sinners, but doesn't love it enough to send men to heaven who love sin and hate God. May God help us today, is my prayer. Revelation 21:8: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

The bitterness of death is SIN unpardoned!

John The Baptist Comes To Town – Part 3

Mark 3:6-14

The Sermon That Cost A Preacher His Head

We come now to the third message on the general series *John The Baptist Comes To Town*, or the Ministry of the Forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is a type of the work of the Holy Spirit in preparing men's hearts to bow down to the claims of Christ Jesus and receive Him as Lord and Master and as Saviour of their lives and of their souls. We've been speaking to you for the past two Lord's Days on the necessity of repentance and how John the Baptist was faithful to keep sinners' feet to the fire and tell them that God demands and will settle for nothing less than all-out, unconditional surrender to the claims of Christ – and that only those who bow to the sceptre of King Jesus may know Him in the pardon of their sins and what we call salvation.

Now with your Bibles open for the third message at the Gospel of Mark, chapter 6, verse 14, I want to speak again along the line of the ministry of John the Baptist, and if I have a subject for the message today it would be "The Sermon That Cost a Preacher His Head." In Mark 6:14-20, we read, "And king Herod heard of him for his name was spread abroad) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets. [They were trying to make some disposition of the person called Jesus.] But when Herod [the king] heard thereof, he said [I know who this fellow is], It is John, whom I beheaded: He is risen from the dead. For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: For he had married her. For John had said unto Herod [see, he was preaching the sermon outside of Jerusalem and Herod attended the service and John looked him in the face and said], It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. Therefore Herodias [that is Herod's wife] had a quarrel against him [John the Baptist], and would have

killed him; but she could not: For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly."

Now old Herod knew that John the Baptist was bringing the truth, and he was afraid of him and respected him. And he did a lot of things that John said must be done, and he hears him gladly. Mark 6:21-29 reads, "And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee; And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee. And he swam unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom. And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. And the king was exceeding sorry,' yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her. And immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought; and he went and beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel,' and the damsel gave it to her mother. And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up the corpse, and laid it in a tomb."

My friend, here is a sermon that cost a man his head. It is a sermon on holiness. It is a sermon on God's Holy Law. It is a sermon on the requirement of a holy God. It is a sermon on the character of God. And here is this mouthpiece, this voice of a Holy God, a man by the name of John the Baptist, facing the king of Judea with his ungodly wife and ungodly daughter and all of the courtiers that stand about the court. When this old king hears from God through the lips of God's preacher and God's prophet that it is not lawful for him to have his brother's wife, that sermon, that faithfulness, that truth, cost John the Baptist his head – but it cost that man Herod his eternity-bound soul. Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and

whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death."

You know, my friend, from the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry throughout the lids of the New Testament, repentance is the watchword of the hour. Every prophet and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself in His prophetic ministry, down through John the Seer who wrote the last book of the Bible, rings the charges on the truth that God is a Holy God, that His demands have not been lightened, and that men are still called upon to repent toward God and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Immediately we open the Word of God – whether in the Old Testament or in the New – we find that the subject that is paramount is REPENTANCE.

In the Old Testament the prophets were all the time, forever and eternally, calling on the people to give up their sinful ways and to live a righteous life. When John the Baptist hit the deck to prepare the people's hearts to receive Jesus Christ, he immediately announced (in Matthew 3:2), "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The first sermon the Lord Jesus ever preached as a Prophet, He demanded repentance. The Apostle Paul is the author, as the Holy Spirit gave him utterance, of that eternal command as recorded in Acts 17:30: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

It is God's command, and back of God's command is God, the character of God and the requirements of God. In the Bible, my friends, the word repentance, the act repentance, the duty repentance, the command repentance, the gift of repentance is the first step. (I don't like that term "first step," but I don't know how to put it any better!) There is no use for us to deny that God Almighty demands repentance. He commands repentance. The duty of all men, Paul says – now since Christ has come God doesn't overlook anything now and ignorance is no excuse – the first duty of men and women is to repent. You know, my friends, in our zeal we have lowered God's standards. We have widened the door of the professing church, but we have not been able to widen God's door to glory. Those doors that mark the difference between hell and heaven

and between bliss and torment in eternity cannot be changed. The Doorkeeper is God Almighty Himself. These doors to glory were fixed forever in eternity in the eternal counsel of Almighty God, and the price of that fixing was wrought out in the agonizing blood of the Lord Jesus Christ at a place called Calvary. I know that I am preaching in a day now when we have made it too easy; we have made it far too easy. And today, God pity us, to many it costs nothing to come into our churches. It costs nothing to go out. We give up nothing when we come in, and we leave nothing behind when we go out.

A generation or two ago – I remember even when I started to preach nearly 33 years ago – a generation ago it meant something to stack arms, to throw down your shotgun, to repent, to surrender, to come into the presence of the Living Christ in such a way as to be saved. In that day and time this Christian walk and this Christian way was a pilgrimage. Men and women walked in enemy territory as a pilgrim and walked the tight rope, seeking the will of God. In those days this business of being a Christian was a warfare – constantly at war with our old flesh within us, the devil tempting us. In those days this business of walking with Christ was an eternal conflict – it was an agonizing struggle. In those days coming to Christ meant an honest attempt to do eternally the will of a Sovereign God. In those days coming to Christ in what we call repentance meant, if necessary, the cutting off of the arms or a plucking out of the eye.

In the Word of God we are told about a cross and about taking it up and about denying self. In those days coming to Christ in repentance meant being willing to be a fool for Christ's sake. In those days coming to Christ in repentance meant walking alone if necessary. It meant a willingness to be hated for His sake. Now, God help us, it is more or less a picnic – it is a social – it is a mockery! May God open our eyes!

Repentance holds the field until our Lord Jesus Christ recalls it, and He has not done that up till now and so I preach it. John the Baptist preached it. It cost him his head. And I preach it, and failure to obey it will cost you your soul. Luke 13:3: "Except ye repent, ye

shall all likewise perish."

I am dead certain that the mess we are in religiously and spiritually now, the love-sick so-called church people, the sickly sentimental crop of so-called believers who are enthusiastic about a fair or a frolic but are conspicuously absent from prayer meeting – I am sure that this is due to the fact that our churches are full of people who are not born right. Somehow or another they got into our professing churches without ever having come face to face with the holy demands of a Holy God, and being brought in the face of those demands to the place of throwing up all hands of self-effort and self-confidence and turning one's self over lock, stock and barrel to the Sovereign Christ. Somehow or another they have missed the main business. Somehow or another they got in what we call the "church" without turning in abhorrence and in utter conviction against sin, without turning from their sin to obedience unto God. And, of course, their lives fail! If we dodge this step, we miss out on salvation!

In the days of the Apostle Paul it was Jesus or Ceasar as Lord – and you are either in enemy territory, friendly with God's enemies, giving comfort to those who would tear God off His throne and wipe the memory of the shed blood of Jesus Christ off the face of the earth if they could; or you are in the camp of those who gladly surrender to the rule and reign of Christ, and own His death as your death, His life as your life, His resurrection as your resurrection and His reign as your reign. You own Him, and you are awfully glad you do. I tell you, my Lord Jesus Christ never has made it easy. He did not preach "only believe." He preached righteousness, and then peace. He never offered to give peace to sinners while they waved the red flag of their open rebellion against the claims of Christ and the rule of Christ. My friends, time and time again in the Bible that is clearly brought out. Here is the rich young ruler. My soul, if he had come to us we would have voted him in, wouldn't we! But he lacked one thing. He lacked one thing! He was like old Herod; he believed and he heard John gladly, and he did many things. He quit this, and he quit that, and he quit the other and quit the other. John put his finger on the sore spot – his illegal, both Godward and

manward, relationship to his brother Philip's wife (he had killed Philip and taken Philip's wife to be his consort), and John said, "You are breaking God's Law." Old Herod was willing to do this and willing to quit that, but when it came to the sore spot in his life, and the one place where he was telling God to go to hell, proving that he was not willing to abide by the strict Law of the Holy God, when pressure was brought to bear on him, instead of turning from his sins to God, he cut off the head of John the Baptist, and they brought it in on a charger. Oh, my soul, it is repent or go to hell! I tell you now my Lord never has lowered the standard.

He told Nicodemus, a nice, respectable man, a member of the greatest religious group the world at that time had ever seen – they were strict and in many respects honorable and above board – but he told old Nicodemus that a miracle has to take place in his life and in his heart. He has got to be what the Scriptures call "born anew, born from above." Oh, my Lord Jesus Christ says, Let righteousness be established as the dominant principle of your life and then peace will be yours. John 3:5-7: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

Let surrender be your action and your attitude, and then joy will be your portion. But no righteousness, no peace; no surrender, no joy. My Lord Jesus Christ will tell men to labor not for the meat that perisheth, but labor for the meat that springs up into eternal life. He will tell men to agonize to enter in at the strait gate and tell them that a few will be able to get in there. My Lord will not, my Lord cannot and still be God, save any human being in time or in eternity, apart from that human being as an act of himself bringing all of his idols and stacking his arms and making once-for-all-to-be-recommitted-and-done-all-over-again-day-after-day committal to the Lord Jesus Christ! Read John 6:27: "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed." Luke 13:24: "Strive to enter in at the strait [difficult,

narrow, restricted] gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."

What is repentance? What is that John the Baptist is demanding? Well, he told old Herod, "You will just have to turn from this evil way." What is it? Well, repentance is conviction and yet it is not conviction. No man ever has been able to repent apart from deeply feeling the sense of his utter guilt. That is conviction. Yet repentance is more than conviction. Conviction is something like this; here is an illustration: For instance, it is one thing to be called at five o'clock in the morning by the hotel clerk or by the alarm clock, but it is another thing to get up. Do you see it? Conviction is to be called; it is another thing to heed the call. It is one thing to be awakened – that is conviction; it is another thing to arise – that's repentance. You see your duty – that is conviction; you do it – that is repentance. Light – that is conviction; life is the fruit of repentance. I know what is right – conviction; I will do it if it kills me – repentance!

My sinner friend, God Almighty has taken the trouble to wake some of you up to your perilous condition before Him. It was dark, and He struck a light and said to you, "This is the path I want you to walk in." And you were awakened. That is conviction. You were convicted. Some of you were alarmed. Some of you have been concerned. Your conscience was aroused. You knew you were wrong and that you were under God's judgment. You were moved about your need. You lifted your hand and said, "Pray for me." You sought somebody out and asked him to help you. You were moved. Had you acted you would have become a Christian, but you didn't. You resisted, you dallied, or maybe you fought it. You said, "No." Some of you have been in this state for years until the alarm clock sounds mighty dim. Once you trembled, now you sleep well at night.

Repentance is conviction, but it is more than conviction. Repentance is sorrow for sin, but it is more than sorrow for sin. This young lawyer who came to the Lord Jesus Christ was sorry, but he wasn't sorry enough to quit. He wept, but he went away wiping the tears from his eyes without Christ. My dear unsaved friend, tears do not count if your heart is in rebellion. More than tears are needed. A

great ONCE-FOR-ALL "LORD, I SURRENDER" is needed! Repentance is not an emotion or excitement, but repentance includes it. No man has ever been able to repent who did not get terribly excited in the very seat of the affections of his soul about the heinousness of his sin and the desperateness of his relation, or lack of it, to Almighty God!

What is repentance? It is the one great deliberate act of the soul, the whole man, in obedience to the call of God. It is a turning from and a turning to. It is putting your hand on your sin and pulling it out. That is what repentance is. It cost John the Baptist his head to preach repentance to Herod.

Have you repented? Have you been able – as you sought a new heart, as you put yourself in the hands of a Sovereign God, have you been able to abhor yourself, your old nature and your sinful way, and turn utterly renouncing all hope in self to put your confidence and your trust and your surrender in the Lord Jesus Christ? I hope you have.

John The Baptist Comes To Town – Part 4

Psalm 7:11-12

Turn Or Burn

We bring you today the fourth and last in the series of messages on the general subject, "John the Baptist Comes to Town" – "Repentance, God's requirement, the chief duty of all men everywhere and the gift of God to believing sinners." We have been trying in these last three messages to press the demand of a Sovereign God as it came through the lips of John the Baptist. That demand was: REPENT! You know, my friends, God Almighty has nothing else to say to an eternity-bound soul. You need not bring your problems or your alibis or your theology, or anything else, to try to have a Bible conference with a Holy God. He's got just one thing to say to a sinner: "Stack arms, sinner! Throw down that shotgun! Yield yourself to My claims." Plant, by the grace of God, the flag of King Jesus in your life, then the Lord God will put up the white flag of peace, and you will know the peace that this old world didn't give, and therefore cannot take away. Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

And now with your Bibles open, I want to speak to you on the subject, Turn or Burn. John the Baptist says, "Repent or else." It is repent or hell. There are no if's and and's about it. That is the only command that God has for the sinner. If you ignore that, He won't do business with you on any other ground. That is the only place that God will deal with a sinner, the place of repentance. You have no time to argue about being a special creation of Adam's mined and lost race; He just looks every human being in the face now and says, "You are all cut out of the same cloth, and you've got to repent." John the Baptist evidently knew by heart Psalm 7:11-12, where the Psalmist speaking of God says, "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he [the wicked] turn not, He will whet His sword: He hath bent His bow, and made it ready." Turn or burn!

Richard Baxter went up and down England years ago saying,

"Sinner, turn or burn." The gifted and sainted and lamented Spurgeon had a sermon, "Turn or Burn." And that is just what it is. Our text here, from which I think John the Baptist drank deeply, simply puts it on the line – if you don't turn, God will whet His sword! He has got it ready. He has prepared the instruments of death, and you have made a pit and you have dug it; then you have fallen into the ditch you made. It is turn or burn. God has a sword, and God will punish sin. The old-time preachers believed this. They went up and down the land and copied or republished God's demands, saying, "Turn, sinner, turn!" There is no time to argue. There is not time to delay. There is no time for a conference. Turn! Throw down your arms. It is turn or burn!

The heart of the Gospel is that God in His marvelous grace (of course, nobody can make Him do it) said, "Sinner, the way has been prepared so that, as you throw down your arms, peace and pardon may be yours." And that way is through the Lord Jesus in His precious life and His death and His present reign, and because of Who He is and what He does now, God Almighty is able and willing (Praise God!) to promise (imagine God promising an old sinner anything, but He does – isn't that grace?) – to promise that the vilest sinner out of hell, if he repents toward God and believes in Christ, that pardon will be his! He will be set free. Thank God! Isn't that grace? Isn't that great!

You know, my friends, universally almost all preachers used to preach against sin. Now it is unpopular to even mention any kind of sin. We hear a lot now about "God is love," but also according to the Bible He is Judge. In the Bible, line upon line, precept upon precept, and plain text upon text says, "The wicked shall (S-H-A-L-L) be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17). I wonder how many preachers I am preaching to now who are afraid to speak out here. I warn you, my friends, that you are preaching to a generation that is wicked, and because they are wicked, they have had a conference and abolished hell, and they think that deciding they don't like hell has done away with it! And because this is a hypocritical generation, it will have the same punishment.

Now we invent all sorts of doctrines and movements and isms to get out of facing the plain facts that it is repent or it is hell. You are living in a day, my friends, when men have endeavored to prove that God will clear the guilty. He says in the Bible that He won't. You are living in a day when men and women are endeavoring to prove that He will by some kind of means refrain from punishing sin, when He says He won't. Two hundred years ago the predominant strain of the pulpits all over England and America was one of terror and of justice, and that kind of preaching produced a breed of God-fearing men and women who made our nation possible. Now we lap up a soft gospel of easy-believism, and we have a soft generation of so-called Christians. God help us to come back to the plain preaching of the Word of God!

You know, my friends, people sneered at Noah when he preached righteousness. No wonder the people didn't pay much attention to him. Imagine old Noah coming back to America and walking down the streets and seeing the parade of naked flesh and all the out-right flagrant disobedience of God's plain teaching – men and women doubling their fists at God, snubbing their noses at Him, and blowing the smoke of their absolute impenitent attitude in the holy nostrils of God! Imagine Noah coming and preaching righteousness. No wonder they didn't get in the ark! No wonder they didn't pay any attention to his preaching! Perhaps they made fun of Noah. But the day came when the flood was there and they came to appreciate the old man after it was too late.

I tell you over this radio station, someday you will know I am telling you the truth. I am not here to flatter you – I am here to warn you, and I tell you that God Almighty says, "If the sinner turns not, he will burn in hell." God will whet His sword. You know, John the Baptist was sent to tell men just that. He said, "It is repenting time now." He said, "No time to argue now." God help us! I think I have had hundreds come to me, and if you would listen to their talk, they are cut out of a little different cloth from anybody else, and I tell them that it is high time that they just came on down and join the human race! We are all in the same boat, sinner. He just says, "Sinner, throw down your arms. Repent – right now. Right now!"

That is the only message that He has for a sinner. He won't talk to you. You say, "Well, Brother Barnard, you don't understand my case." God does and He says, "I have just one thing to say to you, you have pointed your shotgun at Me as long as you need to, and I haven't cut off your neck yet, and I have been patient and longsuffering, and you have been shooting at every claim of a Holy God, and I have been patient – but I have just one thing to say to you, sinner, and that is: You come on down here and take your place and repent. Repent! Repent!"

You can't make a Bible conferee out of a Holy God. You can't make out like you are different from everybody else. God commands all men everywhere to repent. He won't even talk to you. He won't do business with you at all on any other plane. He won't just let you pour out your sob stories and then say, "Well, I understand now, you are a different person from most folks, and I will have to get a brand new scheme of dealing with you." He is not going to do it, sinner. He will just look you in the face and say, "Repent, or else!" It's repent or else. Luke 13:5: "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

You are just bringing all your alibis but all the time you are talking about you're this and you're that, and about this and that and the other. You have the shotgun of your hatred of God's holiness and your unwillingness to bow to God's rule pointed right straight at the heart of God. And you are just like your great, great granddaddy, old Adam – you are trying to reach up and with your filthy hands snatch God off the throne and sit there yourself. God says, "Sinner, I will just tell you right now, I have got nothing else to say to you. You just turn or you are going to burn." That's pretty plain, isn't it, but that is the God's truth!

It is time we quit this nice little dealing, trying to slip up on the blind side of God and making out like we are just not double-barrelled, hell-deserving sinners. Why, that is what we are! Why, if we had our way, we would have pushed God off the throne a long time ago. If we had been there in person, we would have driven the nails in the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, and our voices would have drowned out everybody else's when they cried, "Away

with Him. Away with Him! Crucify Him and release unto us Barabbas." That is the kind of folks we are. Those people did exactly what you would have done if you had been there in person, and old Adam did exactly what you would have done if you had been there in person. I am telling you, if what I am saying to you is so, God Almighty couldn't be holy and deal with us and talk over conditions and try to work out something that would be mutually satisfactory to both of us. God Almighty, if He is God at all has just one thing to say to rebellious sinners, "Sinner, repent! Repent!"

What kind of turning is God talking about? What kind of turning is necessary? Well, bless your dear heart, it is an ACTUAL turning. A lot of people are always talking to me about they want to turn. Well, you are going to go to hell wanting to turn. Repentance is an actual turning. It is not simply wanting to – it is not simply trying to find out how to. It is an actual turning from sin. It is to see your face in the mirror of God's Holy Law, and get a glimpse of yourself and see yourself as God sees you. I tell you, any form of repentance is worse than nothing if it attempts to deceive God and lie about your condition. I tell you, your darling sins must be turned from. One leak in the ship is enough to sink that ship. And I tell you, God Almighty declares it necessary that you have repentance after the order of giving up all of your sins. That is what He is talking about. If you don't, it is no Christ. The gates of heaven are barred against any human being who thinks that you can enter that strait gate with all of your idols hugged to your own bosom and all of your rebellion still carried in your arms.

Oh, my friends, God Almighty demands an ACTUAL turning. John says, "Do it! Do it!" They came to him and said, "What must we do? We've been listening to you preach; evidently it's our move now." And John says, "You are dead right, bud. You quit doing that, and you do this, that and the other." Somebody says, "That is legal." I warn you, my friends, that no sinner ever has come to real repentance, which is a reliance on Jesus Christ, without facing the way it is done and who he is. And legally, or any other way you want to, that is the way of real repentance. A man has got to actually turn on himself, take sides with God against himself!

Now, bud, that is hard to do, because your mama don't want you to do that. Your mama swears that you are a sweet little boy, and your wife will say, "Brother Barnard, I want you to pray for my husband; he is such a good man." But God says that his old heart is as vile as the pit of hell itself. But Mother says, "My boy is a good boy," and the wife says, "My husband is a good husband, he has just one bad habit." But you listen to me now. Listen to me now! It has got to be an actual turning. You've got to take sides with God against yourself. That is hard to do, isn't it? Now it is easy to quit a few little things you do, but, oh, my soul, to take sides with God and say, "God, that is right." That is what confession is, "You're right, God. I agree with You, God. You are telling me the truth, and I will hide it and disguise it no longer." That is what confession is; it's this actual taking sides against yourself, your old nature, that is who you are, that part of you that makes you do what you do, that thing that makes you tick. Repentance is taking sides against and abhorring yourself and the way you do, this actually has to take place.

And then the repentance that God Almighty demands is ENTIRE, no reservation. You can't hug something. You can't fool God. You can't keep any rebellion. I know that this matter of laying down your arms will have to be done all over again and again and again and again. There is nothing in the Bible about a repentance that you did thirty years ago, and that wound it up. No! No! No! No! No! No man can have any evidence that he is born from above except there is some fruit, and the fruit of the new birth is repentance and faith. It is an every day position, but it has got to start sometime. A man has got to bring everything that he knows anything about, every rebellion of which he is conscious, and lay those things and that rebellion down, and take sides against himself – and no reservations, please! No holding one hand behind your back, please! No, sir! The rich young ruler couldn't get in except he did that. I tell you what is a fact, my friends, a pig will always be a pig, I don't care how you clean him up, and a sinner will always be an old wicked sinner unless he comes to the place of repentance where God Almighty will do business with him.

Now that is hard to do, isn't it? That is hard to do. And, bud,

you are not going to do it if you can help it. You would rather go to hell, some of you, than have this operation. Oh, my soul, to come laying every ambition and every desire and every well devised plan of your whole life and say, "Lord, it is all dross in my sight; I turn it over to You" – that's hard to do. As a matter of fact, no man can do that just by deciding that he will do it. No man will ever do that apart from the goodness and grace and mercy of God. That is the reason those of you who listen to my voice now who have the slightest evidence that you have been able to repent, you thank God that He has enabled you to come to the place, instead of congratulating yourself and alibiing yourself, that you took sides with God against yourself and repented!

What kind of turning is demanded by a Holy God? Well, bless your heart, it is IMMEDIATE. The longer I preach the more this thing makes the hair stand up on my head. God commands all men to repent – when? Well, every time that word occurs in the New Testament it says it is in the imperative mood, "RIGHT NOW!" Right now! I have known some people throughout my ministry, and up and down the land, who talk to me about how they want to go to heaven when they die, and they don't want to go to hell, and yet they sleep well and they eat well. They make a good living, and they are nice sociable people, they are good citizens; they listen to you preach and never bat an eyelash, and are perfectly unaware of the fact that every time they draw breath that was given to them by a Holy Sovereign God, against Whose reign and Whose will they are absolutely sinning every day of their lives!

Here is this old wicked world, and just like a revolution yonder in Cuba or somewhere else, the rebels are out in the hills and the mountains and every time they see a soldier they take a shot at him because they are aiming to overthrow the dictator or the king or whoever it may be. This old world is seeing where two people claim to be sovereign – Satan and the Lord Some people say, "Well, I am not such a bad fellow, brother preacher. I do this and I do that." I know, but you are a member of the rebel army; you are a shotgun carrier for the enemies of King Jesus, and if your side wins, God will be put out of business.

God Almighty has sent forth the proclamation and said, "Rebel, lay down your arms; do it right now, and I promise pardon." But you say, "Well, I will do it when I get ready." Men walk the streets and breathe God's air; eat God's food and drink God's water, and enjoy God's blessings and continue with the shotgun of their wills pointed at the very heart of God. God Almighty demands immediate repentance – not tomorrow, not next day, but NOW! God doesn't say, "It is all right; you just keep on. You just keep on being on the enemy's side. You just keep on." Every dime he makes, God gave him power to make that dime. Every ounce of food he consumes, God Almighty produced that food. Try to make a crop yourself without God's help. Every bit of the water that refreshes your old tired body came from a well that God Almighty provided. That is right. Every breath of air you take is God's air, and you breathe God's air and shoot at God at the same time. You eat God's food and use it to give strength to your resistance to the demands of the Sovereign Christ. I tell you, my friends, God couldn't be God – God wouldn't be God – God would be a disgrace if He allowed sinners to take their time about what they are going to do about ceasing their resistance against His rule. That is the reason that in the Bible, God says, "Repent right now!"

God doesn't like it, brother. God doesn't think it is nice for you to be shooting at Him. God doesn't like that at all. "God is angry with the wicked every day!" The Word of God says that the sinner is under the wrath of God right now, and that wrath abides on him continually. That is the reason that God Almighty demands immediate repentance. Immediate repentance!

Hear me, my friends, it is turn or burn! It was so in John the Baptist's day – it is so now. It will always be so. The only hope for a sinner is to turn from his rebellion, out of which nest grows all of his lawlessness, and turn himself over to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 37:8-9: "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off; but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth." Verse 38: "But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; the end of the wicked shall be cut off." John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son

hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Sudden Death

Hebrews 9:27

The God of the Bible kills people! Not the popular "god" of the vivid imaginations of this generation of confused men and women, but the God of the Bible, Who at the same time is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. This God Who kills people, Who threatens to do so, Who evinces His character by His wrath in cutting people off—will He have to kill you?

There are two statements I would like to make that nobody can deny now—nobody, wise-acre or humble.

First, this is a day in the once Christian nation of America, that now is a pagan society—this is a day of armed, active hostility to the claims of God for His Son Jesus Christ. This is a day when scientists announce that they believe in God, and everybody claps their hands. This is a day when everybody believes in a "god," but not THE GOD whose character is pictured and outlined and delineated in the Word of God. This generation is dead set against the God of the Bible, because God will not resign from His throne, will not abdicate, will not water down His demands nor His claims.

The second statement is this: The most alarming fact of our day in America is that every time two people die these days, one of them dies suddenly. This nation has become the land of sudden death. Men and women do not bring their children and loved ones about them like Jacob of old and make disposition of one's property, and tell everybody good-bye, and turn your face toward the wall, and go to sleep with their fathers. Men start out to work and have an accident in a car, and wake up in eternity. Men start out to take a bath, and wake up in eternity. This is the day of accidental death. Men die now without doing what they fondly said they would do, take time out to pray. Men die today and they never get the opportunity to do what they said all the days of their life: "Tomorrow I'm going to repent." Tomorrow comes, but instead of that being the time when you have space given for repentance, that is the time when you have space given you to die! Men are always "going to yield" to the claims of God for His Son Jesus Christ, but

one-half of the people of America die suddenly. We call it "accidentally," but there are no accidents in the Kingdom of God. Nothing happens that takes God by surprise!

There is a verse of Scripture I want to read, and hundreds of others in God's Word that reinforce this verse. This verse explains exactly what is happening in America, and why America is now the land of sudden death. That verse of Scripture is Proverbs 29:1: "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." What's happening in America? Is this nation that was founded by men and women seeking a place to worship and serve God without compulsion—in this nation where the Gospel has been preached the length and breadth of the land—in this nation that has been smiled upon by Almighty God as no other nation since time began, wonderfully blessed of God—this nation has departed from the faith of our fathers and from the God of the Bible, and is blowing its smoke of outright rebellion and unbelief in the nostrils of a Thrice Holy God. And God is answering that awful rebellious, lawless spirit by cutting men and women off.

If you would just stop to think of it, you may be one of the people that is going to be suddenly cut off and die suddenly, and be hurled out yonder into the hands of a living God! For the Bible speaks the truth when it says in Hebrews 9:27: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Think with me now; I'll meet you at the Judgment with this warning from Almighty God's Word: "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck"—what is going to happen to him? I'll tell you exactly what will happen to him. He is going to be **SUDDENLY CUT OFF**. He is going to be destroyed. He is going to be ruined in this life and damned in the next. And God is going to do it, and that destruction is utterly without remedy!

One out of two people in America die suddenly. Why? Because America had been warned, America has been rebuked and reprov'd. You have been reprov'd by the Holy Spirit, for this verse of Scripture shows us that God does reprove men. I am not talking about the Hottentot in Africa that lives away out yonder in the jungle a long way from the nearest dirtroad. Oh! I am not talking about the

man who spends all the days of his sojourn here on this earth and never hears the Name of God or the title of God or the precious Name of Jesus. But I am talking about you here in America with so many churches and with a Bible that can be bought in most of our five-and-ten-cent stores, with the Gospel on the radio here in America, where God's hand has been so blessedly upon us. I am talking to you. God has reprovved you. "He that being often reprovved"— but men meet that reproof by rebelling and hardening themselves.

God has always been after sinners and He hasn't quit! He was warning sinners in the days of Noah, and bless God, He warns people today. Every time you go down one of these freeways, and traffic is stopped because of an accident and there is death; that's what I am talking about. That didn't happen accidentally; there are no accidents in the heart, mind, plan, and purpose of God. I am saying to you that those are warning signals put out there by a loving God Who yet is Thrice Holy, Who seeks to call men to stop on their road that leads to destruction, before they are plunged by their own sins into the pit of eternal Hell.

Thank God that He does reprove sinners. I can't save anybody; I can't convince anybody; I can't turn anybody. I know that. But God can. I am so glad that God kept after me, that God didn't give up on me. I am so glad that He hasn't given up on the human race. It seems that more men spurn Him and deny Him; and we have preachers that deny the truths of the Word of God. They make fun of the Deity of Christ, put the Bible out as an old scrapbook and junk morality. They junk the Ten Commandments and blow their smoke of rebellion in the face of God. But in spite of these facts, I am glad God's Holy Spirit is still running down sinners, stabbing them in their hearts, and reprovving them of their ungodly conduct and warning them of the Judgment and Hell to come, and pointing them to cease from trusting in self and cast all their confidence in the bloody Son of God hanging on the cross!

God does reprove sinners, but you know how people in our day meet God's reproof? They harden themselves. "He that being often reprovved hardeneth his neck"— God does the reprovving, and

man does the hardening. He says, "God is not going to move me. I wouldn't mind being a church member, and I don't mind being converted. I don't mind what they call being saved now, but God is not going to change me! God is not going to give me a heart of flesh, God is not going to plant a holy disposition in me, God is not going to start the work of making me like His Son. No, I will not be changed, so I will fight this business. If God thinks He is going to run my life, He has got another think coming!" That is how men talk today. Men harden themselves — they can't be neutral, so they harden themselves against the reproof of God. They say, "I don't believe in God," but they go to bed at night and wake up scared. Then they will pray to that God to keep them out of Hell (like I used to do) before morning!

Men harden themselves. Am I talking to you? Every time God warns you, do you grit your teeth and spit in His face, and go on down the road that leads to Hell? You know, you have to harden yourself to do that!

I remember in a certain city after I had brought a message one morning in an evangelistic campaign, I was shaking hands with some people, and I felt something pulling on my coat. So I looked down and there was a little three-and-a-half-year-old girl, curly haired and beautiful, a little gift from heaven. And I picked her up in my arms and she put her little arms around my neck and began to cry, "Oh, Brother Barnard, I want my daddy to get saved!" Now the little girl didn't know exactly what it meant to be saved, but she knew that life in her home was hell, and she knew something needed to happen to her daddy. She was pitiful and she just broke my heart. Her mother soon came and she began to sob, and she took the little girl out of my arms.

Then I said to this wife and mother, "I will be on the radio this afternoon at three o'clock." I said, "Your husband curses preachers, he curses God and he has ordered me and your pastor out of his home. He never goes to any assembly of God anywhere, and he brags about how tough he is; but sometimes he will listen to the radio. You make it convenient, and maybe he will listen to me this afternoon and I am going to preach to him." Well, that afternoon

over that radio I stopped about the middle of my sermon and asked the audience to pardon me. I said, "I believe there is a man listening to the sound of my voice now, and I believe God sent him the last call this morning." Then I told over that radio how that little three-and-a-half-year-old girl had come and climbed up in my arms and put her arms around my neck and cried, "Oh, Brother Barnard, I want my daddy to get saved, I want my daddy to get saved." I said, "I believe that daddy of the little girl is listening to me now." I said, "You wouldn't listen to God, you haven't listened to the pleas of your wife and little child. You haven't listened to anybody, but now here is God talking to you through the tears and heartbreak of your little three-and-a-half-year-old girl. If there is a spark of manhood in you, get down on your knees and begin to repent of your sins and cry to God for mercy!"

You know what he did? He got up and turned that radio off, slammed his hat on his head, opened the door and cursed me, cursed the radio, cursed God and cursed his wife. And slammed out of there, and went to the nearest honkytonk, and within 20 minutes after he got out of the house, a man pumped five bullets into his body. You say, "That was accidental." No, sir! Bless the Lord, "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck." What is going to happen to him? Judgment is coming! God is going to get a hold of him as He did that man. God kills people who harden themselves against Him.

The result of hardening yourself under the reprovng, convicting, pleading, persuading power, and the Person and Presence of God in the Holy Ghost, is sudden death. God warns. He said, "I kill and I make alive."

The Scripture tells us about how God killed people in the days of the flood. Scientists tell us that maybe as many people lived on the earth in the day of the flood as live now — nearly three billion souls. You know how many people God killed and sent to Hell? God did it! This God you say you believe in and live like He does not exist. This God that preachers make fun of, this Holy God. This God Who says, "I warn you: I kill and I make alive." This God Who is the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you know

what He did? He wiped off the face of the earth nearly three billion souls with a flood and sent them all to Hell. That is the God of the Bible! That is the God that kills people; is he going to have to kill you?

The Scriptures say if you keep on hardening yourself, you will not get by. No! I warn you. I warn you. God knows I wish I knew how to warn you! God kills people! What kind of people does He kill? People who harden themselves when He calls them, like those people who listened to Noah for 120 years and didn't pay any attention to him. God just wiped them off the face of the earth!

The pastor of a church in a certain place asked me to come and hold meetings. Before I got there seven deacons of that church had come to the pastor and said, "Now Brother Pastor, we are not going to oppose anything, but we don't believe in what you call evangelistic campaigns. So we will not be back until this preacher is gone and the meetings are over." The pastor said, "Well, I hate to see you take that attitude, but if that is what you want to do, I appreciate you coming and telling me." Well, if they had done what they said, it would have been all right. But we couldn't get a crowd for a few nights and we were hitting it pretty hard. So those fellows were glad and got to bragging about how we weren't getting anywhere in the meetings. They violated their word that they wouldn't oppose us.

The pastor came to me and he was brokenhearted, and he said, "Brother Barnard, this is killing me, what can we do?" I said, "I don't know. Are you game for us to get down on our knees and ask God to save them or kill them?" He agreed, and we got down on our knees and said, "Lord, You know what these fellows are doing. They are ruining the meeting, they are making fun of the Gospel, the church, the Lord Jesus Christ, and God's preachers." (They were just filling the town with this, and everybody was talking about how the meeting was no good, and those seven deacons making fun of it.) And so we said, "Lord, save them or kill them!"

Neither of us was supposed to tell about that prayer, and I don't think I did, but somehow those deacons heard about it. They just heard half of it, though, and so they just had a big time. They said, "The preachers there are praying for God to kill us!" But we

were praying for God to SAVE THEM or kill them, to get them out of the way. They were bucking God, they were hardening themselves against God. I think that is dangerous. They just laughed and had a big time about it. But in four days time, the pastor had seven different funerals, and they were the funerals of those seven Baptist deacons! Every one of them died a horrible, sudden death! God kills people who harden themselves against His claims for Jesus Christ!

You had better stop making fun of Christ's church, and Christ's Gospel, and Christ's people, and Christ's Bible, and Christ's Spirit. You had better stop refusing to believe the truth of God, for God hardens people, God kills people, God cuts people off who harden themselves against Him (Romans 9:17-18).

I am going to tell you the day you are going to be cut off by God. Acts 17:28, "For in Him we live and move and have our being...." This statement is true of this preacher and everybody else. Do you know what that means? That means this preacher is depending upon God for his next breath, and that means you also are depending upon God for your next breath. One time God sent a flood and destroyed people, and started over again. But God won't have to do that to cut you off. All God would have to do is not to give you the next breath. That's right. Our breath is in His hands.

How does God cut people off? He does it without any remedy (Proverbs 29:1). Oh, I will meet you at the Judgment and you will hear again my voice, and if you are sent to Hell, you will be without excuse. Thank God, I am praying that you have heard, and maybe there is somebody that is a little bit scared. I tell you, I don't think it's nice to be sent to Hell! But God says, "The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17). Will you be one of them? You will be if you do not change your hardening yourself, and surrender to God in the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Watching Men Die

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

Now in the Book of Ecclesiastes at chapter 12, I want to read you the account of a funeral procession of a man going to his long home. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened.

"And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low; Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was and the spirit shall return unto God Who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:1-7).

Last Lord's Day I spoke to you on "Sudden Death." Today I want to speak to you on "Watching Men Die." I have watched men die. It is an awful thing to watch men die, to watch men die screaming, to watch men die afraid not only of what is out yonder on the other side of death, but WHO is out there. I have had men hold on to my hands and scream and beg, "Preacher, don't let me go to hell." I have had the nurses break the fingers of the dead man (this sounds silly, but I have) because I would be so overcome I have had them holding my hand and I would forget and hold on until I could not get my fingers out of theirs. And they have died – they have died with the hobgoblins of the past crawling upon their beds. They have died looking to me, but they died afraid. I have watched men die.

In my early ministry, a little over 31 years ago, I went to the

world's largest oil town that just sprung up in a cow pasture. In a little while there were 50,000 people there crawling over one another's backs to see which could get to hell the quickest. I was the only preacher there for 16 months, and I watched men die. For 16 months I preached on an average of three funerals in one day. I was just a boy 23 years old, and I lived with death. I lived in the county hospital where the old folks would be sent, you know, and there to rot and die, and when they were dying they would call for the preacher. I lived in the houses of ill fame and the saloons where men would get shot and poor women would get shot or die of disease, and just before they died they would call for the preacher, and the preacher would come, and there they would look up into my face. They would want me to pray for them, but it would be too late to pray then.

In those days I had something impressed on my soul. I guess that is the reason I have been a hitchhiking evangelist all my life. I just can't settle down. I want to tell everybody I can just one time, "Brother, you have got to die!" You are going to be afraid to die! But you just wait until the rattle of death is in your throat and the dew of death is on your brow, and you will be afraid to die. I would rather be the kind of preacher the folks curse while they are getting along fine but call for when they die than anything this side of God's heaven.

I have watched men die. Oh, I wish we could face the fact that men do die. We live like we are going to live forever. Men live like they don't have any soul. Men live like there isn't any God, but when they come to die, those men who have lived that way know there is a God, and they know that out yonder they have got to meet Him, and they call for the preacher. Watching men die! Yes, watching men die! My text says, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was [that is, physical death], and the spirit shall return unto God Who gave it. "That is the second death.

I saw a cartoon one day of a very busy, wealthy businessman, who was sitting at his desk on Monday morning getting ready for the week's business. A shrouded figure came through the locked door and tapped him on the shoulder and said, "I

have come for you." The man was very busy and said, "Get away; I can't be disturbed now." But the shrouded visitor tapped him on the shoulder again and said, "But I have come for you." But the businessman, still not concerned, said, "Now please don't bother me. Go away; I am very busy." The shrouded figure said, "I am death, and I have come for you"; and the businessman said, "I haven't got time to die." But the shrouded figure repeated, "Well, anyhow I have come for you." The businessman argued, "But I have not made any preparation to die." Again the shrouded figure said, "I have come for you." The cartoon ended with the shrouded figure picking the fellow up by the nape of the neck and dragging him out to death.

Oh, men die! Men die! The screams of dying men! If it were not for the goodness of doctors and nurses using dope and medicine to ease the pain of people, New Orleans would be one great mass of screaming people in the hospitals and on beds of affliction, in the jails and houses of ill fame. If there was not something being taken to relieve their awful pain, that would be all you could hear. You could not even hear the exhaust of the cars or the honk of the horn for the screams of dying men and women all over this city, or all over the city where you live. Men die.

There is a cemetery on every comer. In New York City they have to bury people six deep, and I understand they do something like that in New Orleans. Brother, those old men like Richard Baxter who said, "I preach to dying men as a dying man," knew what they were facing. I wish I could scream out in radio land to every child of God that you are living in a dying world, and dead men walk the streets. Some of them live in your homes, and they are dead to God. After a while their breath is going to cease, and God is not going to give them that next breath. All that will be left of what we call "them" will go back to the earth from whence it came. But that won't be the last of it, because when a man dies physically, if he has not repented, if he has not laid hold on Jesus Christ, when he dies physically, he goes out into the hands of the God Who breathed life into him and made him a living soul. Hebrews 9:27: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

I remember Dixie. Dixie was the queen of the dance hall

girls in my oil field town. When she came to die, she was just 23 years old. She had already been married seven times, and was now living, of course, in sin with an eighth man. I remember when Dixie sent somebody to me and said she wanted the preacher to tie the knot, that she was going to get married again. I sent word back that I would not marry her. She got so mad; she came to see me and said, "It is some note when a girl wants to be decent and the preacher won't tie the knot." I said, "Dixie, you can go get somebody else to tie the knot, but I don't want to have anything to do with it." I said, "You can't get married in the sight of God."

I remember when Dixie called for me later. She had been on the dance floor, and she was dancing with some man, and another fellow came and tried to take her out of the arms of the other man. They got into a scuffle and somebody pulled the trigger, and instead of shooting the man, the bullet went into the vitals of Dixie. They carried her into her bedroom there. There was no use to take her to the hospital. They summoned the doctor and the nurse, and in a little while my phone rang and someone said, "Preacher, Dixie is dying and she is calling for you." I went. When I went, the doctor was gone and the nurse was there. She said, "Preacher, you can come on it; we have done all we can. There is no hope for Dixie." I went over and sat by the bed. I said, "Dixie, this is the preacher and you sent for me. What do you want, Dixie?"

Oh," she said, "Preacher, don't let me go to hell." I said, "Dixie, I wish I could keep you out of hell, but I can't keep you out of hell." She said, "Preacher, won't you pray for me?" I said, "Dixie, I'm afraid it is too late to pray now." I said, "God never has saved anybody unless they were brought to repent and to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Isn't it a shame to wait until the death dew is upon you, and you want somebody to say a little magic word and pray for you and think God will ignore everything that He is and save you! No, He wouldn't do that apart from you turning from your sins to Him and laying hold of Jesus Christ. And so she said, "Well, Preacher, how do you do that?" – and the best I could I sat by her bedside in that late midnight hour when I could almost see death in her face. I

preached unto her the Law and the Gospel, and when I finished, Dixie turned (I don't know how she had strength enough to do it) and faced the wall, and great racking sobs filled the room – I thought they would tear her body in pieces; great racking sobs came from Dixie's throat. In a little while she turned back and looked into my face, and I saw hell. Brother, I saw hell! Oh, I saw hell! And as I demanded that she repent right then and there, Dixie screamed out of that croaking voice, "Preacher, I can't repent. I can't repent." And God help me! She died as she said that last, "I can't repent."

My soul! This business of repenting is not as easy to do as it is to talk about, even when you are in the fulness of your health, but when death's dew is upon you, and the gurgle of death is in your throat, it is a mighty late time to try to get around to the business of tearing yourself off the throne of your life and enthroning Christ Jesus as your Lord. I carry the memory of Dixie's beautiful face around with me, and sometimes, please God, I wake up in the night, and I hear that croaking voice, "Preacher, I can't repent; I can't repent!" The last words that girl ever said here on this earth before her body began to rot, and her spirit went back into the hands of God Who gave it – the last words she ever said, "I can't repent! I can't repent!"

You have heard the truth; you have heard it! You have written in that you are lost. Well, if you are, for God's sake and your soul's sake, don't dilly-dally about it any more while there is space given for repentance. Do it now! You say, "Preacher, I can't." For God's sake, do it anyhow! Do it anyhow. Reach in there into that heart of yours, and tear that old self off the throne and stamp it with your feet, and crown Christ Jesus the God and Saviour and Lord of your life, because if you die in the flesh, brother, that is not the last of you. The flesh goes back to earth from whence it came, but you can't go back there. No, you don't go back there! You go into the hands of God Who shall one day visit you with the stroke that is called in the Bible "the second death."

Let me talk to you a little while this morning about that second death. This is the death of the spirit. Oh, God can't get rid of you. God breathed into you and you became a living soul. Even God

can't do away with you. He can't annihilate you. He can't burn you up. Oh, what is God going to do with you if you die never having repented toward God and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ? Well, they will take your physical body out here and cover it up with six feet of earth so it won't corrupt the air with its foulness, but that won't be YOU, for all the time they are having that funeral service around your rotting body, you will be in the hands of God. One day He is going to drag you out of hell and bring you to the judgment, and you will look there in the face of the One Whose face while here was marred because of His suffering for you. You will see those eyes that pierce so terribly, and you will hear that One as He deals with you, for I tell you the Scriptures speak and say that the second death will hurt. It will hurt. Listen to Revelation 2:11: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; he that overcometh shall not be HURT of the second death."

The second death, the stroke of God's judgment, will hurt. It will hurt! I read in the Book of the Revelation, chapter 20: "And death and hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death." Now the Scriptures say three things about this second death that you are facing, my sinner friend.

1. It is eternal banishment from the presence of Almighty God.

Oh, there is a sense in which all men are without God now, but you are not without His goodness – you are not without His mercy – you are not without His protection – you are not without His kindness – you are not without His Providence. But when God Almighty brings you to the judgment and fixes to send you away, you will be sent away not simply from the goodness and the grace and mercy of God, but from the very presence of God. I read in the Word of God in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord." Taking vengeance! Punished with everlasting destruction

from the presence of the Lord! From the presence of the Lord!

There is that majestic scene depicted for us in Matthew 25:41 when our Lord Jesus Christ shall say, "Depart from Me" – get away from Me! He Who extended His hands when He was here and little children ran and climbed into His arms, then He blessed them – He Whom the common people heard gladly and the old religious people said of Him, "This Man receiveth sinners" – I read where that same Blessed Lord shall say to people, "Get away from Me. Get away from Me. Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Oh, yes, the second death is eternal. Eternal! For ever and ever and ever and ever! Eternal banishment from the presence of the Lord.

2. In the second place, I read in the Word of God that the second death means eternal dying and never dying.

I don't understand that, but Mark 9:49 reads: "For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt." You will burn and yet will never burn up. You will suffer and yet your suffering will never come to an end. You will die and yet you will never die. Oh, my soul, a state of eternal death! Dying all the time and yet never dying! Suffering all the time and no surcease from your suffering! Death! Death! Death! Death! Death! That is hell. That is the second death.

3. In the third place, I read in the Bible that the second death is to be cast into the Lake of Fire.

To be cast into the Lake of Fire. You know, my friend, you are not going into that Lake of Fire willingly. No, sir! Oh, my soul, if you burn forever in the Lake of Fire somebody will have to cast you there, and the Lord Jesus Christ has taken upon Himself the authority and the responsibility of casting men and women into the Lake of Fire. No wonder the Bible talks about men screaming and wailing. I warn you now, it's not going to be so funny. Brother, people are making fun of my God now and the Name which is above

every name, the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, which today has become a nice comfortable, everyday respectable curse word in so-called Christian America.

I warn you that when you face Him, He has been given judgment over all mankind and authority to execute it. His business is that of saying to men, "Get away from Me," and the business of taking men with His angels of might and casting them into the Lake of Fire. I tell you, it won't be so funny then! I warn you, that is the penalty of sin!

I was in another state and one night after the preaching service (it was in the North and the Yankee people like to take you out for coffee and cake after you preach) one of the deacons said, "Brother, will you come out with me for a little refreshment? I have an experience that I think you ought to hear." We went to his home and had the inevitable coffee and cake. Then he said, "You know, as you were preaching tonight, I thought I would like to share with you an experience that might help you when preaching." He said, "As you know, I am a guard in death row in the state penitentiary. I have been a guard in death row, standing over the people that have been brought out of the main cell and brought down to the cells on either side of a little narrow path that leads to a door that opens upon the gas chamber and the electric chair. I have seen hundreds of people electrocuted or put in a gas chamber, and it is my job for eight hours a day, five days a week, to work as a guard of some of those prisoners sitting there counting off the seconds and the moments until the executioner comes to lead them out through that door and seat them in a chair and burn them up in this life and send them out into eternity."

He said, "Perhaps you remember reading about Mrs. So and So. She had been accused of murdering about 12 husbands, and whether she was guilty or not, she had been tried and convicted. She was sitting there in death row waiting the time of execution." I remembered the newspapers had picked it up, and thousands of dollars had been raised to get her a new trial, but all to no avail. He said, "You know, Brother Barnard, that was the vilest, foulest mouth I have ever heard. She would curse and use such terrible expressions

that hardened criminals sitting there in death row waiting to be killed would call for the guard and he would bring them cotton so they could stuff their ears with it. Even those hardened criminals just could not stand the language that woman used to curse the governor and the president, and to curse God and her mother and father, and curse everybody."

This guard said, "I will never forget as long as I live the day they came and shaved her on the appointed places on her body, and she knew it was time, and they told her that her last appeal was to no avail. She began to curse. Finally, with another guard, it came time to unlock the door of her cell and go in. We each grabbed her by an arm and started along that little walk toward the execution chamber." He said, "As we were walking along we weren't guarding very carefully, and with one great effort she threw us off and ran back into her cell, and got like a little child in one corner on her knees." He said, "If I ever heard anything that was pitiful, I heard it from that poor woman. All her cursing was gone now. She was over there just like a little child huddled in the corner saying, 'Please don't kill me. Please don't kill me.' Over and again she cried, 'Please don't kill me!' She had superhuman strength, and it took four of us guards to take her – two got her arms and two her legs, and we carried her like a pig to the slaughter. As we carried her down that corridor, all you heard from her was, 'Please don't kill me!'"

He said, "We sat her down by main strength and awkwardness in that electric chair and held her until they strapped her legs and arms and put the cap with the electricity on her head, and she died like a little child saying, 'Please don't kill me!' Preacher, I wonder if it will be that way when poor sinners are being cast into the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone? No wonder they will be screaming. All the bravado will be gone. Gone!" And sinners will be CAST – God help us – God's Son will cast them, will cast them as they plead, into the Lake of Fire!

The Father's Answer To The Claims Of The Sovereign Redeemer

John 3:13

Now if you have your Bible and wish to follow me, turn to John's Gospel, and as God shall enable me now I want to speak somewhat to this subject, "The Claims Of The Sovereign Redeemer And The Father's Answer To Those Claims." In the book of John, in just three chapters, you may pick out very easily 12 tremendous claims that our Lord Jesus made while He sojourned down here in the body of His humiliation. These are not all of His claims but every last one of them brand Him as the world's greatest pretender or as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. There are no if's and and's about it. He is either Who He claimed to be or an impostor. He is either the Lord of Glory or He is not worthy of even our mention of Him. And there is no place of neutrality here. Thank God, man has to face that fact. Now in that sense every sinner can make a decision as to whether he shall pursue his effort to have a personal acquaintance with the One Who was here and went back to Glory and is here now in the Holy Ghost – or whether he will ignore Him and go on and live as if God did not exist.

I. Let me mention these 12 claims of the sovereign redeemer.

I just want to mention them to excite your interest as I come to the main part of the subject, what the Father has done in response to the claims of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. In the first place, in the second chapter of the Gospel of John, our Lord while He was down here claimed to know what was in the heart of ail mankind. John 2:24-25: "But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them, because He knew alt men, and needed not that any should testify of man: for He knew what was in man." You know, that would make your hair stand up on your head if you believed it. He knows everything about you. He knows everything that is in you. Nothing can be hid from His presence. He knew what

was within men.

2. In the second place, in the third chapter of John at verse 13, He made the most stupendous claim that I have ever heard, I think, fall from the lips of any man. He said, "I came down from heaven." Listen to it, John 3:13: "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man, which is in heaven. If that is so, then He is God. If that is so, He is the Sent One of God. He is God's anointed One. He said, "I didn't come like anybody else." He said, "I came down from heaven; God Almighty sent Me down here."

3. Then in the third place, He said, "In the order of God's providence and the economy of salvation, I came down here for the express purpose of dying and being raised from the dead." That is in John 3:14-16, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Imagine that: A man saying, "I came not to live, but I came to die and to be raised from the dead." Then in verse 34 of that third chapter He says, "I speak the very words and only the words that the Father gives to Me so that if you hear anything that I say, you are listening to God – God is speaking to you." Notice, "For He Whom God hath sent speaketh the Words of God."

4. Then He says in that same verse that He was given the Holy Ghost without measure. "For God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him."

5. Still again in verse 35, what a stupendous claim my Lord made. This is John chapter three. He said, "The Father loveth Me and hath given A-L-L, ALL, things into My hand." John 3:35 – hear it! – "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand." Isn't that a tremendous statement? Now anybody that can make a

statement like that is either the biggest liar this world ever saw, or you need to bow down to Him right now and say, "Oh, God, I will spend the rest of my life seeking You, whatever You do with me."

6. Then He says in the fifth chapter in verse 19 that He does and He did while He was here only what He saw the Father do. John 5:19: "Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise."

7. Again in verse 21 comes such a tremendous statement, "That as the Father quickeneth whom He will, even so the Son giveth life to whom He will." John 5:21: "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom He will." My, what a clear assertion of the sovereignty of Christ in making dead sinners live according to His good pleasure! Oh, how that makes me pause and thank God that I have so many good reasons to believe that He spoke to my own heart and gave life to my dead soul. For it says that He giveth life to whom He pleases and that means that you are in His hands.

8. Still again, He claims in verse 22 of that fifth chapter of John that all judgment hath been given into His hands. Nobody else is equipped to judge anybody. John 5:22: "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son." Nobody else has a right to judge a world of sinners, but the Lord in this sense bought the world and in this sense redeemed the world. And in that sense, the world has been turned over to Him. Therefore, in virtue of that, He is going to be the Judge and is the Judge of all mankind.

9. Our Lord goes a little deeper when on down in the 27th verse He claims not only to have had judgment turned over to Him, but He says, "The Father has given Me authority to execute judgment." Hear it! John 5:27-29: "And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for

the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." "Not only will I be the Judge, but I will have the power and authority to carry out the sentence of the court" – my soul! I read in the Bible about men weeping and wailing. Nobody will willingly jump into the Lake of Fire. And I read that sinners are going to be C-A-S-T, CAST, into the Lake of Fire. And I know that the only One that will have power to cast anybody into the Lake of Fire is the Lord Jesus Christ. So I say, "Oh, my soul, isn't it wonderful that instead of being my coming Judge, He is now my present Lord and Saviour. Hallelujah and Glory to the Lamb!"

10. I read still a more tremendous claim in verse 26. Here my Lord claimed that all life was in Him. John 5:26: "For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself" "Christ came down here into a vast cemetery. Nothing but death – putrid, stinking death, and He had life in Himself. He had life in Himself! Then when I read that He gives life to whomsoever He will, my hair stands up on my head as I see people going around all over this country listening to preachers telling them to save themselves and go through some motions! I tell you that all life is in Christ Jesus and therefore you are as dead as a doormat unless you have been identified with and personally joined to this Lord Jesus Christ; for He is the source of life.

11. But I continue and in verse 25 of that fifth chapter of John, I read that the Lord Jesus Christ gives the most glorious promise that I have ever heard and that is found in these words: "Verily, verily I say unto you, the hour is coming, and [N-O-W] NOW is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." Praise God, He said, "I have got life within Myself. I give life to whomsoever I will, and there is life in My voice; and when I personally single out a sinner, and speak, bless God, that Lazarus will come from his grove, spiritual death, and be raised to life eternal to be vitally joined to me in Whom is all life and Who has

been made a life-giving Spirit." John 5:25: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." And so I know that there is nothing, nothing, nothing – just emptiness – outside of being personally joined to the Lord Jesus Christ!

12. When our Lord was down here He claimed to have power to give eternal life in John 17:2: "As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him." Then He tells us what eternal life is in verse 3 – and this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent.

Now those are some of the solemn claims of the Lord Jesus Christ. My friend, you are a fool if you don't face them. While there are a lot of things a poor old lost sinner can't do, there are some things he can do. He can try to see himself in the mirror of God Almighty's Law. He can try to draw near unto God Almighty. He can do everything he knows to listen as for eternity. Listen to Him Who speaketh from the heavens and when He personally speaks there is no resistance – there is, thank God, life from the dead. I tell you, you had better roll up your fists and become a candidate for salvation. For I am not much persuaded that God Almighty is just going to grab you up by the nap of the neck and force you to come to Him. I think that He works in other ways.

But I want as solemnly as I know how in the rest of this message to bring to you three tremendous facts that grow out of the claims of the Lord Jesus. These facts attack this one question:

II. WHAT IS GOD'S ANSWER TO THE CLAIMS OF HIS WELL BELOVED SON? What has the Father lodged entirely in the Son as His answer to the claims that His Son made when He was down here on the earth?

1. In the first place, the Father has placed the exclusive conduct of the human race in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, that is God's answer to the perfect life and the death and the resurrection of

His Blessed Son! He says, "I have found somebody that has got a right (and has got a right because of His death) to guide men and to control men and to do with men as seemeth good in His sight. And that One is My Well Beloved Son." The most hair-raising thing that you will ever face, my friend, is that as you listen to my voice now, without peradventure of a doubt, your conduct and your destiny for time and eternity have been placed by the Godhead into the keeping and in the hands and under the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, I hear Him pray in John 17:2, praying to the Father: "As Thou hast given Him authority over all flesh, ALL flesh, ALL FLESH!" – that includes you, if you are a member of Adam's lost and ruined race.

Then my Father has given my Lord absolute authority over you. And you are the biggest fool this side of hell if you do not face that fact! My, wouldn't it be awful to live all of your life thinking that you are the fellow who decides things. I tell you, you are in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. And I am glad it is that way. I do not have sense enough to know which direction to go and neither have you, but I can sing, "Take my hand, Precious Lord." I am glad that the destiny and conduct of mankind is in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ – not in my hands, not in your hands, not in the hands of some cruel something called fate – but it is in the hands that were pierced by the nails. Praise God! Oh, I want Him to lead me. My soul! He would not ask me to go anywhere He had not been before and taken the sting out of every danger that I will ever have to face and removed the teeth from all the devices of Satan.

Praise God, I am so glad that I have found out and it has been made real to my soul that Rolfe Barnard is turned over to the Lord Jesus Christ, and I have been mighty happy as He is leading me to the desired haven. The conduct of the human race is not in the evil bent will of mankind. The destiny of mankind is not going to be decided by the devil or by men. It is already decided by the Triune God. My Lord Jesus Christ is reigning now, and the devil can't bat an eyelash, and neither can you, which will surprise God. This old world is in good hands, and I am glad for the hope that is within me that I fled to Him, that He is my Refuge and He's my Lord and He's

my God!

2. There is the second thing that we need to face that grows out of the claims of our Blessed Lord – namely, the Father has deposited all of His love and favor for men and women in His Blessed Son. Outside of Christ, there is nothing but the withering blast of the vengeance and judgment of Almighty God, but joined to Christ (in Christ) there is the distinguishing love and grace and favor of God Almighty world without end. The old-time preachers were nearer the truth than we are now when they told men and women outside of Christ that they were not in nearly so comfortable a position as people think they are now. For the old-time preachers would warn men to flee from the wrath to come. And the Apostle John will tell men that, he that obeyeth not the Son, the wrath of God abideth on him right now! He is under the wrath of God until he flees to Christ for refuge and stays there, for the only safe place for anybody is at the feet of Christ – trusting in Him. There is no place of safety for you. I don't care if you have been serving the Lord for 90 years, the only place of safety is to be sheltered by the blood of Christ and encompassed by His wings and guided by His strong right hand.

Oh, the love and favor of the Godhead for a lost and dying world has been placed in the Lord Jesus Christ! Now, you can argue about it. You can talk about your theories of atonement. I used to talk about it. But, oh, the blessed work of my Lord is too big to argue about. And it is too big to try to understand! I tell you, the need of somebody's heart listening to me now is simply this, that it will be made real to you that the Lord Jesus Christ did what He did for you, that He actually died in your room, in your stead, that He was actually raised from the dead so God could set you free. Never mind about somebody else. Oh, it needs to be made real to you. The most real thing this side of heaven is that the Lord Jesus Christ hung on a cross for Y-O-U. I tell you, apart from that being made real to you, you never will be saved, and you know it. The cry of your heart must be that all other theories will go out the window and you will quit worrying whether Christ died for somebody else or not, and the one concern of your own heart is that this shall be made real unto

you. Oh, that is the work of the Holy Spirit.

That is the cry of our hearts as we go up and down the land. I am trying to preach for the Lord as He would want me to do. Now I am trying to say to you that you are going to go to hell as sure as I am preaching to you unless it becomes a personal reality with you that Christ died for you; that He was raised for you; that He intercedes for you; that He is coming for you; that you are His and He is yours. I pray that the Spirit of God might make that real to somebody as this message goes out. Oh, my soul, the reality that is in Christ Jesus. Do not be satisfied with anything else!

I had the flu years ago, and I closed a meeting with the flu racking my body on a Sunday night. I rested a little while Monday morning. But at 11 o'clock Monday morning I got on a train at Winston Salem and journeyed to Illinois in my flu-weakened condition. I got there about noon on Tuesday and the pastor met me and took me to a room and called a doctor. The pastor told me there wouldn't be many people to hear me preach that night because they were having some sort of an entertainment at the school. While he apologized, the doctor treated me. I went over that night and preached. I must have preached a powerful sermon because all hell broke loose. The chairman of the board of deacons stood out on the steps after the service and raved and raved, and said, "That man is a false prophet and he is going to tear our church up." I didn't know all about this. I had gone on back to the room to my sick bed. This deacon said to the pastor, "Here is a check for \$400. I will give it to you if you will pay that preacher off and don't let him preach any more." You know I must have preached a powerful sermon – just one little sermon!

They didn't tell me anything about that and the next night I went over and preached. And it must have been powerful too. I did not understand it, but as soon as I was ready to pronounce the benediction, the pastor said, "I want to meet all the deacons down in the basement." I didn't know what was going on. I slipped out the back door and went back to bed. I was pretty sick. They told me later about how the pastor walked the floor and said, "That preacher is going to ruin us and he is going to tear our church all to pieces,"

and everybody agreed with him except an old silver-haired deacon. When they got around to him, he said, "Boys, you fellows had better let that preacher alone. He is preaching the Gospel. You folks have never heard it, and you had better not put your hands on him." I didn't know about all of these things.

Thursday night came and the house was just packed and jammed. I wondered what was going on. But unbeknownst to me all of this was going all over the city and here they were coming. Friday night came and the house was packed and jammed. I still didn't know what was going on. Saturday night came, and, lo and behold, the house was crowded and a fellow got up to sing a solo. He didn't mean to do it, but he sang in the power of the Spirit. I saw God take a song, sung in the Spirit, and apply what I had been preaching and pierce hearts with the truth of the Gospel. As he stood up there and began to sing, the Holy Ghost took charge of him. He began to sing:

"Love sent my Saviour to die in my stead,

Why should He love me so?

Meekly to Calvary's cross He was led;

Why should He love me so?

Nails pierced His hands and His feet for my sin. (Not for somebody else's.)

Why should He love me so?

He suffered sore MY salvation to win, (Not somebody else's!)

Why should He love me so?"

While he was singing all hell began to pop. The organist quit playing and screamed out, "I am lost! I am lost!" That is the sweetest cry that I have ever heard this side of eternity. That is the prelude to the cry, "I am saved." She began running to the prayer room. It was the pastor's wife. Then I heard somebody else sobbing, and that poor pastor said, "Oh, my God, I am lost! I'm lost! I'm lost! I'm lost!" And here he ran. Then I saw 14 Roman Catholics; I saw the Sunday School superintendent; I saw seven deacons; I saw (I don't know, just so many) as they screamed out before that man could finish his song. They were in the prayer room on their bones sobbing out their souls to God. Because of my preaching? No. Because the Holy

Spirit took a song, the truth of it, and made this thing personal and brought the truth of the Gospel and pierced the hearts of those people.

Some people there saw for the first time in their lives that Christ died for them; that He agonized for them; that the nails were put in His hands for them; that He was raised for them. And bless God, if He did all of that for you, I don't think He would have a bit of trouble saving you. Do you? I think you could trust a God Who would do that much for you! Oh, that the Holy Spirit would make it real to somebody listening to my voice right now, that Christ died for you. Died for you! Oh, He died for you! Not for somebody else, but for you. He loved you! He loved you! He loved you, sinner. If He loved you enough to die for you, my soul, you cannot afford not to give Him the all-out response and love of your poor withered heart from now until eternity!

3. There is another thing that is true because Christ is what He is and did what He did. Not only has the conduct of the human race been placed in His hands; not only is all the loving favor of God for human beings put in Christ so that outside of Christ is nothing but judgment. Outside of Christ is nothing but hell on this earth, and hell forever. But the Father has also given to the Lord Jesus Christ the power to awaken faith in the souls of dead men. Nobody else has that power, but thank God He has, and He speaks to sinners. Bless God, when He speaks to you personally and singles you out, all the devils in hell can't stop the work of salvation. When He speaks, Lazarus comes forth. Yes, sir!

Paul writing to the church at Thessalonica said, "I know about you, brethren. I know you are God's elect." How? "I know it – knowing therefore your election of God." How did you find it out, Paul? "I came over there," Paul said, "And I preached; and my Gospel came not unto you in word only, but in power, and in the Spirit, and in the Holy Ghost" (I Thessalonians 1:4-5 and I Thessalonians 2:13). Now what does that mean, Brother Barnard? Here it is – I have just a minute. Listen to me! Listen, sinner! It means that in order to be saved, some of these days there are just

going to be two people alive on this earth as far as you are concerned – you and the Lord. You may be in a crowd of a thousand people. You won't know it, but Somebody will speak to you. He may not speak to anybody else. He will single you out. He will rout you out, and He will speak to you. He will speak through the Gospel. But for the first time in your life He will be speaking to you and He won't let you alone. Praise God! He will kill all of your idols and destroy all of your places of refuge, and you will HEAR the voice of the Son of God. And when He speaks, dead souls are made alive. Glory Hallelujah! Praise His Holy Name! Now I want to say this: this is in the realm of the miraculous. This is in the realm of the mysterious, but I would not have it otherwise. The whole business is miraculous, but it is so simple because the Holy Ghost so sweetened it.

Listen, don't be satisfied until you have had a personal visit from the Lord of Glory. He will speak through the Gospel to you. The Holy Spirit will take the truth of the Gospel and make it alive and make it real, until you can stand on a stack of Bibles a mile high and swear that if they are going to burn you alive in the next five seconds. God has actually spoken to you in the Gospel, and that you have heard Him and that your soul has been touched by the Divine fire of the Lord Jesus Christ speaking to you!

He Could Do No Mighty Works Because Of Unbelief

Matthew 13:53-58

Matthew 13:53-58: "And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, He departed thence. And when He was come into His own country, He taught them in their synagogues, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's Son? is not His mother called Mary? and His brethren, James and Joses and Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? And they were offended in Him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. And He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."

Mark 6:1-6: "And He went out from thence, and came into His own country; and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath day was come, He began to teach in the synagogue; and many hearing Him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto Him, that even such mighty works are wrought by His hands? Is not this the carpenter, the Son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not His sisters here with us? And they were offended at Him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in His own country, and among His own kin, and in His own house. And He could there do no mighty work, save that He laid His hands upon a few sick folk and healed them. And He marvelled because of their unbelief."

There is the most astounding things I ever found in the Word of God, my Lord Jesus Christ in His manhood, He was astonished, He marvelled at their unbelief. What a terrible thing unbelief must be. In Matthew He wouldn't do many mighty works there because of their unbelief, but Mark says He could there do no mighty works and the thing that stopped Him was unbelief. The one thing that limits, the one thing that hinders the mighty working of the Lord Jesus Christ is unbelief. I have seen God do mighty things in every other atmosphere, but He never does mighty works where there is

unbelief. There is a challenge there to God's people. Oh! my soul, God help us never to doubt the power and the working of God. And brother, that is going to be a battle if you can come to that.

There isn't but one message that has got any hope in it, and whether men will listen to it or not that is the message of the Gospel. This is the most pessimistic generation of people that God ever had to put up with, because this world has so long heard from the pulpits the world around, of the helplessness of God. Men now do not have a great Sovereign God, and that word sovereign just means that He is God. And so having lost faith in a God, Who has got control, and Who hasn't turned this world over to Satan or man either, but He is still the great Almighty God, Who has all power in heaven and in earth. If you don't believe that, you are in a bad condition. This is a challenge to God's people, it challenges me. The one thing by which Almighty God is hindered is unbelief, the unbelief of His believing people. Somebody wrote a book and I read it some time ago, and he said this is the generation of unbelieving believers.

A man was witnessed to about our Redeemer, and the man said, "You Christians will have to look more redeemed, before I will believe in your Redeemer."

I read in the Bible about this kind of a God we got. The children of Israel were encamped about the city of Jericho, and the walls were fortified, and it looked impossible. And I declare unto you that Almighty God came to Joshua and gave him the most foolish instructions that I ever read about. He told the Israelites to march around the city of Jericho one time each day for six days, and the priests blow their trumpets. Then on the seventh day they were to march around the city seven times and blow their trumpets, and at the seventh time, they were to shout. They obeyed the Lord, and the walls fell down flat. Bless God! It just took faith for those folks to obey God. It did some good, because it was God's way of using the weak things of this world to confound the mighty. It just took faith.

There isn't anything on God's earth that I have to fight harder for, and I need more than f-a-i-t-h, faith in the Mighty God, we are supposed to believe in and preach. For unbelief is the opposite of faith, and I am amazed at the unbelief of today. I believe in the

Sovereign God, a God Who is very God. But the Scriptures are very plain that He is hindered by the unbelief of His people.

I do not think that the word unbelief here in Matthew is the unbelief of God's people. I think it is just plain old unbelief of the people to whom He was speaking. He had come back to His own country in Nazareth and Galilee, and most everybody knew Him. They thought it was a nice story He was telling, but it just can't be so. We know Who You are, You can't be as smart as what You are talking about. You can't do the mighty works that You are talking about, they were stumbled about what He said. He said, "A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house." Mark 6:5: "And He could there do no mighty work, save that He laid His hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them." (1) They greatly hindered Him, but (2) they couldn't stop Him altogether. All these years I have been preaching in that atmosphere, I have never seen God do many mighty works. I have seen God do a little bit, but it has been my lot to live in a day when men and women have ruled God out of the world He created. These people stumbled because they had no room for the supernatural. They reasoned everything out and certainly that is the spirit of this hour in which we live now. Men are bound to have a reason for everything they see.

Our fathers and mothers used to think God was in the rain drops, that God Almighty was in the sunshine, that God Almighty was in the cheerful days, and God Almighty was in the storm. They had not ruled God out of His universe like this generation has. There is no room inside or outside of our churches now for the supernatural movement of a Holy God. I say to you now, there are just two great needs of this hour. Our churches need to come to the truth of God's ways with men, and learn how to pray. For if there is one need above every need now, it is not simply the proclamation of truth, but it is for God Almighty to manifest His Almighty power and intervene in this godless day, that men might see the finger of God one more time.

I believe God has never left Himself without a witness and I am not trying to run God's business. But if there ever was a time

since Jesus went back to glory when the only hope is for God to intervene and come back down here, and cease His silence, and begin to manifest His power; this is the hour. I believe if we believed that, we would learn how to pray, that is the need of this hour, for God to intervene. I expect to get up some morning, maybe in the morning, and God will do that very thing. Oh! my soul: but God manifests His power through men and women, and He brings miracles to pass by the hands of His ser-makes it possible, God does it, but He uses men and He gives men the credit for it. He gave Abraham the credit: Hebrews 11:8-10: "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." God gave Noah the credit. By faith Moses did some things and God gives him the credit for it. Hebrews 11:24-26: "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter: Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." We need to do some thinking there and it will arouse us from our lethargy and our some time sinful perversion of the sovereignty of God. If we will always remember, and never forget it that God has given us this treasure in earthen vessels, no where else, and that will challenge us.

Unbelief is not ignorance; I believe that unbelief is the will's rejection of truth, and the heart's rejection of evidence, and refusal to be influenced by it. For although men are dead in sin, it is a spiritual death, but they are powerfully active in rebellion against God and His Holy Law. They are powerful in action using all of the strength

they got to literally refuse to bow in the face of truth. And there is one thing I know that from Genesis 1:1 to the last word in Revelation, truth always demands decision, and truth always evokes decision. Men make some kind of decision every time they are faced with truth. All truth demands decision, and unbelief is the will's rejection of the truth that you are faced with. There can be no unbelief apart from the revelation of truth; as well as there can be no faith apart from the revelation of truth. Unbelief isn't ignorance, unbelief is men and women with their eyes wide open; rejecting what they know to be so, and with their hearts rejecting to be influenced by the evidence that is on every hand. This sort of unbelief hindered the Lord, wounded the Lord, and He could do no mighty works there; only He laid His hands upon a few sick folk and healed them.

We have seen a little of the work of God, but living in a generation where we can explain everything by an absent God, and where we can get along fine without Him, unbelief hinders the mighty working of God. I want to call your attention to four things that only a Living God in Christ Jesus can do. All of our preaching, and everything we do is doomed to failure unless the Living God is able and is pleased to manifest the might of His right arm in our midst. A church has got no right to call itself an assembly of the called-out people of the Mighty Lord, unless that church is mighty concerned about whether or not He is being hindered in His own people. My Lord said, "All authority is given unto Me."

My ministry was ruined, I suppose, of ever being a popular preacher, or making any money and getting anywhere; while I was a student in the seminary at Fort Worth. One day I went down to a second hand bookstore and browsing around I found a book of sermons by Brother B.H. Carroll, one of the old giants of the faith, the founder of the school where I was going then. I bought that book for a dime, and I still got it. I was reading a sermon by that dear man of God, and just like a key that unlocks a door, my Lord revealed a truth to me. I was rebelling against what my professors were teaching me. My professors believed in the great doctrines of the Word of God. What little I have ever learned about them, I was

taught by those men, but at the first I rebelled against them. My professor told me that election was God's purpose in redemption, and he actually taught me that God chose people in Christ, the ones who would be saved. Why everything in me hated that, so I rebelled against it, and I argued with them.

I had been pastor of a big church, and I baptized many, many people; and I was a big shot in those days. To hear such teaching from a Baptist professor and all the attendant things that go along the foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I couldn't take it. I fought them and I was miserable. I read this one sentence from the pen of our dear Brother Carroll in a Sermon he preached. He was preaching on "The Voice of Authority" and he quoted John 5:25: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live." One sentence the dear man said is this: "I well know," said Brother Carroll, "that if my voice is the only one you hear in this Gospel service, you will go away from here, nothing bettered, but if in the providence of God, you hear His voice speak to you, He has authority in His voice, and if you hear Him, you shall live. That is the heart of the truth of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Oh! We keep on witnessing, we keep on preaching publicly and privately; by radio, Gospel tracts or wherever there is a child of God, who is surrendered to the Lordship of Christ, and is under commission and has a mission to preach the Gospel wherever Christians find a place. We keep on in the hope that once again we will find out that we are messengers of a present God, Who does all the preaching that is ever done. He does the preaching, and that is how men are awakened to faith. When actually some humble child is handling God Almighty's eternal truth, the Spirit of God works the greatest miracle of eternity. He opens a man's heart to where he actually hears the voice of the Living Son of God, Who carries with Him all of the power of His shed blood in His person. If a person ever hears that voice, decision will be made right there I don't know whether you believe it or not, but it is a solemn thing that when the powers of hell are backed off and men hear from God, how terrible it is when men and women deliberately with all the power of their

will refuse to bow to Him as He speaks. Men and women who do that, ought to go to hell and God help us, men and women who do that will go to hell. That is the reason our Lord marvelled at their unbelief.

There are four things that this Living Christ can do, Who alone has any authority. If you have any authority on earth, it is delegated to you, if you have any power on earth, it is delegated to you, for you have none in yourself. (1) He alone can give life to dead sinners. Eternal life is to know by experiencing His power, Almighty God. Christ must be revealed to you for you to have eternal life. John 17:2-3: "As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou has given Him. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent." Matthew 11:27: "All things are delivered unto Me of My Father; and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." Luke 10:22: "All things are delivered to Me of my Father; and no man knoweth Who the Son is, but the Father; and Who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him."

The most solemn thing that I have faced for 30 years going up and down this country is that life is absolutely in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ, there isn't any life anywhere else. I have had men cuss me, I've had them to storm up on the pulpit with their Bibles, I've had them to have all night prayer meetings, praying that I would get the light; as I have tried to press upon men and women this truth. The only way on God's earth that this old preacher knows there is any hope of an eternity-bound sinner is to recognize and openly confess to this godless world that the Lord Jesus Christ is my Lord, whether I ever get saved or not. God has appointed Him to be my Lord, I know it is so, and I want you to know that I am in His hands. I am subject to Him, and He can do with me as He pleases. I am dead and He has got life, and I will never have life, unless He gives it to me. Life is in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. Life is not yours, if you will accept Jesus as your Saviour, life will become yours if the Living Christ gives it to you. If you believed that, you

would seek, you would cry, you would pray, you would beg for mercy. You would do anything to get His ear and pray "Oh God if thou wilt, Thou canst make me a new creature in Christ." Bless God, that is a good safe place for a sinner to be, pleading at the feet of the Sovereign Redeemer in Whom is life. John 5:21: "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom He will." Verse 26: "For as the Father hath life in Himself, so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself" What is the gift that the Lord Jesus gives? Eternal life. What's that? That is to know God in His Son, that's to know Him.

It is still true that a man isn't saved unless he has received from the Living Christ l-i-f-e, life. There are just two men God deals with in Adam. Adam was a living soul, and as long as you are out of Christ you are a fellow very much alive. But Christ hath been made a life-giving Spirit, He has got life and bless God, He has ordained that Christ will give life to other people. That is the reason we go up and down this country, and wear our bodies out, and fight the preachers and everybody else and tell you that hell is full of people who believed a fact of the death of Christ. But heaven will be full of people who have been joined by faith to the Christ Who died and rose again. There isn't any life in the death of Christ, but thank God there is life in the Christ Who died. He has been made a life-giving Spirit. My lost friend, nobody can give you life except Him. That is the reason the Word of God in the hands of the Holy Spirit does the best that God can do to strip you of all hope in yourself or anybody else, and leaves you with just one way to look, and that's up, for there is life in a look. The Lord Jesus Christ can give life, but He won't do it in the face of wilful refusal to bow to truth. The surest way for you to be dead certain that you will go on to hell, is to keep on sinning against what is so.

There is a second thing that the Living Christ alone can do. If you will look at this outline, you will find that it takes care of everything men need. Men are dead spiritually, so they need life. If he has life, bless God, he needs liberty, and there is nobody on earth that can give a man freedom, real liberty except the Lord Jesus Christ. John 8:32-36: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth

shall make you free. They answered Him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man; how sayest Thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever; but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." There is just one way on God's earth, a man can ever have liberty and true freedom and that is to have a change of masters. The way God's Son gives true freedom to bound slaves of sin, is by putting His yoke on men and they find rest in His service. The way the Lord God sets men loose is not by just breaking the old bands but by putting His yoke on men. A man is free if he is free to be a man. There has never been but one real man on God's earth, and that was Jesus Christ. He was free, absolutely free. He was free in all of His choices, He had true freedom. The way men are brought to the place of freedom is by being joined to Christ, being yoked up with Him, being united to Him. Otherwise, there is no freedom.

No man is any better off if a bad habit drops off, unless a new vocation takes its place, that is no salvation. This world is full of people who quit something and called it salvation. One unclean spirit goes out and then later seven more come in, so now he has eight unclean spirits. Matthew 12:43-45: "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation."

Old man T.T. Martin use to say that a man, who just thinks that being a Christian is getting rid of one demon of the flesh is eight to one sure for hell, for where he had trouble with one demon, now he has eight; and his last state is worse than the first. Liberty is not freedom to do your will, liberty is freedom to do God's will. No man is free, unless he is free to do the will of God. That is true freedom, and nobody on earth can set you free except Him. John 8:36: "If the

Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

There is a third thing that no one can do but Jesus Christ. Men need life and He alone can give it; men need to be free, and He alone can give them freedom. Men need peace instead of misery, and He alone can give peace. John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." Peace instead of misery, the peace of God, the peace that the Saviour gives. Oh! these troubled days and nobody can give peace except the Son of God. We can speak peace where there is no peace, but God's Son can give peace.

Mother Merritt over 70-years-old was the queen mother of a little Baptist church, where I was in a meeting. After the meeting had been going on for some time, she began to lift her hand night after night; when we would ask; were there troubled souls needing help? Then finally instead of lifting her hand when we would stand to sing, she came and got down on her knees. Mother Merritt was thought of as the finest Christian of that section of the city. If anybody tried to deal with her, she would shake them off. After most people were gone, she got up off her knees and went home. The next night she did the same thing, and the next night she did the same thing. This caused people to wonder, and the crowds began to come to see what was going on. They were saying that I had disturbed her, and I had done this, and I had done that, but I can't disturb anybody, I can't get that close to you. Only the Spirit can disturb people. The pastor knelt down and said, "Mother Merritt, what's wrong with you?" She said, "Leave me be." The next night she got up off her knees and came to me, and said, "Brother Barnard, I've been trying to serve the Lord these 46 years and I have never had a moment of peace." I said, "Can I be of help?" and she said, "No. No one can help me except Him," and she pointed her finger upward to Him; she was right there. Sunday morning came, and I went out early. When I got out of my car and started toward the church building; here came pink-checked, white-haired Mother Merritt. She met me, and she said, "Dear Brother Barnard, this morning while I washed the breakfast dishes the Lord Jesus Christ did give me peace. He gave me peace."

I think a person is foolish to reckon himself to be a child of God, to whom the Living Christ hasn't made real to you that your sins are gone and put peace in you. Isaiah 38:17: "Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for Thou has cast all my sins behind Thy back." No one but Jesus can give you peace; faith about Him will not bring peace. But bless God, He gives peace. To be joined to Him, He gives peace. Men need life, but nobody can give you life except Him. Men need liberty, bound men need to be set free, nobody can set you free, except Him. Miserable men need peace, nobody can give peace but Him.

Men are lost; estranged from God and they need to find their way home to the Father's house. And I am so glad that the Lord Jesus Christ can take an old sinner by his hand and lead him to God. Hebrews 2:10: "For it became Him, for Whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." I want to be in on this. That is His job, He earned the right to bring many sons to glory. How? God made Him perfect, a perfect Saviour, a suitable Saviour, the exact kind of Saviour, old dead, bound, miserable, strange sinners need. He was made perfect as my Saviour through suffering. And "Praise God," He is the One, Who can get men acquainted with God. I believe when a man is united to Christ, he is latched on to God, he is home if you will pardon the expression. That is the only way.

I can't lead you to God, He can. Nobody else can, but thank God, He can. My Lord Jesus Christ earned the right, when He died on the Cross to present anybody on God's earth in the presence of Almighty God; who can be joined to Him, and who will just come unto Him and turn yourself over to Him. Bless God, He will take you by the hand, and He will lead you home.

Let us do everything we can, not to offend the only Lord and Saviour, Who alone can do mighty works.

Sinner's Substitute

2 Corinthians 5:19

The Word of God is bound up in three great truths. First, the truth about God, what kind of a person is God? Psalm 99:9: "Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy." Psalm 116:5: "Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful." Psalm 103:8: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy." Secondly, the truth about man. What kind of person is man? Man is dead in trespasses and sins and totally depraved. Thirdly, the truth about salvation. What is salvation? How does God bring it to sinful man?

We read so much in the Bible about the corruption of man, so we have to be true to people. Nobody would be interested in whether God Almighty has made any provision whatever to relieve the utter corruption of the human heart, until men have believed what God says about them. Nobody will rejoice when they hear somebody say that God has provided a Saviour, unless those people have been willing to listen to what God had to say about the corruptness of their heart, the awful blindness of their mind and the awful, awful wickedness of the seat of their affections, the heart. Jeremiah 17:9-10: "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.' who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

God Almighty tells us the truth about our self, because that is His way of getting somebody ready, willing and anxious to find out the truth about God's wonderful salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. I want to talk to you about God's provision to relieve the awful misery and distress of sinful men, and to cleanse those awful and perverted hearts, and to make willing that awful will of yours that is free to do evil but absolutely unable to do right. Proverbs 5:22: "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins."

I want to talk to you about the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Sacrifice and the sinner's Substitute. The Lord Jesus Christ, the One

Who was God and yet man. The One the Scriptures talk about in 2 Corinthians 5:19, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." If you haven't been willing to believe what God says about yourself, you don't care whether God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself or not. Only needy people would appreciate help, only hungry people would appreciate bread, only thirsty people would appreciate water, only paupers would appreciate a gift of a dollar, and only sinners would appreciate God saving them in Christ and for Christ's sake!

And so we talk to those that believe what God says when He tells you how wicked and sinful you are. My, what an awful description the Word of God gives about me and all of my loved ones. My, what feet I have got to shed blood. My, just open my mouth and it is full of snakes, my tongue going around telling lies and full of hypocrisy from my mother's womb. None seeking after God. Romans 3:10-18: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes." What an awful description God has given of all men! I know, God, You are telling me the truth; my own experience tells me so. And whether my experience said "Amen" to it or not, God said it and that settles it, and I believe it. Is there any hope for me? Paul said, "Yes, bless God, there is hope for men who are utterly and totally lost, ruined and depraved, bound by the cords of their own sins; men with their duty staring them in the face, utterly unable, with no desire to do the will of God."

We find what that hope is in Romans 8:34: "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died [HALLELUJAH!], yea rather that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us." That is a wonderful verse of Scripture;

it sounds good to me. I need the Lord right now as much as I ever needed Him. I am just an old sinner, and if the Lord isn't my Substitute, I am just as certain for hell as anybody is. Rolfe Barnard wasn't born with a different nature from the rest of the world. I am just an old sinner, I am exactly like you. I know some things about you, because I found out some things about myself. My old heart and also yours – God has described our hearts in Jeremiah 17:9-10: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." My affections – they are so awful I don't have the words to describe the vileness of my affections. It is just that kind of people for whom it was written, "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died." Hallelujah! Come on, devil, there is nothing can stop that! You can change my feelings, and you can change my desires, you can change my understanding, you can change the way I react against things, and you can tear up most of my doctrine. But, bless God, there is one thing the devil can't do – he can't undo this truth. Yonder on Golgotha's hill at a place called Calvary, nearly 2000 years ago in time, God in Christ hung on a cross and all hell can't undo that! "It is Christ that died."

Come on, devil, and accuse poor old Rolfe Barnard, just as mean as hell, just as vile as the devil himself. Come on and accuse me and I'll thrust back in your face the fact Christ died. Christ died, thank God, He died as God's Sacrifice and He died as my Substitute. Everybody on earth, if they want to, can go to hell arguing about the atonement. But here is one sinner saved by grace that can't argue about the atoning work of Christ. But, bless God, I believe it and my only hope and my only plea is Christ died and He died for me! Romans 5:6: "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Verse 8: "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Who can lay any charge against Rolfe Barnard? Who can condemn him? Nobody, because it was Christ that died and He didn't stay dead. Paul said, "He is risen again." Romans 14:9: "For to

this end Christ both died and rose and revived, that He might be Lord both of the dead and living." He is working at the job right now. He is at the right hand of God and what is He doing? He is making intercession for old Rolfe Barnard. Brother, that is shouting ground! I used to think that when a person got saved that he just got plumb out of the flesh and didn't have any more trouble with the devil, and never had any more conflicts within himself, but I found out that is not so. A fight started when God saved my soul. I'll tell you one thing I found out a long time ago, that my assurance is not in how I feel. My assurance is in Him, in HIM. It was Christ that died for me. If I go to hell, I'll go to hell believing that Christ died in my stead, that He died in my room, that the awful lash of the Law of God that I had broken was laid on Him. If I go to hell, I'll go believing that He was raised again so He could justify me and set me free. If I go to hell, I'll go believing that the Living, Risen Lord of Glory is in gloryland right now. The Man in glory is praying for me. Hebrews 7:25: "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Come on devil, you can't get me; the Lord Jesus Christ is praying for me. You talk about security, that's it. You talk about knowing you are saved, that's it. You talk about assurance of salvation, that's it. Christ died for me, Christ was raised so He could justify me. Christ is now at the right hand of God, and Christ is praying for me. There is my assurance.

You know, I needed a Substitute, and I wonder if you've got sense enough to know that you do too. It is a dreadful thing to be condemned by man, but how terrible to be condemned by Almighty God, to be guilty. But, oh, the possibility of being condemned before the judgment bar of Almighty God and the sentence lasts throughout eternity. That is enough to make a man tremble, to think of being condemned before the bar of God. Hebrews 10:30-31: "For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto Me, I will recompence, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 9:27: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but

after this the judgment."

Here is Paul in Romans 8, a man of like passions with you and me; and he had the courage to cry out in verse 34, "Who is he that condemneth?" Let's bring Paul to the stand. Paul, do you feel that your sins are so small and insignificant that God Almighty will just overlook them and won't condemn them? Do you feel that you do not have enough sins which you are guilty of to condemn your soul to hell? And the Apostle Paul screams out, "No, no! All have sinned, including me, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Well, Paul, do you feel that because you have worked and toiled and sacrificed that God's condemnation is written off? "No, sir!" Paul glories in nothing save the cross of Christ. Galatians 6:14: "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Well, Paul, don't you feel that now that you are a member of the church and one of the apostles, that you should have some claim on God and eternal life? But Paul would say, "No, sir; no, sir!" But he will say, "Who is he that condemneth? Come on, who can condemn the soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose?" I tell you, God has assurance for His people, and Paul dead-sure had it! "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

Now I want you to notice wherein Paul received his assurance and in Whom was he trusting so completely. You will see four great facts outlined in this very simple and yet very glorious verse of Scripture in Romans 8:34: "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us." The first fact is, that the Substitute for sinners has died. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died. Oh, that man who wrote that verse – "Jehovah lifted up His rod. Oh, Christ it fell on Thee, Thou was sore stricken of Thy God, There is not one stroke left for me." Hallelujah! Praise the Lord for such a Saviour!

Paul put great emphasis on the fact that, "It is Christ that died." It was no mere man; it is Christ the Son of God Who was in the beginning, and all things were made by Him. John 1:1: "In the

beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Verse 3: "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made." Verse 14: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." You know, if a mere man died, Paul wouldn't have any assurance. He would have a lot to doubt about. If an angel from heaven came down here and died on the cross, Paul couldn't be sure of salvation. But praise God, it is Christ, the Son of God, Who has yielded up His life in the stead of sinners. And Paul can say that he has no fear of condemnation at the hands of anybody, because "It is Christ that died." Isn't that glorious? Christ has died, Christ suffered, Christ bled and Christ died.

Now I can't prove that to you. I can take history books and prove to you that there was a man named Jesus Who lived in Nazareth. I can take history books and prove to you that He met an inglorious death on a cross at the hands of the Roman government. But I can't prove to you that He is God; I can't prove to you that He is the Son of God. I can't prove to you that the reason He was called Jesus is because "He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). I can't prove to you that the reason He hung on that cross out there was that He was God's Sacrifice and my Substitute. The Bible says in Matthew 1:21: "And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His Name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." Titus 2:14: "Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Since God says this, there is something within me that says, "AMEN!" to it. And, bless God, I believe it with all of my heart, and in believing I have assurance. I just believe it; God said it, and He gave me the faith to believe it. Praise the Lord, there is nothing you can do to shake my belief in that. Where shall I go except to the Lord?

Take the truth that Jesus Christ died as a Substitute in my place – take that away from me, and I have got nothing left. And you can't do it; you can shake me on everything else, but you can't shake me on that. My Lord Jesus Christ bore my sins in His body on the

tree. 1 Peter 2:24: "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." Galatians 1:4: "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." Yes, He bore them in His body all the days of His earthly life. Do you know what He did when He went to that cross? He took my sins with Him, and He put them away. Praise God, He was marred by the weight of my sins. There upon the cross He paid the complete price.

Now I know if you are one of the multitudes that don't believe what God says about how corrupt you are, you are not interested. But if I am speaking to somebody that has looked in the mirror of God's Holy Law, and seen yourself, and you pled guilty and have taken sides with God against yourself, then you know something of how wicked you are by nature and practice. I'm telling you that you can rejoice with me, that "It is Christ that died."

But that isn't all. What else, Paul? Where is your assurance? "It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again." The second great truth, Christ is risen. Paul knew that if all Christ did was that He died and was buried, that was the last of Him. There is no hope for anyone, if they could kill and do away with Christ. But, bless God, they couldn't keep Him dead! "He is risen again!" Praise the Lord! Paul said, "He is risen again." I Corinthians 15:20: "But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that slept." Verses 3-4: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." The resurrection of Christ is my rainbow. It assures me that there is now no condemnation. Romans 8:1-2: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Christ is God; how do you know? He was raised from the dead. How do you know He was raised from the dead? The Bible says so, and He lives within my heart. Praise God, I can't prove that

to you, but I believe it with all of my heart. I believe He took my sins and paid for them in His death and by His resurrection from the grave. God says they are completely taken away, and will be remembered against me no more. Hebrews 8:12: "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." If Jesus had died and was never raised, we would doubt if the Father accepted His death as a sacrifice for our sins. Praise God, He didn't stay dead. My Lord said in John 14:19: "Because I live, ye shall live also." Romans 6:8: "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him." The resurrection of Christ gave Paul assurance of his salvation and eternal life, and it gives me assurance too.

Then there is something else in this verse of Scripture – the Substitute has been exalted. He came down here in the body of His humiliation, but He went back to glory and He sat down at the right hand of God. I wish you could bear in mind, that what my Lord is, His people are; where He is, His people are. The One Who has been my Substitute, Who has died and risen, is now exalted at the right hand of God in heaven. And while my Representative sits so close to the Father, how can I be condemned? Bless God, the Scripture says in Ephesians 2:4: "But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." That is a mighty good place to be! Who can condemn me in the courts of heaven? The Lord Jesus Christ my Substitute sits on the right hand of God. I would have no fear of God if I were an angel walking in the presence of God daily. But if the angels have no fear of condemnation in the presence of God, how much more I, who am sitting on the right hand of God in Christ? Can Christ be separated? No, sir. And I am a part of Him.

Then this verse tells us one last great truth: The Substitute has been raised and exalted and, bless God, He is now ministering as a Priest, interceding for His own. Romans 8:34: "Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us." I sure want to be in that "for us" crowd! Isn't that wonderful? You reckon that's

so? The Bible says it is – that yonder at the right hand of God, there is a Man in glory. I verily believe that His hands have the print of nails in them. I believe that on His brow are scars of that awful crown of thorns. I believe that His side still bears the wounds of the spear. I believe that His feet still have the wounds of that spike that was used to fasten them to the cross. Hebrews 7:24-25: "But this man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable Priesthood. Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 4:14-15: "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 9:11-12: "But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

We see according to the Word of God there is a Man in glory, that is the Man Christ Jesus, that is the Eternal Son of God and that is God Eternal. And He died for me and He was raised for me. He has been exalted and I have been exalted with Him. And He is praying for me. Bless the Lord, isn't that wonderful? Here is my assurance, here is my joy and here is my hope. When my Lord was here, He said in John 17:24: "Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world." That is His prayer right now. A pleading Saviour makes sure of the forgiveness of His people. Jesus pleads for me and for you, if you are His, and God will not deny His plea.

But, my friend, if you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ, you have much to fear. For this old world is under God's condemnation, the fire of God's anger is ready, the pit is prepared, and your feet shall slide in due time. Deuteronomy 32:35: "To Me

belongeth vengeance and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste." Verses 39-41: "See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with Me: I kill, and I make alive,' I wound, and I heal.' Neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand. For I lift up My hand to heaven, and say, I live forever. If I whet My glittering sword, and Mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to Mine enemies, and will reward them that hate Me." Revelation 21:8: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death."

Today if you will hear the Word of God, harden not your heart, stiffen not your neck. But repent and turn to the blood of the Saviour, shed on Calvary's tree!

Who Is The Lord Jesus?

1 John 5:1

Now we are talking about this wonderful Christ, Who is God's Son and our Lord. Do you actually in the heart, as a result of a revelation from God to you, for coming to Christ in saving faith is God's gift. Do you actually believe that He is the Saviour and the Lord of sinners? Who do you say Jesus is? This question was asked of the disciples and Peter answering for them said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God. And, Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 16:16-17). Oh, do you know Who Jesus is?

Who do you say Jesus is today? Millions confess that Jesus is the very anointed sent Messiah, the Saviour and the Lord of all mankind. I John 5:1 says: "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" – Here believing that Jesus, the man, is really the sent One from God, the Saviour and Lord is said to be an evidence that one has had an experience of the new birth. But today the tragedy is that we have so few who give evidence that they have received the new birth, although with their mouths they confess that they believe that Jesus is the Christ. Matthew 15:8: "This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me." Some, we are afraid, say it because they have been taught to say it; others really believe it because they have been made subjects and recipients of God's wonderful revelation, and they thus have seen with their inmost being and eyes and experienced the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. You know a confession that Jesus is the Christ must come from the heart if it is any good.

If just a confession would save us, then the demons would be saved, for they were the first to cry out "We know Thee Who Thou Art, the Holy One of God" (Mark 1:24). You know James, the apostle said, "The devils believe and tremble." But the sad fact today is, that so many confess the Christ but tremble not at all. You know my dear ones more is involved in the confession of Christ than we

seem to think in these days. In the early days of the church, a man entered into a spiritual revolution, when he believed and confessed Jesus as the Christ. Such a confession in those days caused the Pharisees to boil in anger, one of them by the name of Saul heard about it and became a persecutor and a Christian killer. The Gentiles in those days thought that the disciples were either fools, babblers or that they were mad. In those days the confession that Jesus is the Christ turned the world upside down, because with the confession the Spirit of God added His confirmation and power.

I must remind you that something has happened; the name of Jesus Christ is profaned and confessed today without producing any drastic and noticeable affects on those who either profane His Name or confess it or those who hear it. I was interested to read an article by Brother Tozar, a man of God, who does call men in churches today to think. He has a prophetic voice, he is not satisfied with the great numbers of professing Christians today. He had an article on "The Misunderstood Doctrine of Faith," he called the attention of the importance of faith. Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by Grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast. "He called the attention to the fact that the revelation of God in Christ is received and perceived only through faith, and blind eyes cannot see Christ in the Gospel. That Christ has revealed God, but only eyes that have been opened can see God in the face of Jesus Christ. And he writes to the point that the modern conception of faith is not the Biblical teaching about faith. He says when faith is used today it doesn't mean what the Bible means by faith.

I want to list seven causes of the uneasiness Mr. Tozar professes about this matter of faith. He says the things that cause him great uneasiness are (1) the lack of spiritual fruit in the lives of so many who claim to have faith; (2) the rarity of a radical change in the conduct and general outlook of persons professing faith in Christ; (3) the failure of our Bible teachers to define or even describe the thing to which the word faith is supposed to refer; (4) the heart-breaking failure of multitudes of seekers who never find faith, be they ever so earnest; (5) the real danger that a doctrine that

is preached so widely, and received so uncritically by so many; the real danger is that it is false as understood by them; (6) he says that faith is used as a substitute for obedience; it is used as an escape from reality; it is used as a refuge from the necessity of heart thinking; it is used as a hiding place for weak character; (7) he says plain horse sense tells us that anything that makes no change in man who professes, makes no difference to God either; the change from no faith, to faith makes no difference in the life of so many today.

Then Mr. Tozar has these words to say about what faith is: He says faith is not believing a statement that we know to be true, for faith has to do not so much with the mind as with the will. And faith rests upon the character of God, and no other proof is needed for real faith. Faith is confidence in God and in His Son and therefore a response of the soul to Him in Whom we have confidence. Then Mr. Tozar says what I have said so many, many times that faith is impossible apart from the work of the Spirit. He says that faith is the gift of God to a penitent one. It has nothing to do with the senses or the evidence afforded. Faith is a miracle, he says it is the ability God gives to trust His Son. Faith that does not bring the life unto obedience to Christ as Lord is inadequate and must betray the victim at the last. The man who believes what Mr. Tozar says will obey, and failure to obey is convincing proof that true faith is not present. He concludes by saying: God must give faith or there will be no faith, and He gives faith to repentant hearts.

Now when we open the Bible, it is clear that Christ was the expected One by the Israelites. But the Old Testament prophecies are clear that when the Messiah came, that He would rule the individual. When Peter said: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," he understood what he was talking about. In the Old Testament prophecies we have three claims prophecied for Christ: (1) when He appeared He came with worldwide claims, (2) that when He appears He will come claiming a worldwide throne, (3) when Christ appeared He had eternal claims, He would claim to have a right to sit on an eternal throne. And then it is clear also that when Christ comes He will have personal claims, He will have a personal claim on every human being. And that is the way the Old Testament talked

about this coming One. Isaiah 9:6-7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.' and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

So when He came the Jews understood that He would have authority, that He would have the voice of authority, and that He would rule the individual. And the Israelite, who studied the Old Testament knew that when the Messiah came that there was one thing certain: that His Lordship would be a settled issue. And that when He came, to accept Him was identical with accepting His authority. It meant to them that one must render to Him full devotion and faith and obedience. And thus when the Lord Jesus Christ appeared on the scene yonder on Palestinian soil, the question for the Jews was not one of whether the Messiah had the authority to rule, but was one of recognition whether or not the One Who came and said, "I am He," would be recognized and thus His authority be accepted or whether He would be rejected and unrecognized.

And this my friends is the dreamer of the New Testament especially of John's Gospel. Here we have the record of the failure of the Jewish people to recognize their God-sent Messiah. The failure to recognize Him and thus they rejected Him. In John 1:11 we are told, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." Here we have the rejection of Jesus as the Messiah and thus the denial of His claims to be the sent One of God. And thus the New Testament soon after we start reading it gives us a portrait of Jesus as the rejected Messiah. "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." They said, "This is not the One, this is not the One," and later on you will hear that piercing cry "We will not have this man to reign over us."

When He came He had to be rejected or received because He came demanding "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Repent or perish." So folks said, "He is not the One we have been

looking for; He is not the kind of Messiah we want. He is not the One we will bow to; we will not have this man to reign over us." He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

Why was the Lord Jesus rejected by His own kinsman? My, isn't it tragic, you see a Jew today in his unbelief, he still has the marks of his rejection of Jesus Christ as the Messiah, and if he is an orthodox Jew he still looks for the coming of the sent One from God. He thinks that he is clear on one thing, he says that man Jesus you worship – He is not the Messiah. He is not the One in Whom all authority has been given. He still looks for that One to come. I think it is clear in the New Testament that our Lord Jesus Christ was not rejected by His own race, because of His worldwide claims, nor was He rejected because of His eternal claims to sit on an eternal throne. If you read the New Testament carefully you will find that He was rejected then, like He is rejected now, because He pressed His personal claims on everybody. He said to the leaders of the Jews, your religion is vile, it's perverted, and you need a new life, and you need to be born again, you need repentance and faith. He said the leaders are leading you, they are blind leaders leading you into blind alleys. Luke 6:39b: "Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?" That is what is happening today. If sin is damning its thousands, religion today is damning its tens of thousands.

So we are not surprised how the leaders got together and condemned Him to death. They thought they would get rid of His claims by putting Him to death, that is exactly why they killed Him. He said, "You are not right with God, you are not fit to lead," and they saw that it was either Him or them. They had to repent or kill this One Who claimed to be the sent One from God. They said they would get rid of Him, and that will be the last of Him, and we will still look for Him Who will be our Messiah.

Do you know that a miracle took place? God raised Him from the dead, and when He raised Him from the dead, His claims were fight back facing these leaders again. God enforced Christ's claims by raising Him from the dead and declared Him to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead. Oh, my the rejected

Christ. It was not a question of these Jews not knowing that if they accepted One they would have to bow down to Him and come under His yoke. They just said we are not going to accept this One. We will accept the true Messiah when He comes, and so they go on today still looking for Him Who has already come. But I had rather be in their shoes blinded as they are, than to be a church member that claims that he has accepted this Christ, and has never bowed in obedience to His Lordship. Christ is the accepted or the rejected Christ. Thank God that even then among a nation of Christ rejecters, there was a remnant of Christ accepters.

When the disciples owned Him in Matthew 16 as the One they had been looking for, the expected Messiah, they owned Him as their King, and their absolute Lord and Saviour. Also they came to see that they owned Him as their rejected Lord. For my Lord understood what it meant to receive Him, the rejected One. It meant for them a cross. After Peter made that great confession in Matthew 16:16: "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Verse 24: "Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Thus it means if you are a Christian, now that you have accepted not only the expected Christ, but the One Who didn't meet the expectations of the people of that day, and thus became the rejected Christ.

And so the confession of the Lord Jesus Christ today must be as revolutionary now, as it was then. The expected Christ, the One prophesied in the Old Testament and the One Whose credentials proved to be the One the Old Testament talked about. And yet He hung on a cross outside the very religious city of Jerusalem. The expected Christ, the prophesied Christ must rule over us entirely and the rejected Christ, this One the world rejects must be followed in self-denial and in full obedience to His absolute authority. Anything that falls short of that is a mockery of what salvation is.

You know my friends there is no middle ground in this business. You either have accepted this rejected Christ and taken up the cross and living a life of denying of yourself and following Him; all out for Him or you haven't at all. Christ must be all in all or He

will not be Lord at all. I say it with a sob in my heart that our preaching today much of it is preaching another Jesus and another Gospel. The Apostle Paul warned of that in his days. I have been going up and down America for years now, saying that we are mighty close to preaching not the expected Christ of the Old Testament prophesy, not the rejected Christ of the Jewish nation of His day, and not the accepted Christ of the early Christians. But most preachers have preached another Jesus and another gospel. I have had to pay a little price for this, oh, I wonder if I am right, I wonder if in the popular preaching of the Gospel today, as we call it, everybody talks about accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. And nobody says anything much about surrendering to Christ, absolute authority in your every day living. I wonder if we haven't got another Jesus, this One we separated His Saviourhood from His Lordship. I hear it preached now that we are saved if we accept Jesus as our Saviour, and when I say the Scriptures don't talk like that, people say I am not preaching the Gospel. Oh my soul, you mean to tell me this Jesus the Old Testament prophesied of was prophesied just as somebody to keep you from going to hell? No, sir. It was prophesied of Him, that He would have the voice of authority, it was prophesied of Him that He would sit on an eternal throne, and that the heathen and the nations have been given Him as an inheritance and a possession. It was prophesied of Him in Isaiah that every knee should bow and every tongue confess and Paul refers to that in Philo 2:9-11.

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name: That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Where is this Jesus, the expected Jesus of the Old Testament, the rejected Jesus of the New Testament, and the accepted Jesus of men and women who know Who He is by revelation? I say to you, they have taken away our Lord and we know not where to find Him. This little Jesus that will save you and leave you with your pride and your old will never having been bent, doing as you please, and

refusing to bow to His Lordship, and dividing salvation and discipleship; and justification and sanctification, I say to you "that Jesus" is another Jesus and not the Lord Jesus Christ. The only Jesus the Word of God talks about in the Old Testament and announces His arrival in the Gospels, and as the old preachers told the significance of His life, His death, His resurrection, and His present reign in the Epistles. He is the One Who has throne rights in our lives everyday. And I tell you to accept Him as Saviour without facing the fact that He speaks with authority, and His sheep hear His voice and He rules them, and they will not listen to another fellow's voice. For to do that is at the peril of your soul.

Who do you say Jesus is? The Old Testament said He would be the absolute Lord, the Jews turned Him down because they didn't want Him to rule over them, what about you? What about you? Do you confess Him as Christ? Do you confess Him as Lord? Do you obey His commands? Listen to the plaintive cry of the Lord Jesus. In Luke 6:46 it says: "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" The Jesus of the Bible is the Lord of all. Who do you say He is? Who do you say He is? May God help you to answer that rightly in daily living.

How To Prepare Your Heart To Receive God's Truth

James 1:16-22

There is so much in the Bible, I hope that what I decided on is the mind of the Lord. I want to speak as carefully as I can tonight on the subject of preparing one's heart to receive God's truth. Preparing your own heart to receive the engrafted Word, which is able to save the soul. James 1:16-22: "Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of His Own will begat He us with the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

We notice here that James is writing to somebody he loved; he called them "beloved brethren." In these words that James wrote in verses 19-22, we find some excellent advice to anyone who is not yet united to the Lord Jesus. By way of advice, here are three things in these verses that are addressed to unsaved men and women who would prepare their hearts to receive the engrafted Word. He says of this engrafted Word that it is able to save your soul. Now it may seem strange that the preacher would say that if anybody wishes to become vitally united to Christ – not just stand afar off and claim to believe in His work of atonement, but to be united to Christ – for we definitely hold that you cannot have the merits of Christ's blood unless you have Him, for you cannot separate Him from what He did. We believe with all of our heart that multitudes of people honestly and earnestly are doing what they say "trusting in the shed blood of Christ," but they are not saved. Because we do not believe that you can participate in the merits of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, unless you are regenerated.

Thus we say to men and women that if you would in these

days of religious confusion – where everybody has a gospel, and everybody has a doctrine and everybody has six interpretations of those doctrines, and What I say is just what I say, and there is not much respect for what anybody says. But if you value your souls' welfare, you will take seriously the words of the Apostle James here, to prepare your heart, for unless your heart is prepared by you, you will never receive the Word savingly. Did you get it? You will spend all the days of your life, talking about how you believe the Word and how you are trusting in the blood. But an unprepared heart cannot receive the Word of truth. The only way to be born of the Spirit is by the incorruptible Word of the Living God.

That introduces me to the biggest tragedy of my ministry as I go from place to place; I wonder if anybody gets saved, because nobody has got time to prepare his heart. You didn't prepare your heart for whatever message the Lord has for you, because you didn't have time, did you? So it will just bounce off of you, and it will go in one ear and out the other. It won't be my fault and it won't be the fault of the Word. Your heart cannot receive truth unless it has been prepared, do you see it? Even if you are a Christian, you won't get anything out of anybody's divine service, unless you prepare your own heart. We must plow our own heart and prepare it, so if the seed would drop, it would fall on good ground.

Proverbs 16:1: "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord." Hosea 10:12: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you." Any spiritual truth that falls on bad ground doesn't bear fruit. Matthew 13:8: "But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold." Verse 9: "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." We are told plainly in those different parables that He went out and sowed seed, and the seed was good; there was nothing wrong with the seed or the sowing of the seed. The trouble was that He sowed it on four kinds of ground, and only one ground was prepared.

So the seed fell on some ground and the fellow was converted. You remember how old Bill got gloriously converted, and

he shouted, and he went down on the streets and told how God had saved him. And two weeks later he folded up his tent, taken down the flag, and took off! You see, the Scriptures say there was no root there. He flourished for a little while, but because the seed didn't take root, the first time a little wind storm of adversity came, he played out. Matthew 13:5-6: "Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away."

But there was one type of ground, and one only, that had been thoroughly prepared. Matthew 13:8-9: "But other fell into and some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

This is interesting in view of the fact that James is giving some advice about how men and women ought to hear the Word of God. This is excellent advice in Hosea 10:12: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord till He come and rain righteousness upon you." Somebody said, "Well I don't understand that." Well, that makes two of us. There is very little in the Bible that we can understand, but thank God, we can believe. Now if any kind of Spiritual truth comes your way, unless your heart has been prepared to receive truth, you can't receive it; the truth will just bounce off.

I was talking to a preacher the other day and he said, "Brother Barnard, I can't understand. I went through a Baptist college, I went through the seminary three years. I taught in one of our Baptist schools. I pastored in our Baptist churches and I held evangelistic campaigns all over the West. And until two years ago, I had never seen anything in the Word of God about salvation by grace." He said, "Now I pick up my Bible and it's on so many, many pages. But until two years ago, I would read the same verses, I studied the same chapters. I preached out of the same Book. I would read the verses and what the verses said just went in one ear and out the other." Even that preacher was not able to receive the truth until God had brought this thing and the other thing on his life, until he had a prepared heart. Now that is true of any unsaved person. You

can attend services for years, and do what you call listen, but until you take seriously the fact that only by receiving the Word sufficiently until it takes root in here is any salvation produced. And no seed will take root unless the heart has been prepared. Your heart must be plowed. In James 1:19-21, He lays down three things that those who are interested in plowing their hearts, so they can receive the engrafted Word or the rooted Word, must do. The seed is sown and it takes root. If you plant a little tree, it has to go down and take root before it grows up. That is true in salvation; sinners are not saved accidentally. A preacher tells sinners he can't save himself and that is right; a sinner is helpless. That's right, he cannot move into the Spiritual, because he is dead in trespasses and sins. But there are some things a lost man can do; he could look at himself through God's Law. A sinner could buy himself a Bible, and he could read carefully what God says about him. Then he needs to start plowing his own heart – nothing to keep a sinner from doing that, is there? Now that wouldn't save him, but unless the sinner's heart becomes so that the seed will take root – he may make a profession, he may have some kind of an experience, but unless the seed of the Gospel takes root, it will not bear fruit; and if you are not bearing fruit, you are not God's child. Is that all right?

James says there are three things that a sinner ought to do, if he is interested in having a heart that can receive truth. A sinner must cease from rebellion against the Word of truth. Look again at James 1:18: "Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth." Man's attitude toward truth must be changed, and there is no power on earth that could keep the vilest sinner out of hell from making all the effort that a man can make to cease bucking Spiritual truth. Look what James 1:18 says about it: "Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures." Wherefore, in view of the fact that men are born again by the Holy Spirit with the use of the truth of the Gospel, verse 19 says, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak; slow to wrath." You must cut out all of this business of bucking the truth. When the Gospel is preached, there are those who do not make an effort to hear; the reason you don't hear is

because you don't want to. This Word must be heard, and not bucked, and it must be received until it takes root. If it doesn't, you will just make a profession and go on to hell; it has got to take root. People are swift to mouth their ignorant nothings against the truth of God, and they do it with some enmity.

In Texas a lady rushed up to me and said, "Brother Preacher, I am just torn all to pieces; you are tearing everything up that I ever heard. All I ever heard is against what you are preaching." I said, "I am sorry to hear that. What was it about the message tonight that disturbed you?" She said, "Well, it was this morning and tonight. I have just walked the floor all day since the morning service; I have never heard anything like that." She was in a desperate condition. I said, "Tell me what it is. Maybe I am wrong. I'll listen." And she said so-an-so, and I said, "You didn't quote all the verse." She said, "Well, what is it?" I said, "You are the one that started it, you quote it for me." She said, "I don't know. I don't even know where it is found in the Bible." She was awfully well informed to be so torn up and be dead certain that what she was hearing was not so! She came prepared not to believe anything she heard. She had been warned not to come and hear me. If there is a person that wants to be dead certain to go to hell, you keep on closing your mind and refusing to be swift to hear the truth of God. The woman would quote part of a Scripture, but I said, "You didn't quote all of it." Then we would turn to it and read it, and she said, "Well I never saw that." Then she said, "But some of the things you said" I said, "Do I have Scripture for it?" I said, "Let's turn to some of those Scriptures and reread them and you tell me if you find fault with what the Scripture says." We turned and read some of them and she said, "I had never seen them in the Scriptures." Don't be in such a hurry, but be swift to hear and slow to rebel.

James says, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, "and that in view of verse 18, "Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth."

Now I want to mention five great teachings of the Word of God about which men rebel. Unsaved men will rebel against all five of these things, or they will rebel against any of them. Unless your

heart has been prepared. Only a prepared heart can take these five Bible teachings. (1) You will rebel about what kind of a person the Bible says you are. Look at your Bible and find out what it says about you and me. Romans. 3:10-18: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they now known: There is no fear of God before their eyes." Psalm 58:3-5: "The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. Their poison is like the poison of a serpent; They are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely." Isaiah 1:3-6: "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment."

The Bible says some terrible things about us folks. And you can't take it, you rebel against it, and you are going to keep on rebelling against it until you end up in hell, unless you make up your mind that you value your eternity-bound soul and you start preparing your heart and asking God to enable some of the truth about yourself to sink in there and take root. And you get desperate to find out whether there is any hope for a person that is a big sinner like you are. You just can't take that apart from a prepared heart. God says your best righteousness is as filthy rags. You drink iniquity like water; you just lap it up. Your very plowing is sin; your

imaginations are evil. The thoughts of your heart are rotten, and if we could open you up, out of it would come all these filthy things.

The Bible talks that way about men. Genesis 6:5: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Job 15:16: "How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?" Isaiah 64:6: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." And unprepared heart will buck that, and yet you will never be saved unless it is brought home to you what kind of a person you are! Because you will never be interested in getting to Christ until you see how awfully sinful you are. Be swift to hear what God says about you!

If I were preaching to nice people, it would be different, but I am not. I am preaching to people who are born in sin, conceived in iniquity, and you are a cesspool and hotbed of rebellion against God. You hate everything that is high and holy, and if it were not for the restraining power of the Spirit of God and the influences of the Gospel in this world, this would be only a madhouse here. You are not nice people; you are a mined people; you are a rebellious people; you are a stiffnecked people, and you don't like to be told that. And you are going to hell fighting it, unless your heart is prepared to receive God's truth about yourself.

Then there is another teaching in the Word of God that is wrapped up in this business of the need of a prepared heart: Men do not get saved apart from being confronted with the strictness and the severity of God's Holy Law. Where no law is preached, there is no Gospel preached, because the Gospel can only be preached in the context of the Holy Law of God. And where men and women are not awakened by the utter strictness and the terrible severity of God's Holy Law, they will never be interested really in having a part in the merits of the shed blood of the Redeemer dying on the cross. I know that's so. And yet all I've got to do to an unsaved man, in the Name of God, is tell him not to do something, and he will be sure to do it. That is his nature. They hate law and restrictions.

And yet unless a man is confronted with and becomes swift to hear how terribly strict God's Holy Law is, and how unutterable, how horribly severe His Law is, they will never be interested in the Lord Jesus Christ and only a prepared heart can receive that truth. It will just bounce off of you; it bounced off of me and I had sinful flesh just like you have. You have got to face it. You better become swift to hear how strict and severe God's Law is. If it is as strict as the Bible says it is, you dead-sure need a Saviour. If it is as severe as the Bible says it is, my, how terrible it will be to go out and meet God in Whose hands will be the penalty, and He will punish them in hell in all eternity.

Matthew 13:41-42: "The Son of man shall send forth His angels and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Luke 12:5: "But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear Him, which after He hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him." Revelation 21:8: "But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

There is a third Bible truth that cannot be received except by a prepared heart, and that is the absoluteness of the sovereignty of God. I don't mean the sovereignty of God - lots of people believe that - but the absoluteness of it. We are living in a day now when most people accept the Lord, some of the wicked people will brag on the Lord. Multitudes accept the Lord, but the Lord they accepted has been stripped of His glory. If you take Christ out of His office, people will take Him as their buddy-buddy; even the Hollywood actors are buddy-buddy with this little Lord that everybody likes today, but it is the Lord stripped of the absoluteness of His sovereignty. And you can't take it. I don't care how big a profession you make, you will buck it, you will rebel against the utter absoluteness, the totalitarian rule and reign and claims of King Jesus. You can't take it, except with a prepared heart.

It wouldn't be a bit of trouble in getting most people

converted in America if everybody in this country would do like most preachers have done: Preach a Jesus who has been stripped of His glory. There is no trouble in getting people to accept Jesus, this nice little Jesus that buddy-buddies with people and lets people go on and live as they please. But the difference is, this Jesus Christ has no rivals; He is absolute, He has the reigns of every man's heart in His hands, and He exercises those reigns.

If I am speaking to somebody that doesn't know my Lord, you had better take this seriously. You will never get saved if you don't get serious about this. The Word of the truth of the Gospel has got to take root, and it will take root in your heart only as your heart has been able to thrust out the rebellion that is in it. You were born with it, born with rebellion against these great truths.

There is another truth that men cannot take, unless it is with a prepared heart: That the way of salvation is in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Self-righteous people will go to hell saying, "I think I am as good as the other fellow. I think if he makes it I'll make it. I am not such a bad fellow." You will keep talking that way and you will never care anything about the blood of Christ. You will never have any interest in the truth that you are in such a desperate condition that Another (and that One is the Son of God) had to die or you would go to hell. This truth is going to have to take root; your heart needs to be prepared.

Now as I have been preaching these 38 years, I have found out that some people, at least in their heads, will say, "Well, Brother Barnard, I can take the strictness and severity of God's Law, and I can take the fact that the only way I can be saved is by Jesus dying, and I can take the sovereignty of the Lord. But when I come to this last truth of the Bible that involves this matter of salvation: that saving faith is not simply the act of the will of the natural man, it is not moral persuasion but is a grace of an in-ward and spiritual view of Christ in His sweetness and glory. And that while you have to exercise faith, God has to work it in you before you can work it out. That is the most offensive thing in the Bible, that is what stirs up people in my meetings more than anything else. They have heard all their lives, "Now sinner if you just take Jesus as your Saviour, He

will save you." That would be fine, if you could do it – and unless you do do it, you are going to hell. But the most offensive thing in the teachings of the Word of God is: God requires faith, and you ain't got it, unless He is pleased to give it to you. Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, Not of works, lest any man should boast." Hebrews 12:2: "Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

You can make all the decisions you want to, but you will never be joined to Christ by making a decision. We are all eternity-bound men and women, and unless God Almighty is pleased to perform a miracle in you and reveal Christ in you, you are doomed for hell. Now that is offensive, isn't it? And if you don't quit rebelling against it, and start preparing your heart to ask God to break up your old heart and help you to throw your rebellion down, and become a swift to hear person – praying that the truth may be buried in there and rooted in there – for we are born by the will of God through the Word of truth. Romans 10:17: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." 1 Peter 1:23: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. "Men just can't take that, and therefore it is left out of what is called preaching today. Your heart needs to be prepared and unless it is, you will rebel in every one of these five things. You just can't take them with a heart that hasn't been plowed. James says, "You be swift to hear."

I want to mention two other things that James says. "Lay aside sin in your life." Who is to do this? The man who wants a prepared heart, the man that wants to be saved. James says, "I'll tell you what to do: (1) Be swift to hear, cease your rebellion against truth; (2) You lay aside sin. James is not teaching that a man must be sinless and perfect in order to be saved, for if that was true, nobody would be saved. But what James is saying here, you have the heart and mind and be willing to lay aside any and all sin which keeps you from receiving God's truth. God commands you through James that

you had better not keep on hugging sin, you better lay it aside. You say, "Will that save me?" No, it is a matter of heart preparation. What saves you is the truth taking root in there, but it is not going to take root in there as long as there is sin you cling to.

You say, "What can I do about it?" James says, "Lay it aside." You say, "That's hard to do." Yes, that's right. That is the reason this matter of salvation is an agony. Acts 14:22: "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." I don't know your heart, but if there is anything keeping you from becoming a devoted disciple of my Lord, please lay it aside. That won't save you, but it is heart preparation, and it is going to take place before God saves you – and you are to do that. Lay it aside.

Then James says, "Receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls." Be swift to hear and lay aside whatever sin you love. The trouble is not that you don't understand; the trouble is s-i-n, SIN. You are not going to hell because you don't understand the doctrines of the Bible; you are going to hell to pay for your sins. You lay aside anything in your life that is keeping you from receiving God's truth. And then just like a little child, God says it, you just believe it. Amen! You are liable to come to the assurance of God's wonderful salvation, if you keep on just believing what God tells you. James would say: "Take time to prepare your heart by being swift to hear and slow to rebel, by laying aside sin and with meekness receive the engrafted Word which is able to save your soul."

The Narrow Way

Matthew 7:13-14

We have been told that coming to Jesus was very simple, and it would be simple if we were nice people, good people, if we loved righteousness and hated wickedness and panted after holiness. The matter of coming to Jesus Christ savingly would then be mighty easy. But since we are not nice people, since we are ruined by the fall, since we are enemies of God, since we are hostile to holiness – the Lord knowing the truth about us, tells us the truth that if we hope to get in the strait gate we will have to make it a matter of agony. No one ever gets saved except as he storms the gate violently. There is Scripture for that in Matthew 11:12: "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Also Luke 13:24: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."

We want to talk about "The Narrow Way," the entrance to which is this difficult gate that a man has to agonize to get through. Then salvation is more than a beginning; it is a walk. Notice Matthew 7:13-14: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Our Lord says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate," and then He gives us the reason for His injunction, "For wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction." You wouldn't have to strive to get in that gate if it is wide, but it isn't wide. The Lord says, "There is a wide gate," and because it is wide, it wouldn't be difficult to go through. But this wide gate and this broad way, our Lord says, "leadeth to destruction," and then He adds to the terribleness of it by stating, "many there be which go in thereat." And one reason so many go in this wide gate is that the gate which leadeth to life is so narrow.

I am doing my best to rob you of your assurance, because I think the first work of the Holy Ghost is confusing people. I think that is Scriptural. If I could rob you of your assurance that you are a

child of God, then your assurance is no good! I know I cannot unsave a saved person and I don't have to worry about that. I believe we have lived all our days without the flowing out of the Holy Ghost. If you do not believe that, you just get in a service where you have a little tiny raindrop from heaven – Oh, it is just wonderful! It has been so dry for so long, and when the river of God is not flowing it is hard sailing. You and I have really been living in the dying stages of Christianity in our nation. The circumstances are such that it would be the most natural thing on earth for a person to put his confidence in something that isn't worthy of confidence and be given an assurance and a peace that the Lord does not give.

If there was ever a time to give some attention to the teachings of the Word of God, it is now. 2 Corinthians 13:5 says: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith: prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" Now all the days of my ministry, we have been told, "Ah, don't look at yourself, just look to Christ." That sounds mighty good, but the Scriptures say AT THE PROPER TIME, you ought to examine yourself. And 1 Peter 3:15 says: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." I believe in these awful days, with lifelessness everywhere, and vitality in the things of the Lord at such a low ebb, and when Christianity is assumed instead of lived – I think we ought to really give ourselves some examination as to whether we are on the broad way or the narrow way!

Since all any preacher can do is bring out the Word as best he knows how, only you can examine yourself. And since God is not going to slip up on your blind side and take you to heaven without your being conscious of something going on, I believe unto God the hour calls for everybody now to give himself an examination, just turn the spotlight on yourself, and ask God to establish you or destroy your profession. We have been going down hill so long, that all this talk about God reviving us in the state we are in is foolishness. I don't believe He will do it unless there is some repenting.

Are you walking this narrow way or are you still walking in the broad way? There never has been such a revival of religion as we have been going through the last few years! Even what we call the old heathen religions are on the march. Mohammedanism is becoming missionary minded as they never were. And it will shock you for me to tell you that for every Protestant so-called Christian missionary the world around, there are now ten Mohammedan missionaries! General McArthur begged the American Christians to sow Japan down with Bibles some years ago when he was commander during the Occupation. But we were too busy buying cigarettes and bubble gum and we didn't do it. And now Shintoism is on the march and Christianity seems to be playing out in Japan.

In America what a wave of religion we have had in the last 20 years. More people have some sort of connection with our churches, Catholic, Jewish Synagogue or Protestant of some kind, than at any time in the history of America. And yet, God help us, sin, blasphemy and lawlessness were never so rampant as they are in this land of church members right now. We've had a revival of men getting on a broad comfortable way, a religious way, but we haven't had a revival of men getting into a narrow way. It is a **NARROW WAY**, because it is under the strict discipline of the Living Lord. Which way are you walking? The way that has filled our church rolls and our penitentiaries at the same time? The way that has brought us to where the Congress now debates making homosexuality legal in America? Think it through! (Editor's note: This sermon was preached many years ago!)

Our Lord faithfully calls our attention in this Scripture (Matthew 7:13-14) to the two ways. He describes, first the **BROAD WAY**, and then, secondly, the **NARROW WAY**. Before I say much about this text, I want you to notice three or four Scriptures. This word "way" came to have tremendous significance in the Bible. The word "way" in the New Testament and in the Old describes God's people. And this "narrow way" does too; it describes their manner of living. Look in Psalm 1:6: "For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." And in Isaiah 35:8: "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be

called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Acts 9:1-2: "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem." He went looking for "people of this way"; Christians were called "people of this way" because of their manner of living. They lived holy lives.

Then notice Acts 16:17: "The same followed Paul and us and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the Most High God, which shew unto us the way of salvation." You see, in the New Testament Christianity was more than an experience, it was a way, it was a pilgrim journey that people traveled, it was living in a way that glorified my Lord. And it condemned every other way of looking at life! Acts 19:9: "But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus." Verse 23: "And the same time there arose no small stir about that way." Acts 24:14: "But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets."

I want this to get into us, so we will not buck it: This Christianity is a way, a way of life, and in the New Testament it stands out. How are you going to find anybody down there in Damascus of that way? You can find them out by their manner of living. God knows how we need that now! People of THAT WAY – not Baptists, nor Methodists, nor Presbyterians, nor church attenders! But men and women of a certain manner of living. That is our need today; we are dying without it. We are going to keep on going down hill, if God Almighty doesn't come and breathe the Holy Ghost life upon us and quicken us and make us alive! We need men and women who are peculiar because of our way of looking at things and the way we walk.

Titus 2:11-14: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation

hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

"Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate, and broad is the way "How far have we come from the New Testament? If they start laying hold of the people of that way, will they arrest you? "People of this way" – people with a manner of living and a philosophy of life that is utterly different from what is called religion today. Our Lord Jesus Christ plainly tells us there are two gates to be entered, one is wide, one is strait. The word strait means narrow, difficult and restricted. There are then two ways to be traveled, one is broad and the other is narrow. God describes these two ways in Jeremiah 21:8: "Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death." The strait gate will get you into a narrow way that leads to life. The wide gate will get you into a broad way that leads you to destruction. The Lord said there are few that find the strait gate and walk the narrow way, but there are many that find the wide gate and the broad way.

Our Lord said there are only two possible destinations for each one of us: Either we walk in the way that leads to life, or in the way that leads to the eternal torments of hell. That we might know which way we are on, the Lord Jesus Christ is very patient and faithful here to describe each way, the entrance to the ways, and the end of the ways. As to the numbers, few find the strait gate, many find the wide gate; few walk the narrow way, many walk the broad way. Our Lord said so. And the Lord Jesus has ordained two distinct final abodes of men after this life, heaven or hell, and between them He has fixed a great gulf. Now these final abodes are not acceptable to many. We have some people now who are not good enough for heaven, but they are not bad enough for hell. I suppose they believe in another place! Some think there are more than two classes of people now, but the Bible speaks only of saints and sinners, so Christ will not admit of more. With Him, you are walking in light or

in darkness. With Him, you are in truth or in error. With Him, it is Christ or Satan. With Him, it is holiness or sin. With Him, it is salvation or damnation. There is no middle ground!

The Lord Jesus Christ is pleased to describe this broad way. First we need to remember that it is the way of religious profession. The people who are on it are sincere, religious, and they are making some kind of effort to live a Christian life. They got on this way by listening to false preaching and they call Jesus "Lord." Later on they will come to the judgment as described in Matthew 7:21-23: "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy Name? And in Thy Name have cast out devils? and in Thy Name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."

This broad way is the way of calling Jesus "Lord," but not doing His will. And it is hard for us to look at a Scripture like that, because all the days of our lives, we've not paid a great deal of attention to the Bible. These tremendous truths that shock us to our very depths if we ever face them – I hope we are not so far gone that a verse like that wouldn't challenge us to the very depths of our being! Who is going to make it anyhow? "He that doeth the will of the Father which is in heaven" – he is the one that is going to make it, and not the one who professes something. "He that doeth the will of My Father."

When did we stop preaching that being right with Christ and joined to Him is the power within us to make the will of God central and pursue it all the days of our life?! That's what it means!

This broad way is the way of religious people that believed error and not the truth. How long have we identified walking an aisle for getting to Christ? I have been in Baptist churches where the people would come to me and say, "Brother Barnard, when are you going to give people a chance to be saved?" They mean by that, when am I going to give a public invitation! A chance to be saved isn't in my hands; salvation is of the Lord! I have been in places

where they thought you couldn't get saved unless you walked an aisle or went to the mourners bench. Isn't that silly?

The only way one can get saved is to get to Christ! John 6:37: "All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out. "John 10:28:"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand." The only way you can get saved is by believing and acting upon the truth about Him and of Him. You can go through the motions and miss the truth! The only way you can embrace Christ now is to embrace Him in the truth of Him. Ephesians 1:13: "In Whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation: in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." James 1:18: "Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."

These folks here on this broad way had made some sort of profession, at least they called Him "Lord." They had listened to false preachers and they believed what they had been told. They listened to the preacher who said, "It is easy to be saved, all you've got to do is believe on Jesus and accept Him as your Saviour." But the fellow didn't have the least idea of what that involves. So they have gone through the motions, and they've been doing the best they knew how, but they've been getting deeper in the ditch all the time. They just got a profession; to them Christ is just a name, and He's not a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He is just a myth and not a reality, so they go through the motions and end in deception. This is a religious way, a broad way. My Lord said it. It is a whole lot easier to walk in this broad way, there are so many walking along with you.

Oh, do I speak now to a child of God? You know, a Christian needs to know another Christian, for we need to be able to exhort one another and encourage one another, and "so much the more as ye see the day approaching." Christianity is not something to be lived by yourself; that is the reason we have the church. The Apostle Paul felt the need of saying in Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but

exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." I hope it will keep on getting so bad that you can tell a Christian, because he has got to go where there are some more Christians as often as he can! And they will put their arms about the other and encourage them in the Lord. We need to be able to exhort one another.

Most everybody is making a profession now and going down the broad way, the easy way, deceived. Only a few people are pressing through to the kingdom, striving to get in this narrow way that is now made fun of so much even by church people. This broad way is a very deceptive way. The people on it will keep on believing that they are all right, if the Holy Spirit leaves them alone. Everybody that is on the broad way is perfectly satisfied and sincere as they can be. But the Word of God says in Proverbs 16:25, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." The Lord says that this broad way, this religious way that people are crowding into now, is a deceptive way that leads to destruction. A man that walks on it is certainly headed for hopeless eternal destruction. Our Lord says this broad popular religion of today conducts men to the bottomless pit, the unquenchable fire and Psalm 1:6 reminds us, "The way of the ungodly shall perish." This broad way must be abandoned and the narrow way accepted, or you will go to hell. There's no way of escape.

Then notice my Lord speaks of the strait gate and the narrow way. The word strait means narrow, difficult and restricted. The Lord Jesus Christ Who loved souls told us the truth, "FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT!" Have you found it? And the Lord said this strait gate must be entered to get started on the narrow way that leads to life. And in order to enter it, you must seek for it. Luke 13:24: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. "Why? Not seeking in God's way.

Anybody that gets to Christ is going to do what Jeremiah 29:13 says, "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart. "Then you'll not let anybody speak peace to your soul, except the Lord. Psalm 85:7-8: "Shew us

Thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us Thy salvation. I will hear what God the Lord will speak: For He will speak peace unto His people, and to His saints: but let them not turn again to folly."

Have you sought this strait gate until the only One Who can give assurance has given it to you? That is the Holy Ghost. What is the seal of the Holy Spirit? It is the assurance of salvation, and nobody can give a person the assurance of salvation except the Holy Ghost! Ephesians 1:13, "Ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." That is the guarantee. Have you sought the strait gate – or have you been deceived by somebody talking you into it, going through some motions? But you didn't get to Christ, and you know you are not in vital living, obedient union with Him. They tell me a man is a Christian and he is not sure whether he is saved or not. But to be vitally united to Christ is spoken of as a marriage, and it is silly to talk about being married and not knowing it!

This narrow way must be entered by the strait gate, but it will have to be sought, and "few there be that find it." Why isn't it sought? The Lord tells us why – because it is so strait and so narrow! Who wants to be peculiar and not go with the crowd? Multitudes had rather be a nice little church member than to be a real Christian. The broad way is pleasant. For according to what they call salvation now, you can have this world and the next one too! But according to our Lord Jesus, you have to make a choice. Read I John 2:15-17: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." You have to die to this world to get the other one. If you have all of this, you will have to go to hell. You have to say goodbye to all of this, if you would have heaven. The broad way is easy; anybody can walk it. All you have got to do is make a profession of faith, join the church, put a little money in the plate every once in a while, and live to please your sinful flesh. And the preacher will preach you into heaven at the funeral, while you are in hell!

The narrow way is hard, but it must be traveled. Jesus said in Luke 9:23, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." There is no such thing as God failing to bring Christian perfection to everybody He saves. The evidence that you are a Christian is that you walk in this narrow way. Some people say, "I am a Christian but I am not living for the Lord." That is not true, according to the Bible. People like that are sincere, but they are deceived. Salvation is to be joined to a Living Lord. You can't walk with a Living Lord without living for Him, and if you are not walking with Him, you don't know Him.

This narrow way must be traveled. The strait gate that leads to the narrow way is so narrow that it will not admit those who are loaded with weapons of rebellion against God. You can't squeeze through if you walk arm in arm with this world either. To enter this strait gate, the heart will have to be humbled, you will have to withdraw from worldly companions; sinful pleasures will be relinquished and Christ will be submitted to as Teacher, Saviour and Lord. It is not a flowery bed of ease; it is bound by the will of God and it is all up hill. It is marked by steady perseverance, faith and obedience.

What evidence does anybody have that they began right and got in this strait gate? The only evidence that we have according to the Bible is that we are walking the narrow way. This Christ-disciplined way, this self-denying way, thanks be unto God, it leads to life. It leads to life! My Lord said it did. That broad way leads to destruction. My Lord said it did.

This narrow way, this self-denying way, this daily dying way, this holy way of obedience to the teaching of the Lord. This life of daily repentance and daily mourning over sin, daily panting to be like the Lord, daily heartbreak that you make such poor progress in Christlikeness, THANK GOD, THAT WAY ENDS IN LIFE, not death, not destruction, but life. It leads to life now and life then. Now we have the very earnestness of it; we taste it and it's good; we go to heaven in a sense before we die, for where Jesus is there is heaven. We are in the life of the Spirit, with peace and joy now. But then how beautiful it must be, without the restraints of our bodies

still carrying the seeds of death. But when we get our new bodies, how wonderful life will be!

This road is too narrow, the way is too steep, it's too hard for anybody who is not able in the power of the Holy Ghost to get in at the strait gate. That simply means to get to the Lord Jesus Christ. There is power in His blood to enable God to forgive you, and there is power in His life yonder at the throne to enable you to overcome. This is the victory, and this is how we overcome, even our faith! Faith is being joined to a Living Lord. It is more real than anything in this life, or it is not real at all.

Men and women are invited and commanded and admonished by my blessed Lord to strive to enter in at this strait gate. God says in Luke 16:16, "The law and the prophets were until John; since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. "You are not going to make it to heaven unless there comes the greatest search and desire of your soul! You are not going to get to Jesus Christ savingly, until He becomes the Object of your intense search and desire. The halfhearted search won't get the job done.

Oh, leave the broad way that leads to hell and begin a search for this strait gate that leads to a narrow way that leads to life eternal. Oh, my Lord said, "Strive to get in; strive to get in!" For God's sake and your soul's sake, please seek the Lord with all your heart until you find Him Who alone can give you eternal life. Proverbs 8:17: "I love them that love Me; and those that seek Me early shall find Me." Jeremiah 29:13: "And ye shall seek Me and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

A Burden For Souls

1 Timothy 1:15-16

1 Timothy 1:15-16: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in Me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting."

In these verses every child of God is told that Paul has been divinely appointed by a Sovereign God to be the pattern of every child of God; so we are to try to be like Paul. You are not to be like the millions of Baptists today who take it easy and they will tell you that they are all right. We must remember that Christ Jesus had twelve disciples and the only one of them that was dead sure he was saved was the one that betrayed the Lord. The other eleven when the Lord said to them, "One of you will betray Me," knowing the evil that was in their own hearts, they said, "Lord is it I?" But old Judas was one of the "know so folks, I know I'm saved." You watch those folks, they are sure for hell, as sure as I am preaching to you. That's not what the Bible teaches; the Bible says: that a Christian is somebody that has laid hold on the hope that is set before him, therefore we have as an anchor for the soul which is sure and stedfast and it acts as a strong consolation to everybody that has fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope that is set before us: Which hope we have that has now entered within the vail; whither the forerunner, the Lord Jesus Christ has for us entered.

Hebrews 6:17-20: "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an High Priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

Now if your hope is in Christ that's fine, but if you are one of

these who say, "I know I'm saved, I don't care what anybody says. Once saved, always saved; I know I am going to heaven when I die." (That means they made a profession once.) No they aren't going to heaven, they are going to hell. The Bible doesn't teach that. The Bible says if anybody is in Christ, a member of His Body, a branch and He is the vine, that person is saved. Amen! But this gang of church members that feeds on T.V., dresses like the world and loves the things of the world, brags on themselves, that doesn't know what prayer is, doesn't have a burden for souls, and doesn't know what witnessing is; it isn't talking about them.

They haven't laid hold on Christ; they just made a false profession and joined the church and are going to hell. Do you believe that? That's so. I want to read you a testimony of a man who wrote the words about Christians are people who laid hold upon a hope. This generation of church members can travel all day on the Lord's Day to start on their vacation and claim to be Christians. This generation of church members can put their filthy hands on the first \$10.00 out of the \$100.00 that comes to them, "God says that is mine." God doesn't say that a Christian ought to tithe. A Christian that just tithes is a disgrace if that is all you do. If you ever get saved you will start giving. The Bible talks about a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver." But I know a lot of people that would swear on a stack of Bibles that they are going to heaven when they die and they don't even tithe. And yet they say they are saved; they aren't saved, they are thieves, and on the road to hell.

We've got a generation of church members that can break every law that God ever wrote and claim to be saved. I'm not talking about that gang, I am talking about people who got scared and they fled for refuge; they said, "I am guilty of breaking God's Holy Law and I must get to Christ or go to hell. I don't want to have to deal with God's Holy Law at the judgment, it knows no mercy and no pity, and every sinner is going to have to face God's eternal, holy, perfect and just immutable Law at the judgment. And the penalty has got to be exacted and it kills everything it touches, and it will

damn your soul and send you to hell if you stand at the judgment guilty of breaking the Holy Law of God.

I need somebody to be my substitute, I desperately need a Saviour! If I can't be joined to Him, Who is the Saviour of sinners, I got to face that law and deal with it myself and I don't want to do that. I don't want a little help, I want a substitute to take my place, and only the Lord Jesus Christ can do that. I want to stand clothed in His righteousness and not in mine. I want Him for my Lord and Saviour.

I want to read to you about a man who was set to be the pattern for every Christian, and he gives us a testimony in Romans 9:1-3: "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." Paul was a pattern for every Christian. I hear people say God's people need to have a burden for souls, that's not true, God's people have a burden. We need to show this ungodly world some of the marks of a Christian, one mark is a heavy heart and a burden for souls. When I look at Scripture like this it makes us wonder about our own condition. Oh, how we need to weep and pour out our hearts in supplications to God for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and revival. A person who does not live to save others is not saved himself. To be a Christian is somebody that belongs to Christ and He loved souls enough to come and be spat upon and be crucified; and we don't love them enough to weep over them and pray for them. I come here to represent a Holy God and a Christ who died on a cross, and both of them meant business; and it is high time that we start acting a little like the Lord Jesus Christ. We can't be like Him, but we will be if we are saved, when He gets through with us. But we could be like Paul for he is our human pattern.

We are living in a day when they make a joke out of hell and use the word to curse with. Christians should face the fact that hell is no joke, it is a place of punishment for all who refuse to bow to the rule and reign of our Lord Jesus Christ. This generation believes that God is too good to send anybody to hell, so we live in our nice

homes and come to our nice little churches and go through the motions, and let people go to hell unprayed for, unloved, unwept over. God help us! I stand here tonight because God set His affections on me, and He sent a college professor after me and that college professor wouldn't let me go to hell; he loved me and he wouldn't leave me alone.

Do you know what hell is? It is a place where the penalty of God's Holy Law is visited on men and women; where men experience God's righteous indignation. Everything you got, God gave it to you; this is His world and men live here and enjoy all things from God; and spit in the face of God's Son and say, "We will not have this man to rule over us." And when they come to the judgment they will be sent to hell to experience forever the awful penalty of a Holy Lord God. I don't want to face that; I don't want to have to live throughout eternity with the lash of God's holy indignation beating on my back.

If you ever start reading your Bible and facing some facts, you will stop asking God to bless people now; what this generation needs is for God to judge them and bring them to their knees. God can't save a man till He judges him and sends a tremble under the righteous weight of God's Holy Law and he realizes something of his awful sinful lost condition. If we believed the Bible we would pray, "Oh God, shut them up where there is no hope for them and there is no where else to go except to God." For it is only then that men will lift up their eyes and look, for men will trust everybody before they will God. Men will never trust God till He brings them to their wit's end, where the Holy Spirit can get them in a position where He can plant the Gospel seed. We need to start that kind of praying. That's right.

This hell business isn't any joke, and it should be preached by men of God more than it is today. I am so glad I am 58 years old and somebody loved me; I am so glad I lived back yonder when they didn't pray, "Oh Lord, save the lost," but somebody prayed "Save Rolfe." Somebody wouldn't let me go to hell, that college professor; he prayed for me, and wept over me. I don't know why God layed me on that old professor's heart, I just thank God He did. That

professor couldn't save me, but he could weep over me and ask God to save me. He couldn't break me, but he could ask God to break my stubborn will. He would wait for me at night and with tears in his eyes he would say, "Rolfe, I can't let you go to hell."

I feel sorry for these young boys and girls, their mothers and dads don't have a burden for their souls and they don't have time to pray for their children. The old time mothers and dads use to have a place to pray. I have been in homes where the boys would show me the trail that mother made where at a certain time of day she went and took her children to God in prayer. I have been in homes where the man at a certain time of day he was at his place where he met God and prayed for his children. We don't have that today.

Bless God, mothers and dads, deacons and preachers and the whole outfit, we are nice little people and we don't know what it is to weep for souls. We don't know what it is to cry unto God with strong supplications. Oh for a burden for souls. It is still true in Psalm 126:5-6: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Your truth won't get anywhere, your argument won't get anywhere, but your tears are what God is pleased to use. If you can't weep over lost people, for God's sake stop claiming to be a Christian. My Lord wept over a whole city.

If you are saved you have got something that God called you to do and that is all you are good for, and you are happy if you are doing it, and you are not happy if you are not.

These people say we are going to have a revival and you haven't even wet the rug with your tears, don't know what weeping for sinners is, don't know what intercessory prayer is. Can you say, "Mark me out Lord, but don't send my boy to hell?" Paul said, "I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ." Who for Paul? My brethren, my kinsman according to the flesh. They looked the Son of God over and they said He won't do and He cannot reign over us; we will not have Him for our King. They are going to hell and my heart is broken about it. Oh for a passion for souls.

It is a terrible thing to take the Name of the Lord thy God in

vain, that doesn't mean to get out on the streets and use what we call cuss words. That means claiming to be a Christian unless you are, because a Christian doesn't wear his name; he has been give a new name, he belongs to the Lord. And you represent Him; you don't belong to yourself, do you? It is a terrible thing for me to say I am a Christian unless I am. Don't take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

I was going through the state of Alabama where I was born and I thought I was lost so I stopped to find out where I was. I saw a man plowing so I stopped my car and waited till he got up to the fence row and stopped. I made myself acquainted with him and said my name was Rolfe Barnard and he told me his. Then he said, "Oh, would you know a fellow named Jim Barnard?" I said, "Well, Jim Barnard was my daddy; he was a school teacher in Alabama for many years." He said, "Oh, yes, that is the one I'm talking about. Well, Bud, I never seen you before, but if you are Jim Bar-nard's boy you're bound to be all right." He wasn't bragging on me; he was bragging on my daddy. God help you, Bud, going around here claiming to be a Christian unless when people see you they brag on your heavenly Father. They say you are bound to be all right because you are a child of God. That humbled me; my daddy was the best man I ever met yet, the greatest Christian personality I ever saw. He walked with the Lord. Oh, God help us, if Almighty God is our heavenly Father through faith in His only begotten Son, we are a member of His family and we are bound to be all right. Don't take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

God is not going to put up with this stuff we've been calling Christianity forever, we are headed for judgment like we have never dreamed of. And our only way of escape is for Christians to start acting like Christ. Jesus came down here because God so loved the world, He didn't come down here to condemn the world but He came down here that the world through Him might be saved. God help us to be a little like the Lord. I was up in Massachusetts, the first time I held a meeting in New England being from the south they found it a little difficult to understand me; I found it very difficult to understand them. They were very nice people and very

cultured, very dignified, very quiet and reserved. As I remember I started the meeting on Sunday morning; my wife was with me. I preached Sunday morning and Sunday night, Monday night, Tuesday night and Wednesday night. And after the service Wednesday night I said to the dear pastor, "Brother Pastor, I believe we ought to close the meeting tomorrow night." He said, "Oh no, no, we couldn't do that." I said, "I was just making it as a suggestion, my judgment is that we ought to just close out, and I will go back home." "Well," he said, "What on earth is the matter, Brother Barnard?" I said, "Well, we are not getting anywhere; I don't seem to be able to get over to you and the people, and so far you have not done one thing that I have asked you to do." He said, "Well, Brother Barnard, you are a little strange to us." I said, "Well I am going this way and you folks are going that way; we sure won't have the blessings of God that way.

Somebody is wrong around here, and since you were here before I got here and I am a visitor at your invitation, and my messages and what I ask you to do, you don't do a thing about, I think I ought to just say, 'Well I will close my part of the meeting and if you folks want to go on with it, you can.' "And he was greatly disturbed. "Oh," he said, "it would just ruin everything if you did it, what on earth is the matter with you, Brother Barnard? Well you just won't do a thing I ask, and I either ought not to ask you some things or I ought and if I ought to ask you to do some things and if it is right that I do, then you ought to do it, and if I am asking you to do things against the Scriptures you ought to run me off." He said, "Well, what are you talking about?" I said, "You won't meet to pray; I haven't seen your church on its face, weeping its heart to God; I have been asking you to do it and God is not going to bless people if they are not that kind of people. You might have some mere people to join the church, but God is not going to save people in an atmosphere of dry eyes and prayerlessness. I've been asking you to go out here and talk to people and witness to them and bring them in your cars and invite them to the services." He said, "Brother Barnard, we've never done anything like that in our lives." I said, "I am beginning to believe it. Well, my wife and I are going on to our

room and if it is all right I will preach tomorrow night; then we will close the meeting." We went on to the little apartment they had for us and after a while somebody knocked on the door and the pastor and deacons came in; they were greatly disturbed. They said, "Brother Barnard, we just can't afford to close the meeting; it would just hurt everything; people would wonder why." I said, "Well I don't know what to do." And they said, "Brother Barnard, if you will stay [they weren't thinking about me; it was the reputation of their church], if you will not close the meeting we will do anything you ask us to do." "I don't want you to do anything just because I ask you; I wanted you to do it because it is in the Bible and God wants it." "Tell us one more time what it is." "I don't want you to do it just to save the reputation of the church, but if it is so, if I have asked you to do what God's people ought to do and they insult God if they don't do when they say they are going to have a revival effort. It is a shame and disgrace to say we are going to try to have a revival and not have it, because that is a slam on God. He is supposed to be a God that hears prayer and a God Who works miracles, isn't He?" He used to. A church is under obligation to get its prayers answered.

So we turned to Acts 5:42 and read: "And daily in the Temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." They said, "We never have done anything like this, but it's in there, isn't it?" I said, "Yes." And they went out and Thursday night the church was full, because they had went out and invited them to come, and began to do what the Bible says. And I preached that night and before I got through preaching a little girl began to sob, and when we stood up to sing she came running down to the front and just fell down on her all fours there, and after a while I went down and talked to her and after a while she stood up and said, "Jesus is in here." We found out that she was a little 16-year-old Italian girl and that was the first Gospel sermon she had ever heard. Some of the girls went and brought her, she didn't know A from zero but you see a Sovereign God, He can do things as He pleases. Some times it takes Him 40 years to save a man and some times He saves him the first time he hears the Gospel. I think the little girl got saved, of course I won't know until I get to the

judgment, none of us will. But it scared them, they had never seen anything like that, so I had them to do like they do down south, I had them to come around and shake hands with her.

Friday night the little girl wasn't at the service and Saturday night she wasn't at the service so I got a little worried and I went to the pastor and said I am troubled about that little girl, do you know where she lives? He said, "No, Preacher, I'm sorry we got so excited about what happened we never saw anything like that, and nobody asked her where she lived. We don't even know her name." "I feel awful bad about it." He said, "I'll tell you right now if she is not here in the morning, we are going to organize and we are going to search this city and find that little girl, I am troubled about her."

But Sunday morning came and she was sitting in the congregation, so happened my wife was sitting close to her. And that morning I preached on "Hell, The Sinner's Long Home" and after I had been preaching about twenty-five minutes they said that little Roman Catholic Italian girl which Thursday night had stood and said, "Jesus is in here"; she began to cry, then she began to sob and pretty soon her body was just rocking with sobs. And my wife put her arm on her shoulder and pretty soon my wife rose and the little girl and they broke up my sermon, and they came down that church aisle. My wife brought her upon the platform with me, rolled up her sleeves, had her turn around and rolled her dress down as far as modesty allowed, and let me look at her face. Her back was just terrible whelps and they were festered and fevered, her arms were cut, and her face was cut. And she stood up after a while and I saw a church born, she told what had happened to her – to that nice Sunday morning crowd of Baptists.

She said, "Thursday night I ran home, I was so happy. Mama and Daddy, my brother and my two sisters were in the front room, I went in and told them, that Jesus Christ had come in here, and He is mine and I am His." She told them what had happened and the daddy asked, "Where have you been?" She said, "I went down to the Baptist church, they are having meetings down there, I never was in anything like it Daddy; all I know is that 'Jesus is in here.'" And her daddy got up and went and got an old black snake whip; he

commanded his girl to stand and she did and he whipped her with that black snake whip until she lost consciousness. She said, "I don't know how long I lay there but I was awakened by pain and I opened my eyes just in time for my two sisters standing on either side of me kicking me in the ribs, then my brother came and spat in my face, my mother came and cursed me, and my daddy told me to get up. I don't know how I did, but I did. He looked me in the face and said, "If I ever hear you talk like that again, I'll kill you; go to your room." She said, "I went to my room and he turned the key in the door. I didn't have any medical attention Thursday night. Friday morning my daddy came, unlocked the door and handed me a piece of bread and a glass of water. I stayed in the room all day Friday and Friday night. During that time those whelps were feverish and festered and I was in mortal agony."

Saturday morning he came and I was waiting for him. I was desperate; as he turned the key in the lock and as he put his hand on the door he turned it, I let him turn it just enough I knew it was open, then I jerked it right quickly and he fell in the room. I darted out, I had so much fever I wandered around in the city and found an old empty freight car and I stayed in it all day. When the sun went down I went to a pharmacy, the pharmacist knew me and he treated my wounds some, and I slept that night in the empty freight car.

Sunday morning I was hungry, I was sick and I was hurting and I said, "What shall I do?" and then she said, "I remembered the Jesus people and I said I will go up where the Jesus people are; they will help me."

Then she came and took her seat, and she was in pain, sorry for herself, afraid to go back home. She said, "I felt so sorry for myself, then I begin to listen to the preacher and he talked about hell that awful place." After a while she said, "I wish what would happen to me and to you, I forgot myself and all I could think of was the daddy that whipped me, the mother that cursed me, the sisters that kicked me, the brother that spat in my face, they are going to that awful place the preacher is talking about." And then so help me, that little Italian girl lifted up her hands and began to weep and she broke the heart of that crowd. I saw them fall on their knees and I was in a

prayer meeting. She said, "Oh Jesus people, won't you help me keep my people from being sent to hell." "Oh," I said, "I am going to tell about that little Italian girl; she didn't know much, but she knew Jesus was in here and her loved ones were going to be sent to hell, and she didn't want them to go. She thought she could say, 'Oh Jesus people, you will help me, won't you?'"

It looks to me like if we do belong to Jesus we could say we'll help you and pray for your loved ones. We closed the meeting on Sunday night and I was to get in New York Monday. The pastor said, "Let me get on the telephone and call them and say you won't be there until Tuesday. You just got to stay over Monday night; we are going to have baptizing and I want you to have the great pleasure." I said, "All right, I will." We made arrangements and they had a vote that everybody come Monday night that was going to be baptized. The deacon got up and made a motion to authorize the evangelist to bury in baptism a man and his wife, three daughters and a boy. I went down in that pool and five people came there and I got them all down in the pool together. I baptized that little 16-year-old girl, then I baptized her mama, I baptized her daddy, I baptized her two sisters and then I baptized her brother.

If you believed people were going to hell you would weep over them and pray for them. God help you. And one more time little buildings like this would be known as places where the Jesus people meet to worship God, and lift up their voices in unison asking God, Who alone is the Answer, to come to the rescue.

Oh! for a passion for souls. I am so glad somebody loved my soul, and I think if you are saved there ought to be somebody that you love and just will not let go to hell. That's God's way.

Election

Matthew 15:22-28

Matthew 15:22-28: "And behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, Thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away,' for she crieth after us. But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me. But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord; yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour."

In this Scripture we have the story of a Gentile woman approaching our Lord, and at first He didn't say anything to her, and when He does say something He brings up the doctrine of national election, but instead of that stopping her, she came and worshipped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" The doctrine of election did not discourage her, and it does not discourage any person who is seeking help from the Lord.

I read a sermon by Mr. Spurgeon about this story. He suggested perhaps one reason the Lord confronted this woman with a very stern doctrine, it looks like is to discourage her, but He just wanted her to get the truth about the matter before she heard it misrepresented, as she later would. Somebody was bound to tell this seeking woman that our Lord's ministry was confined exclusively for a while to the Jewish people and He wasn't looking for Gentiles. And they'd tell it in a way to make error out of truth and discourage a woman who needed encouragement.

One of the things that I hear so many times each week – it seems that religious people, including preachers, are making a terrible bugaboo out of the fact that the little new church we are trying to start believes in the doctrine of election, national election

for the Jews and individual election for the Christian believer. And I hear all manner of things about this terrible truth. Now and then I feel impressed of the Spirit to address myself to any who are present who are in earnest about your soul's relationship to God and to say a helpful word.

We want to encourage you not to join the ranks of people who are ashamed of what is in the Bible, but also to encourage you that it is not simply this truth, but it is every truth in the Bible that you must approach as a little child willing to be taught. And your conception of any teaching in the Word of God will be guided by your conception of the God of the Word. If you've got a little God that you can comprehend, that you can understand, then you will expect to understand His teachings.

The Apostle Paul of all the writers of the New Testament is the one who devotes more time than anybody except our Lord to what we call the doctrines of grace. And the Apostle Paul is in agreement with what Christ taught – he didn't learn something our Lord didn't know. But Paul is responsible for setting forth the doctrines of grace, and when he gets on these things he has a word for us that would be very helpful if we paid attention to him.

Every great truth in the Bible is subject to faith, but none of them to understanding. There is no man living that can explain how God is one yet three – He is Father, Son and Holy Ghost. There is no man living who can explain that the Lord Jesus Christ is one and yet two – He is God and He is man. There is no man living that can understand a single basic teaching of the Word of God. The Holy Ghost led Paul to bring out election and the sovereignty of God in Romans chapters 9, 10 and 11. And Paul has a word of caution for us; this should be our reaction to these great truths, as given in Romans 11:33-36: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor? Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things.' to Whom be glory for ever. Amen." Now this is a good place to camp and I use this before

coming to the text. These wonderful truths are too deep for you to fully understand.

I like the words of Barnhouse, that good teacher of God's Word, that while we cannot understand, while we wait for more light, we can worship. That sounds like a Christian, that sounds like somebody who has some conception of the Majesty and the Glory of the Lord. "For who hath known the mind of the Lord?"

The Apostle Paul was a graduate of the greatest university of his day. As a young man he was a member of the Sanhedrin and you had to know something to be in that body! He was a student of the greatest teacher of the day. And after he was saved, he went to school to Jesus Christ personally by the Spirit down in Arabia for some three years. And after Paul had expounded in all its richness and fulness of these great truths, he threw up his hands and worshiped a God Whose ways are so far above our ways that it behooves us children of the dust to shut our mouths, quit criticizing God and worship. Quit trying to reason out the great truths of the Bible in such detail that we would dishonor God and make our wisdom to equal His. Romans 11:34-36: "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor? Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory for ever. Amen."

Every truth in the Bible is going to bring glory to God, and every truth in this Bible is going to bring glory to God by being a blessing to mankind. When God says He does all things to promote His glory, He is not pulling His rank like they do in the Army. He chooses to promote His glory by promoting the good of men. 1 Corinthians 2:7: "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory."

Now with this word of caution, I want to approach the subject of election and be like a teacher. There is such a vast ignorance today as to what the doctrine of election is. My God, isn't it awful to take a doctrine, even take it in its truth and use it to discourage men and women from seeking with their whole hearts to

know Christ as Lord and Saviour?

The first time the glory of God is mentioned as a truth in the Bible, we find in Exodus 33 that God promotes His glory. Moses asked the Lord, "Show me Thy glory," and God said in verse 19, "I will make all My goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the Name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." Now that blessed truth is being used today to discourage and deceive people. I've been in Baptist churches where the very mention of it caused confusion, for people who say they know the Lord immediately begin to accuse God of being a devil and accuse God of being a monster! I hear this precious doctrine that is a blessed doctrine in the sight of God, that was used by my Lord as a source of encouragement when He faced people, I hear it so misrepresented today. If we believed what God says instead of some of these preachers, we wouldn't have all this confusion about the doctrine of election. I say to you the way back to the power of God is not by letting these who pervert the truth have all the say! We must come to the Lord and find the truth!

I say it again, that God Almighty is sovereign; He is sovereign in creation. Colossians 1:16-17: "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him. And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."

He is sovereign in providence. He handles the nations as seemeth good in His sight. Psalm 22:28 reads, "For the kingdom is the Lord's: and He is the governor among the nations." Psalm 47:2-3: "For the Lord most high is terrible: He is a great King over all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet."

Our Lord is sovereign in salvation. Romans 9:18: "Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth." He is gracious to whom He will be gracious. He shows mercy to whom He will show mercy. God Almighty has a right to do that very thing, and whether you believe it or not, it is so! I do not

apologize for the glorious doctrine that God sovereignly and according to His own will chooses those whom He will save. I am not ready to apologize for that!

Ephesians 1:3-6: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself according to the good pleasure of His will, To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved." Also 2 Timothy 1:9: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." 2 Thessalonians 2:13: "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."

This truth instead of being jeered at – this truth instead of being ignored – this truth instead of being used as a club to discourage people who are seeking the way – this is the grandest truth of all! For the wisest person in all of creation is Almighty God, and I'm glad that the One in Whom is all wisdom is running everything! I am glad that God is sovereign, but if He were not supreme I believe the wisest men on earth would hold a meeting and elect Him to be sovereign. We've got to have God as sovereign or the devil as sovereign, and I had rather have God, wouldn't you?

God is perfect in wisdom, and it is a disgrace to call anything that He says He does a "damnable doctrine," when God Almighty is full of wisdom. And anybody that would talk that way is showing more than his ignorance, he is showing that he isn't acquainted with God. For anybody that wants to have a saving relationship with the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ will bow and say, "Lord, Thou art all-wise, whatever You do! Job 36:5: "Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any: He is mighty in strength and wisdom." Psalm 104:24: "O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! in

wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is full of Thy riches. "Psalm 18:30: "As for God, His way is perfect: the Word of the Lord is tried: He is a Buckler to all those that trust in Him." Praise God for it! Thank the Lord, for He giveth and He taketh away, and blessed be the Name of the Lord. He is all-wise.

The God of the Bible is represented as having the name Holy. Note Isaiah 57:15: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, Whose Name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Luke 1:49 says, "For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and Holy is His Name."

Then He is perfect in holiness. He is so perfect in wisdom that He cannot do wrong. He is so perfect in holiness that He will not do wrong. He is too wise to make a mistake and too good to do wrong.

The essence of the God of the Bible is, "God is love." The old-time theologians were right when they said that every attribute of God streamed from His love. God is holy, but God Almighty is love. Everything that God does has for the basis of His doing it: L-O-V-E, love. If He damns a man, sends him to hell, He does it out of the basis of love – for there is no such thing as perfect love that just loves everything. You may say you love your wife with a perfect love, but if there is no difference between your love of a pure woman and your hatred of a wicked woman, then there is nothing to your hatred and there is nothing to your love. God has His essence in love, and being LOVE, bless God, He is fit to do as He pleases!

God is sovereign in the dispensation of His grace. Our Lord Jesus Christ tell us in Luke 4:25-26, "But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout the land; but unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Serepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow." This was a Gentile heathen woman! And in verse 27, our Lord said, "And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elieus the prophet, and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian." God went

and picked out Naaman, the Hitler of his day, and a Gentile, but God picked him and sovereignly saved him!

Our Bible is clear about one thing – that God has made sovereign choices between men and angels. The angels that left their first estate, from that day until now, God has not made one move to save them or make salvation possible to them. 2 Peter 2:4: "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment...." Hebrews 2:16 says of Jesus, "For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham." Romans 4:16: "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all."

You say you don't believe that God is sovereign in His choice. Well I tell you that He dead sure is, and for reasons that He hasn't explained to us He chose to allow the angels to sin and be cast out, and He has never made one move to effect their salvation. He is sovereign between angels and mankind. Do you think there was anything in Zacchaeus that was good and appealed to Christ? No, he was a sinner and a thief. It was the sovereign choice of a Sovereign God Who acts as He pleases. Read Luke 19:9-10: "And Jesus said unto him [Zacchaeus], This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Do you mean to tell me that as old Saul went down that road to Damascus to kill some more Christians, that the Lord looked down and saw that Saul was a nice sort of fellow, and if He could just get him saved, he would do a lot for God! No, sir! God didn't say, "I'll save him so he will serve Me." There was no reason on earth why Jesus Christ was pleased to reveal Himself to Saul, except that God Almighty had set His love upon him and went there and struck him blind and saved him by His wonderful grace! Read that story in Acts 9, verses 1 through 6.

Go with me yonder to Jacob's well, and tell me what you see in the life and heart of that harlot woman who had five living ex-

husbands and was then living with a sixth. As she comes there to draw water at Jacob's well, tell me what our blessed Lord saw inside of that wicked harlot woman that caused Him to save her. You can't do it! Listen! If anybody gets Saul saved, it will have to be God! If anybody gets that old harlot woman saved, the Lord will have to do it! If anybody saved a thief like Zacchaeus, God will have to do it! No need to talk about cooperating with God here. Zacchaeus was stealing, Saul was killing Christians, the woman at the well was committing adultery, AND YET GOD IN HIS SOVEREIGN MERCY arrested them, stopped them, crossed their paths and saved them by His marvelous grace.

Sinner, you are not to be occupied with God's secret decrees. You can study them from now till you are blue in the face and you'll never know anything about God's electing grace until He is pleased to reveal it to you. That will be after He saves you. As far as you are concerned, it doesn't come under the head of your immediate business. Your business now is to face your lost and ruined condition and look to the Crucified and Risen Christ. We are not trying to get any sinner to believe any doctrine. We are trying to get you to surrender to the glorious person of the Lord Jesus Christ. The doctrine of election has been abused in this country. Your duty is to obey the revealed will of God. The Lord has told you to repent. My Lord has told you to believe. That's your duty; you better start facing it. Jesus said in Mark 1:15, "The kingdom of God is at hand: Repent ye, and believe the Gospel." Acts 26:20: "That they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance." Your duty is to repent of your sins and turn to God. That is as plain as it can be.

The only evidence anybody has that he is one of those that God chose in Christ before the foundation of the world, is that the Gospel came and made a change in his life. It came to you in power. You just forget about God's secret decrees and began to pay attention to what He tells you in His blessed Word. God commandeth all men everywhere to repent – to repent now. Have you repented? He doesn't tell you to take your time about it. In the words of Christ Jesus or Paul, they always tell you to repent right now. Do you mean to tell me you are willing to continue living in open rebellion to God

Almighty's command for you to repent toward God now? Are you not afraid to go to sleep another night without repenting? Only God can wake you up in the morning, and you might wake up in hell!

If you can plow through the many church members who are making fun of these great truths, you might come to the real truth. Many of them disturb you because they are using these great truths to hide their unwillingness to come clean with God. All this fuss about this being a "damnable doctrine" is not coming from honest hearts. It comes from hearts that are using what they think it teaches as an excuse for their unbelief and failure to bow to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Just listen how this blessed truth of election is misrepresented. Somebody says, "Preacher, don't you think that if a father had two sons and he was good to one of them but he was mean to the other one – he just blessed one of them and cursed the other one – don't you think that would be terrible?" Certainly I do. But that isn't the way it is with God and man. It is not a great loving Father being nice to one son and being wicked and mean to another son. It is a Holy God and a just God dealing not with sons but with criminals – criminals who have broken His Holy Law and are subject to nothing but the judgment of a Holy God!

A man said to me, "You can't tell me something like this, that God would make a man and then send him to hell." Leave out one thing and you've got it right! Ladies and gentlemen, if God made you in the shape you are now in, and then sent you to hell, He is a monster. If you could prove to me that God is responsible for that old wicked heart of yours, and for that old wicked body of yours, and you could prove to me that you are in the shape God made you in, that would be different. But you love sin, you drink iniquity like it is water, you are prone to do evil and adverse to do good. Job 15:16: "How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?" But you can't prove that God made you like that. According to the Bible, God made man upright. Ecclesiastes 7:28 and Genesis 1:27 says God created you in the very image of God. By your own sin you changed that image and it is now marred.

But now God is not dealing with men and women as His erring sons, but He deals with them as criminals against His Holy Law. Oh, it behooves this generation to be silent in the presence of that! The only claim that any sinner this side of hell has, and can stand up and say, "God, I demand what's coming to me," is hell. All on earth that any of the sons of Adam has coming to him is exactly what God promised us in Genesis 2:17: "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." The only demand that anybody has on God is "Kill me and send me on to hell." And if you are not willing to do that, lost man, don't join this gang of unsaved church members who are telling God how to run His business and who refuse to believe the Bible because it's too deep for their puny little minds!

This world is a giant prison house full of people, not on probation, full of people that have been brought into God's courtroom, been tried, and they've been found guilty! They have been sentenced to eternal death.

Unless God will grant them a pardon, this whole world will go to hell! Thank the Lord for the glorious truth that God does the saving. He does it because He purposed to do it. That truth is precious and it does not oppose any other truth in the Bible. I've heard so much the last ten years about the goodness of God. They say, "Brother Barnard, the kind of God you preach isn't good. I believe in a good God." So do I. Read Exodus 33:18-19: "And he [Moses] said, I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory. And He said, I will make all My goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the Name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." You say, "Brother Barnard, I believe God is good to everybody." I do too. If He hadn't been good to you, you would have been in hell a long time ago. He tells us how good He is in Matthew 5:45: "He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Oh, how longsuffering God is to all mankind! I believe that in virtue of the death of my blessed Lord, the throne of grace and judgment is stayed. A man gets out on the street tomorrow, opens his mouth and with the breath that God gives him blasphemers the holy

Name of God, and the earth doesn't open and he doesn't drop into hell. Why? The goodness of God.

This generation is going to hell, trusting in the goodness of God apart from being vitally joined to Christ. I believe in the goodness of God, sending His blessing on all mankind, but you will go to hell if you don't find out that trusting in the goodness of God apart from vital connection with Christ is not enough. There is no salvation in the fact that God is so good He sends rain on the just and unjust! The only salvation is in the fact that God is in Christ saving sinners. God is good, yes, He is too good to be unjust to anybody, but He is so holy and so just that unless you come to terms with the terms of His Gospel – and unless you come in full surrender to Christ as He is freely offered in the Gospel – goodness or no goodness, hell is your doom!

And the doctrine of election simply agrees with that. The doctrine of election hems you up so that there is salvation only in Christ. Salvation is not in the fact that God deals in mercy toward all mankind. Salvation is not in the fact that God is longsuffering. Salvation is in Jesus Christ, the Well-beloved Son of the Living God. And goodness or no goodness, there isn't any salvation anywhere else! The doctrine of election that they make fun of us for believing is simply this: That God does what He does in Christ. I am so glad there are two ways to spell elect. One is E-L-E-C-T. and the other is B-E-L-I-E-V-E, believe in Christ.

I am glad the Gospel is the story of Jesus Christ purchasing the salvation of everybody that God chose in Christ. I am also glad that the Gospel is a blessed story of Christ hanging on a cross and being raised from a glorious grave, that everybody who believes on Him shall be saved. Acts 16:31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Everybody that God chose in Christ is going to get saved – I'm glad. But nobody is going to get saved out of Christ! Everybody that gets saved will get saved as he is vitally joined to Christ.

Most of the church members will talk about how good God is, but the doctrine of election tells us this is how good God is: He is good enough to save every vile sinner that gets to Christ! This is a

hopeful doctrine. How it does give hope, for "Whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Somebody said, "We believe in praying." So do I. I don't believe a sinner is saved by doing like the evangelists tell them now: "If you walk down this aisle and get down on your knees and pray the sinner's prayer, God will save you." No. No, that's not true. It's a lie of hell to deceive people. I forbid no sinner to pray; I keep saying, "Go home and get alone with God and cry to Him for a new heart. Cry to Him for the grace of repentance." Yes, keep on praying. You're not going to hurt anything by praying.

The Bible doesn't say that God told the sons of Jacob to seek Him in vain. We want to look at Romans 10:13-15: "For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Notice verse 17: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Praise the Lord for these Words of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe the man who prays was given a desire to pray, and God gave it. So I say, "Pray on, sinner. Seek on, sinner!" The doctrine of election doesn't speak against that. I believe that God chooses those who are saved; I also believe what Matthew 7:7 says: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." I am dead certain that if you ever start seeking the Lord, it proves what I am preaching! Before you ever started seeking Him, He was seeking you!

This blessed doctrine of election certainly does not oppose the invitations of the Gospel. Oh my, wouldn't it be awful if we couldn't quote such Scriptures as Revelation 22:17: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Or Isaiah 55:1: "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat, yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without

price." Or Matthew 11:28-29: "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." What wonderful invitations! These invitations are as wide as the thirst of mankind, they are as wide as the need of mankind, and they are as wide as the guilt of mankind. Oh, the glory of the Gospel invitations. God is sincere, and I believe them.

But I am not going to get you to thinking that coming to Christ can be done with your feet or your hands or your lips. Coming to Christ is not walking down an aisle; it is not a physical matter, it is a spiritual matter. All the light that you will ever have is what is revealed in the Gospel, and you will have to come to Him believing what the Gospel says about Him. You are not going to receive a revelation of some light shining. I believe that Christ must be revealed to your heart, but He will be revealed to your heart as you by faith act upon the Gospel. This is according to the Scriptures in John 17:3: "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent." And Luke 10:22: "No man knoweth Who the Son is, but the Father; and Who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him."

No invitations of the Bible are opposed to this glorious truth of election. What is the Gospel? Christ is the Gospel, and the Gospel is Christ. What is the Gospel message to anybody? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." John 6:47: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life." Just as clear as it can be. Listen: Election or no election, if you can believe on Christ, you're saved!

This great but perverted truth has a marvelous effect on people who do not know Christ. The old-time theologians always divided their congregation of sinners into two groups – the awakened sinners and the ones who were still asleep. The awakened fellow is one who says, "Oh, I wish I could be saved. I wish I could know the Lord!" Something has happened to that fellow. Probably a year ago he walked the streets and whistled by the cemetery of his sins. But something happened, he's awakened now, he's worried, he's afraid, he's interested, he's meek, he's seeking the Lord. Nobody will

ever be saved apart from that. Oh, my soul! Hell is going to be filled up not with sinners who were trying to be saved, but with sinners who were sleeping the sleep of death!

This blessed truth of God's sovereign election has a marvelous blessed effect on the awakened sinner. In the first place, it is used in the hands of the Holy Ghost to strike to death all your self-effort. Listen, sinner, if you don't quit listening to the preachers of this day, you are going to hell working as hard as you can to do something yourself to be saved! The Arminian preacher stirs up your flesh with "You do this" and "You do that." Then we come along and say, "You will never be saved until you quit doing everything." "Salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9). Psalm 37:39: "The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord."

I am trying to get you to look to Christ. God says in Isaiah 45:22, "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Get you to repent yourself? No! Get you to look to Him to grant repentance! Get you to think that in your own strength you can get to Christ? No! Get you to quit in your own strength and just fall prostrate in the arms of Him Who is mighty to save! We tell you, if you are ever saved, it is because God will save you. Everything you need is in Christ. God has nothing for you except in Christ. You have just one need – out of self into Christ! Look to Him. If I can get a sinner to where he is dead to all self-effort, I've got him half saved; the battle is almost won.

Election is a very blessed truth because it brings hope to the hopeless. Here is this prison house full of criminals. The doctrine of election comes along and says, "If any will save you, it must be God, but Oh, that is His business!" And there is rejoicing in heaven, according to Luke 15:10: "over one sinner that repenteth." And just think! All without any money or any price! Just think how many souls He has saved. Was there such a man as Saul of Tarsus, breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, yet God saved him! Oh, my! That's hope, that's hope to the vilest. If he saved a man like that, why won't He save me? I'll tell you what I'm going to do, sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish, salvation or damnation, I'll cast myself at the feet of the

Lord. Here I am. If I go to hell, I'll go to hell depending on You Lord. If you go to hell with that attitude, you will be the first one that ever did.

Oh, what hope! This blessed doctrine brings a wonderful word to a sinner that is interested and awakened to his need. You say, "Preacher, I wish I could be saved." This glorious doctrine that we preach, the foundation of the Gospel, comes to tell you about Somebody that will get to you, for you can't get to Him. Well, fall where you are. He will get to you. You can't make it yourself, so surrender right there. His everlasting arms will pick you up. Bless God, that's right.

Then this truth has a word for you sleepy sinners. You are just getting along all right. You say, "Preacher, I don't intend to go to hell; some of these days I'm going to repent and get to God." Listen! You are in the prison house; you are condemned already. You are in the hands of Almighty God. If you get out of that prison, He has got to get you out. If you get saved, God must do it. God must do it! "Salvation is of the Lord." Well, I am encouraged again at the vast numbers through the ages that He has been pleased to save. As wicked as I am, the Lord had mercy on me and saved me by His marvelous grace. Are you saved?

Revival In The Church

Acts 2

Revival is the work of God, and not the work of men. For 100 years God has blessed us as much as He did, but He has not opened the windows and taken charge.

My greatest heartbreak is the fact that I preach to people all over this country who claim to be saved, but they give no evidence. They don't know what daily repentance is, and they do not know what it is to sob over their sins. I don't believe a person like that is a Christian.

Oh, for men and women who know the Lord, and instead of telling how good they are, they say, "I am vile," but "He is precious." Most people will say, "I am all right," and they don't know that they are on the road to hell. If God Almighty leaves us alone, we are going to hell saying, "I am all right." We are judging ourself by someone else, and not by "the Word of God." Oh, that God would visit us and convict us, till once again the houses of God would be full of people for more of Christ to taste Him; that would be revival, wouldn't it?

I want to talk about a revival that took place in a church in Jerusalem. This church was set in order in a prayer meeting, and in the filling of the Holy Ghost, and in the presence of the Risen Lord. Something had already happened to the members of that church that were already saved. They were filled with the Holy Ghost, and they went all over the city proclaiming the wonderful works of God in Christ. Acts 2 confronts us with what a revival is.

The Scriptures say: Peter stood up with the eleven and preached this great Gospel sermon; he spoke for all the members of that congregation, and through this one man the Holy Ghost spoke; God spoke. And as a result of this message verse 37 says: Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

The first thing that takes place in a revival is the reviving of people who already know the Lord. The second is the conviction and

salvation of people who do not know the Lord. Those two things can be brought to pass only by Almighty God. Nobody on earth can revive His people; He will have to do it. Only God can breathe new life and put a song in their heart, and joy in their praise and power in their witness. And only God can convict a sinner and give him Godly sorrow for sin, and repentance and faith unto salvation in Christ.

When I compare myself with you, I am not under much conviction. I doubt if any of you live much holier lives than this poor weak preacher, but even you do not cause me to lay awake at night crying, "How vile I am." But just a little glimpse of a thrice Holy God in Jesus Christ, I have to throw up my hands, and with the Apostle Peter say, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." These nice people, the reason they are so nice is they don't see the holiness of Christ. Facing Him we lose all of our niceness, and all we can do is cry, "Oh. Lord, have mercy on me."

Here were some people "in revival." They were pricked in their heart and said, "What shall we do? We murdered the Son of the Living God, and God Almighty has raised Him from the dead and put Him on a throne and given Him authority and power over everything, and given Him the job of saving or damning every human being. And here is the One that God exalted and turned everything over to Him, we killed Him. Is there any hope for us?" Here were some people who were desperate and you will never get saved, if you don't get desperate also. They wanted to know if there is for givenness with God. If there is any hope for sinful men and women. What shall we do?

With the exception of God's ordinary blessings, for which we thank God; it has been a 100 years since there has been much of that going on in America. In most places our churches are not full of people who got so desperate that they were saying, "Is there any hope for a sinner like me?" Most of the people in our churches are people who decided to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour, because they were told by somebody that if they did that, they would be saved. That is a lie of hell.

Oh, how could we call ourselves Christians and not long to

live just a little while when people would be desperately anxious to find out if a Holy God was going to send them all to hell or whether they could find mercy in His sight. Nothing short of men and women asking God's people and begging you to intreat the throne of mercy that God might show mercy to them.

Nothing short of that is a work of revival. It's been so long since we've had anything like that, till it makes us wonder if any of us are saved. There is so little evidence in my life and in yours, that we came in our desperation and experienced such great deliverance, that we have never been able to thank God enough for. We take it so for granted that it scares me, and I wonder if any of us have ever experienced so great a salvation as it would take to keep sinners such as we are, out of the pits of hell.

Here is "revival" when men got desperate about their condition in the sight of God. And this is what we must cry to God for; only He can bring it. There are lots of church members that don't want this, but saved people do. I haven't any hope for unsaved church members unless God is pleased to show them their sinful lost condition and put them under Holy Ghost conviction of sin. If God doesn't save them, they will go to hell, for He is the only One Who can save. If you are a Christian, you know our churches are in a desperate condition. I hope you will stop saying, "I'm all right," and get to where you will be honest with God and say, "God we have done so many things but it has not got the job done. Oh, God, You please come and revive your children and speak to sinners, so they will cry out, 'What must we do?'" Then men will say God done that. If men and women are not brought to the place they have to say, "That's God working," this generation is going to hell. Just our little efforts as good as they are, they are not getting the job done. God must work if any sinner is saved. This world is getting more and more rebellious against God and His Holy Law.

Revival came to this local church when the Holy Ghost came and made Christ real. Acts 2:32-33: "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

"Verse 36: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, Whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart and said ... what shall we do?" What did the Holy Ghost do? He quickened, He revived the 120 who were already the first church, and bless God He made Christ real to 3,000 unsaved people. Now I ask a question which is the most profound question any person will ever be called upon to face. Do you know for yourself who Jesus is? Who do you say He is? On the day of Pentecost 3,000 people who did not know who Jesus was, found out Who He was, they found out that the One Who was crucified and hung on a cross; God Almighty raised Him from the dead, and they found out that He was the exalted Lord of Glory, and the Saviour of believers. Three thousand of them found out personally "Who the Son of the Living God is." Now Jesus is God the Son, whether you believe it or whether you have experienced His power or whether you ever know Him or not. But the big question for me, you and everyone else is not what somebody else said about Jesus, but what you have experienced yourself. A man cannot be saved unless he surrenders to Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour, and Christ must reveal Himself to you. Do you know Him by revelation and experience? Is He real to you? The Holy Spirit made Jesus Christ real to 3,000 people, and He made Him real in the truth about Him; when that happens, that will be revival. Christ Jesus revealed Himself through the Holy Ghost to this church in the city of Jerusalem, and that was revival.

If He would be pleased to reveal Himself to any church, that would be revival. If He would be pleased to make Himself known in the truth of Him and the reality of Him: He is a person, He is the exalted God. This generation does not know this Living Lord. They know something of the Christ of history, they can tell about what the Bible says, but they don't know Him. They do not know by experience this One, Who is at the right hand of God now ruling and reigning on a throne as Prophet, Priest and King, and He has all power in heaven and in the earth. He is working out the will of the Father right now in the course of human history. This generation doesn't know my Christ, they just know about Him. "Do you know

Him?" Not this little Jesus you can accept but the Lord Jesus Christ, Who you hope will accept you. Not this little Jesus Who has been robbed of the truth of Him, but this Lord Jesus Christ in all of the truth of Him, absolute Saviour, and absolute Lord. Do you know Him?

I say this with a heart that means well, "This little Jesus that has been preached for 60 years in America wouldn't harm a flea and He couldn't save a knat. I speak the truth, so help me God. The way we have got nearly everybody in America to profess to be Christians was by preaching a Jesus and hiding from them the truth about Him. Nearly everybody accepted Jesus, but they haven't accepted the truth of Him, and you can't have Christ if you don't have Him as He is and in the truth of Him which is only found in the Bible."

The Lord Jesus Christ in Whose presence only, men and women feel their sinfulness. He manifested Himself in that congregation in Jerusalem and revived the children of God and filled them with the Holy Ghost, and sent them out to be witnesses of what they had seen and heard. He also pricked the heart of 3,000 people and convicted them of their sins. Why? They were confronted with the only One that can convict men of their sins. That was the thrice Holy Living Son of Almighty God. Brother, this generation is going to hell unless we have revival, where one more time Jesus Christ will make Himself known, and people will be crying, "Oh, God is there mercy for me, such a wicked sinner as I am?"

We need to band ourselves together in honest confession saying, "Lord, we are not big enough, our testimony is not powerful enough, our prayers are not powerful enough, this generation is not paying any attention to us. Oh, God, we are helpless, we can't do anything apart from Thee, we confess it. Oh, God, we know You can if You will. Please have mercy on us as God's people, open the windows of heaven and confront men and revive your children and convict sinners. That is our only hope."

I want to tell you two things about how Christ was pleased to make Himself known in this local church. (1) Christ revealed Himself according to His sovereign will. We have been taught that if we did 1, 2, 3, 4 things, then God would work, but God couldn't

work until we did some things, but that is not true. That is what got us in the mess that we are in now. You can not limit God. He has all power in heaven and in the earth and does whatsoever it pleases Him. The heart of what we mean by the sovereignty of Almighty God is that God is above condition, and that right now; if it pleased Him, He could change things and bring revival. That is the only hope that I have got. My only hope is that under the same conditions that this chapter talks about, my Sovereign Lord, if He pleases, He can do it again.

If there ever was a time when conditions weren't right for a revival, it was on the day of Pentecost. The political world wasn't looking for anybody to praise that fellow Jesus, were they? They had just put Him to death a little while before and they wanted to be rid of Him. And the religious world was a mess, they had screamed until the Roman Empire had put the Son of God to death, and it was still fresh on their memory. The religious people were not praying for revival.

There were just one hundred and twenty people hiding in the upper room, but they were with one accord. Acts 1:14a: "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication "And God's Son revealed Himself in great power and revived God's children and convicted sinners of their sins and their lost condition. The religious world today doesn't want revival, but God's Son can do it, if it pleases Him.

If there is one thing that makes religious people mad today, it is to preach a big God and little people. Oh, just to mention the truth that God is not subject to our own manipulations; you cannot hem Him up. That takes all the pride away from us and we have nothing to glory in, in what we have done, because the Lord did it, we didn't. Oh, I am asking people to pray to a Sovereign Almighty God, Who works according to His will, and when it pleases Him. Oh, wouldn't it be wonderful if just for a little while we would honor God a little bit. We haven't been giving any glory to God, we just talk about what we've done.

The religious world is not friendly to a revival now but my hope is not in the religious world, my hope is in Him. The Scriptures

say these things about this church: They were united on the basic teachings of the Word of God. Our churches today may not be united on all the teachings of the Word of God, but this assembly is not even a church unless the inner circle in the mixed multitude are united on the two central teachings of the Word of God. On the day of Pentecost they were all of one accord, they all believed the same thing about Christ's bloody cross and Christ's glorious throne. That was the doctrines that Peter preached, he said, "You took Jesus of Nazareth and by wicked hands have crucified and slain; God brought Him out of the grave and put Him on a throne, and made Him both Lord and Christ." Unless the working members of this Assembly are sold out completely to the absoluteness of the saving power of the blood of Christ alone, why, you need not expect God to ever bless. And unless you are absolutely sold out to the absoluteness of Christ's claims from the throne, why, you are not a church.

Every Baptist church in the Southern Baptist Convention is split wide open today over the Lordship of Jesus Christ. How many people that dare to call Him your Saviour and the marks of His absolute rule and reign are not in your daily life? How many of you deny the very heart of the Gospel; that before you may have Him as your Saviour, you must come to know the absoluteness of His rule in your life? What's killing our churches? It is the men and women who call Him your Saviour and refuse to bow to Him as Lord to rule and reign over you. What can you tell a man, who is not a Christian? You are not under Christ's rule either, so you are on the same road to hell that he is. You have never met Him; because you can't meet Christ except where He is, and bless God, He is on the throne. Some of you have never bowed to Him in absolute surrender, thus He has never been revealed to you, and you can't know Him until He is revealed to you. John 17:3: "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent." Luke 10:22: "All things are delivered to Me of My Father: and no man knoweth Who the Son is, but the Father; and Who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him."

You can differ on lots of truths in the Bible, but God help

you not to differ here. This is it. A church that is united on the fact there is only one thing that will keep a man out of hell; and that is absolute confidence and dependence on the shed blood of Jesus Christ. And the only thing on earth that will bring power into your life is to be in vital union with the Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives on a throne. Oh, what will keep a man out of hell is the blood of Christ. What will make a new creature out of a man and put a song in his heart, and put his feet on the solid rock and help him to overcome the hellish atmosphere of this hour? Brother it is vital union with Christ, being joined by holy faith to the Living Christ as He sits on the Throne of God; forever be united there.

The second thing about this church: It was a praying church. Acts 1:14a: "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication." The third thing about this church; they waited. Acts 1:4: "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which saith He, ye have heard of Me. "They waited for ten days. Let me tell you what waiting means in the New Testament. It means obedience and utter dependence on the Lord. There was a world going to hell, but the Lord saith, "You wait."

You can't have revival in any church unless God comes and changes you. I tell you why; it is because you are not obedient to the Lord. You don't know anything about the Lordship of Christ and His utter claims. It will bring the most holy saint that ever lived to daily repentance, a daily crying to God, "Oh, God how far short I come of your glory." He demands 100% of your mind, your body, your soul, your spirit and your heart. He won't take 99%, He is absolute Lord. We are commanded in the Scriptures to bring every thought into captivity to Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

The demands of God in Jesus Christ are the most flesh killing things that you will ever face. Oh, my soul this generation calling Jesus their Saviour and doing every-thing they want to do.

All the days of my life most of us have decided what was right and what was wrong, haven't we? We haven't brought it to Him, and waited till He told us what to do. We haven't even brought our habits to Him, much less our thoughts. Thus we are a bunch of rebellious men and women. We don't know the meaning of obedience and we don't know the meaning of utter dependence on Him. The reason we do not know what it means to wait on God in utter dependence on His moving is because we have not understood what it means to be saved. You cannot get saved by accepting Jesus as your Saviour, but you must surrender to Him as your absolute Lord and Ruler in your life. If He does not rule you completely, you will have to spend eternity in hell. I am preaching a relationship to Jesus Christ that will make you have to cry to God for forgiveness every day, it will make you know what repentance is in the Bible. If salvation is a sweet bowing of rebellious man, conquered and he sweetly bows and surrenders himself completely to the Lord Jesus Christ for time and eternity to have His way with him. That is exactly what salvation is. So we need to depend utterly on the working of the Holy Ghost, for no one will ever bow to the Lord Jesus Christ unless the Holy Ghost conquers you and bends your knee.

That is the reason we have been able to get along without revival for 100 years; we've been converting people, and we made them two fold more the children of hell. It takes the Holy Ghost to break your wicked heart and make you bow to King Jesus, no power on earth can bring that to pass except Almighty God. And so Jesus said, "Don't go out there till you are filled with the Spirit, you will make them worse unless you are filled with the Spirit." You can get people to accept Jesus as their Saviour, but that is not found in the Scriptures. But you can't get anyone to have a change in masters, for the Scriptures say in 1 Corinthians 12:3b: "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." If we believed that, there would be some crying to God, because multitudes have made a confession, but they are not living holy lives. They all claim Jesus as Saviour, but you can't see a mark of His rule in their lives.

What Is Holiness?

Matthew 1:21

"And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His Name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Christ died to make men H-O-L-Y, holy. Salvation is in Christ; it's in Him, not in what He did apart from Who He is. I believe the most damning fundamental preaching that is taking place in the southland today is the preaching that leads people to think they have an interest in the death of Christ, without being vitally joined to Him in their daily walk. We've been preaching salvation through a representative that we never came into contact with. I want to lift a voice from time to time and say that you can't have any interest in or benefit from the perfect life and glorious death and resurrection and present intercession of our Lord – except as you are vitally and really and experimentally and actually joined to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The limit of His salvation is found in Matthew 1:21: "For He shall save His people from their sins." The only way on earth that the Lord Jesus Christ could become the Substitute and die instead of anybody else was to be vitally and spiritually and legally under the law of God, joined to that person. Redemption is the purchase by the Lord of somebody that is His, and those people are His by the Divine decree of Almighty God. It is silly to talk about Christ dying in a man's stead, unless that person had been joined to the Lord positionally before there was ever a star. Ephesians 1:4-6: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved." 2 Thessalonians 2:13: "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." The limit of the Lord's salvation is the purpose, wisdom, love and character of

Almighty God. And everything God sent His Son to do, He did, and every purpose God has toward man is being and will be fully carried out.

It is high time that somebody warned this generation of preachers who dare to place their little finite mind against the wisdom of God, and make fun of and sneer at the glorious truth that God is a God of purpose, and that the work of His blessed Son is simply limited by the purpose God had in it. 2 Timothy 1:9: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

A young fellow told me the other day that he believed in the glorious doctrine that Jesus died for a people, not to get a people, but for a people who are already given to Him of the Father. But he said, "If I preached that in my church, it would tear my church all to pieces." I said, "Yes, it will tear your church all to pieces," and I further said, "Young man, I am sick and tired of hearing little two-bit preachers call an institution that Jesus gave His blood to purchase theirs; it isn't your church, son, it belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. And there isn't any truth in the Bible that will split God's church. There is not a truth in the Bible that will split a church that was given to the Lord Jesus by the Father." Now I want to be charitable, but we must stand for the Truth!

I was talking to another young preacher this week and he said, "Brother Barnard, I haven't got a deacon in my church and I haven't got a single young lady in my church that doesn't spend Saturday night till 3 or 4 o'clock Sunday morning on the dance floors. Then they come up and act like deacons." I didn't say anything. Not a deacon in a Baptist church that doesn't spend Saturday night till early Sunday morning on the dance floors hugging somebody else's wife!! I wanted to say, "Son, the preaching that makes salvation depend upon the feeble decision of a dead man's will turns out that kind of church members." That's exactly it! But the preaching that shuts men and women up to the truth that God Almighty is not going to try to improve on their old wicked hearts, for their hearts are represented in the Scripture as incurably

sick Ö.God Almighty is not going to try to improve old Rolfe Barnard's sinful nature! The only thing that He is going to do is to deal it a death blow and give Rolfe Barnard a new nature – and in that new nature the principle of holiness is planted within the heart of an old rotten sinner.

Ezekiel 11:19-20: "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a New Spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh; That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God." Ezekiel 36:25-27: "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

We want to show how the Holy Spirit baptized and identified His people in the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. And that everybody who is ever saved gets in the family of God by being born of the Spirit just as supernaturally, and just as miraculously as the Lord Jesus Christ was born out of the womb of Mary. The most humbling thing I ever faced in the Word of God is how the Holy Spirit planted a Divine Seed in the womb of a natural woman and out of that a Holy Thing. That is exactly what regeneration is: the implantation of the Divine Nature of God in the old dirty cesspool heart of Rolfe Barnard, that out of the heart of old dirty Rolfe Barnard shall come that which is holy, a new nature that, BLESS GOD, will result in a new way of walking that is pleasing to God. Did you get it? I want you to hear this.

That brings me to my subject, "What Is Holiness?" Christ came to make us holy. That song, "Christ Hath Died to Make Men Holy" – they got it out of the Scriptures. Christ did die to make men holy. Christ died so that sin should no longer lord over us. Romans 6:11-14: "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin

therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." Christ died not only that we might be reckoned perfect as God looks on us in Him, but Christ died that our lives should be lives of daily victory over sin. Praise God, when a man is born again, the power of sin is broken, and sin can't lord it over that child of God any more. That is all in the purpose of God. There isn't anything about which there is more ignorance than what Bible holiness is. And yet there isn't anything that is closer to the heart of God or the heart of the Gospel than this simple statement: Christ didn't come down here to save people from hell; but He came down here to make a people who had been given Him by the Father, to make them where they might live like kings! Romans 5:21:

"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." Bless the Lord, the reason my Lord came down here was so that His people would be delivered from king sin unto King Grace, and that grace should so revolutionize sinful men, that men would reign lording over sin, instead of sin reigning over us – overruling, overcoming instead of being defeated **THAT GRACE MIGHT REIGN.**

Somebody preached half of the Gospel, preached justification and left off sanctification. That isn't so; that Gospel that stops at justification is not the Gospel. The book of Romans can't be divided. You listen to me: that Gospel that says that Jesus Christ through His death declares men and women to be righteous, when they are not righteous, is not what the book of Romans teaches. Romans teaches that the way God saves a sinner is that He makes a man righteous. He doesn't declare anything about it, He doesn't fill up heaven with people that God says are righteous when they aren't. But the Gospel received, embraced, believed and experienced in the life of an individual not only constitutes him just in the sight of the

Law of God, but it also constitutes him righteous before God. Did you know that Jesus Christ cannot save anybody except a righteous man? A man must be counted righteous and that righteousness that we are talking about now is **IMPLANTED HOLINESS**.

Some years ago I was asked to preach in another denomination. They said, "We want you to bring your messages on the grace of God." I said, "I don't believe your people will stand my preaching." "Oh, yes we will!" I held four or five meetings in their churches and they found out that I was right, because every time I preached what I believe is true, it offended the very heart of their doctrinal belief. They were a people who are fond of using the expression, "We are saved and sanctified," and I wouldn't use their expression. I said that expression was of the devil, that it dishonors Christ and that expression de-hearts the Gospel. I said, "If you would use the term, justified and sanctified, then you would have the Gospel."

Why is it that several denominations including nearly all Baptists now have just preached a Gospel and said that was God justifying a sinner? I'll tell you why, because the heart of the whole thing is founded in the purpose of God electing a sinner to start with. Ephesians 1:4: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." That's the offense of the cross now. Anybody on earth can keep a bunch of unsaved church members putting the tithe in the storehouse to promote a program, if you continue to preach that God Almighty considers men and women to be His apart from working holiness in their daily experience. That's right. That is the reason some denominations say, "I am saved all right, but I'm carnal." Some Baptists say, "I am a carnal Christian." Some say, "He is saved but not separated." I hear the expression, "He is saved but he is not walking with the Lord." Some even say, "He is saved but he is not living right." My soul, they have fixed it so that salvation doesn't mean a thing now!

I don't know much – and I am studying hard because of the little I do know – but if I could do what God knows I want to do, I would lift up this little old voice of mine, and I would attack and

fight and do everything I could to put out of business anything on earth that detracts from the glorious Truth that my Lord Jesus Christ came down here to confound the devil by demonstrating what holy lives could be lived by men and women who are the products and the beneficiaries of the saving grace of God!

The Scriptures tell us that in saving a sinner God has two motives. First, it redounds to the praise of the glory of His grace. That's in heaven. 2 Corinthians 4:14-15: "Knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God." Secondly, His motive is to confound the devil down here in this world. 1 Corinthians 1:27, "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." He is going to show the principalities, and everybody, and going to put them to an open shame. How? By taking an old sinner in the pit of corruption, and redeeming him by the blood, regenerating him by the Spirit and growing him by the grace of God until that sinner is a walking demonstration of the fact that God is holy.

Colossians 2:13-15: "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

Hebrews 12:14: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." He is not talking about the imputed holiness that we have in Christ Jesus -which is our only hope of salvation, and nothing we can do – but He is simply saying here..., it doesn't say without holiness a man shall not be saved, but it does say without holiness no man shall see the Lord. Any Bible student will tell you that the "see" in this connection means, "without holiness you can't have any fellowship with Him, you can't

walk with Him, you can't have any joy with Him, you can't commune with Him, you can't worship Him." And I said that to say this: What the Holy Spirit is telling us here is that without daily practical devotion to the will of God, which is holiness in your life, you can't have one thing from God Almighty. Did you get what I am saying? We are constituted perfectly holy in Christ, and through the work of the Spirit and the Word of God we gradually and constantly from grace to grace, from faith to faith, grow NOT SIMPLY TO BE MORE HOLY, but grow in holiness. A man doesn't become more holy; he is either holy or unholy.

An unsaved man is absolutely unholy; a saved man is absolutely holy. But we do grow, not toward holiness but in holiness. That is, we develop.

I am going to show you that this word HOLINESS in Hebrews 12:14 is not the imputed holiness that we have in Christ, not the growing in holiness, but it is talking about the way you live. And the Scriptures say that without your experience of what you call salvation developing in your life the habit of obedience to the will of God, which is holiness, then you can't have anything from the Lord. If that is so, God help us, if that is so, that is a challenge. Will you let Brother Barnard help you? We are chosen unto holiness. To call one's self a saved person while living in sin and enmity to God is downright foolishness. 2 Thessalonians 2:13, "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." And a man who calls himself a child of God who does not have the one evidence that the work of grace is real in the heart, and that evidence is practical obedience to the will of God – a man who doesn't have that evidence, doesn't have any evidence! That is the evidence that God saved you; that is the evidence that you are one of God's children. This is working in your life. Without holiness, no man would be capable of serving God in heaven. Without holiness, no man would be capable of beholding the glories of Christ here. Without holiness, no man can serve God, now or later! Without holiness, no man can have fellowship with God now or then.

We are chosen, not because we are holy, but that we might be made holy.

What then is Bible holiness? It is not heathen asceticism; it is not that you draw off from the world. It is not that you get down like Elijah under the juniper tree and everybody is wrong but you. It is not the absence of something. Bible holiness is not pharisaical self-righteousness. Listen to Rolfe Barnard! Any man on earth that sets himself up to judge the other fellow as to what makes him tick shows that he is an unsaved pharisee, and he has never seen his own rotten heart! And you never did get saved without a look at your own rottenness, did you? And if you have ever seen yourself in the mirror of God Almighty's holiness, you never saw a man that you didn't think was better than you. It is not pharisaical self-righteousness.

If there was anything my Lord hated, it was the fellow that was always talking about "I DO THIS" and "I DO THAT." Ah! He never had a kind word for that fellow who had such a small glimpse of God that he had a good opinion of himself. It is dead certain that the greatest saint of God you ever met had the most terrible opinion of himself, and he experienced something like Paul who started out by being just an apostle but wound up by saying he was "the least of the apostles." And by the time he was an old man, he said he was "the chief of sinners." It was simply because the closer he walked with God, the blacker he saw himself. The more he saw of the perfection of Christ, the more he saw of the imperfection of his life. It's not advertising that your life has been touched by the grace of God if you have a high opinion of yourself. That's right. 2 Corinthians 10:17-18: "But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth." Luke 16:15: "And He said unto them, ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Proverbs 27:2: "Let another man praise thee and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips."

The old timer that watched them take a poor fellow out and hang him, the old preacher who said, "I would go there if it wasn't

for the grace of God," he was pretty near the truth. Dear ones, will you let Brother Barnard tell you something? The reason we are going to have the Lord's Supper, the Lord willing, here every Lord's Day, if we don't have anything else, is because this generation of church people have hearts as hard as flint. Do you know why they have a good opinion of themselves? It is because they do not come often and sit before those elements until Christ is real there, and they see once again that their sinful condition was so desperate, their wickedness was so enormous – Oh, their heart was so black – that it took the life laid down and the blood pouring out of the Son of God to keep them out of hell! And that will break the heart of anybody that's got a heart in him, and it will keep us thinking less of ourselves and more about HIM. That is our greatest need today.

Bible holiness is not negative separation from the world, but it is the opposite of sinfulness; and sin is violation of or lack of conformity to God's Holy Law. Therefore holiness is obedience to God's revealed will as expressed in His Holy Law. Did you get it? And the whole Word of the Law is expressed in one word, L-O-V-E, love. And a man is just as holy in practical language as the Law of God is being revealed, honored and magnified in his life. Did you get it? This is a lawless generation. It seems to me that most people who call themselves "preachers" of God's grace preach this: That God used to be tough and He made it hard to get saved, but He found out that that wouldn't work so under grace He found an easy way to keep people out of hell. But there is nothing further from the truth than that. The grace of God is God Almighty fixing an old sinner where the righteousness of the Law will be fulfilled in him. Every claim of the Law should be fulfilled in the life of the soul that comes to the Lord Jesus Christ in salvation.

Listen to Brother Barnard now. This is a lawless age. Somebody told us that Sunday wasn't the Sabbath Day, so this generation of so-called Christians do as they please on God's holy day. By their actions they are saying, "To hell with what God says about it!" That's this generation of lawless people. I am telling you that you better quit running around here talking about the grace of God, if you are using it so you can disobey truth and disobey God's

will and live disobediently to His holy requirements. I read in the Bible of a sanctifying grace that teaches us how to live. In Titus 2:12-14 we read, "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Holiness is obedience to the will of God.

Somebody said to me, "What do you teach about giving?" I said, "I teach the grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." I just tell people you better quit talking about the grace of God, if it makes you the kind of fellow that is trying to find a shortcut to obedience. You better quit calling yourself a Christian if this isn't your attitude – you are trying to find out what God wants you to do. You mean to tell me God's people are trying to find a way to cheat Him? No, not God's people. You mean to tell me that you call yourself a Christian and adopt a legalistic principle that you honor God by dividing a little of your income with Him. NO. NO. I am not going to teach that you have got to be loyal to the church – I hate that – just loyal to Christ. I am saying it is time we start telling the truth about what the grace of God does for man. It won't make a lawless rebel out of him; it won't make people want to find out how little they can do and get by with it!

What is holiness? It is obedience to the will of God as expressed in His Holy Law. Now no one is a Christian who doesn't have that attitude. I remember years ago two men professed to be saved under my ministry when I was a pastor out in New Mexico. The next week one of them came to see me and said, "Brother Barnard, what should a fellow do about his money?" I said, "I don't know, what do you want to do?" He said, "I want to do what the Lord wants me to do." So I told him to buy a Bible and see if he could find anything in the Scriptures about it. When a person has been touched by the grace of God, and his heart wants to do the will

of God, we have no fear to turn him loose with a Bible to see what he can find in there and do it.

What is holiness? Christian profession? NO. NO. You are the biggest fool this side of hell if you haven't found out that your best righteousness is filthy rags in God's sight, according to Isaiah 64:6: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Ah, that person who thinks he has arrived where he is above sin, he has arrived at it by calling what he does a mistake, instead of sin, and by whittling down the holy character of God. Wait a minute! Most of us are not suffering from claiming we are perfect; most of us are suffering from using the grace of God so we can live selfish lives, and say we are not under the Law but under grace.

A preacher said this, "No one is a Christian who does not seek perfection; not to seek to be perfect is to consent to live in sin." Did you get that? If you don't want to be perfect, it means you are willing to live in sin. You mean to tell me that a child of God is willing to live in sin!? It can't be! When you were regenerated, a principle was put in you that made you hate sin with all your heart. And it is a whole lot worse to defend sin than it is to commit it. You may be overtaken in a moment of weakness, but then when you deliberately do like David did and try to cover it up, that's a whole lot worse, isn't it? To be willing to live in sin is a certainty that you have never known the grace of God. It is the genuine desire and resolution and endeavor of the child of God to please Christ in all that he does.

This generation wants to go to heaven, but they don't want to obey God! They don't want to go to hell but they don't want to walk with God. Did you get it? My Lord Jesus came down here to change the disposition of sinful men, and make them not only want to escape hell but to walk with the Lord. All that is in the work of my Christ, and let me give you three things that God Almighty gives when He saves a sinner. First, He gives the gift of the Spirit. Listen to me! It was not simply agreed with the Godhead that Christ Jesus would come down here and die on the cross. But a Covenant was

made before the foundation of the world that not only would He die for sinners, but that He would purchase for them the gift of the Holy Spirit. And that He would also purchase for them the gift of saving faith, and that He would purchase for them the gift of saving repentance, and it's all in Christ Jesus! There isn't anything on earth that makes my blood boil any more than to constantly hear men and women talk about coming to Christ, and they never honor God by using such simple language as something like this: "Praise God, I was enabled to lay hold on Christ!" That's the way old-time Baptists used to talk. Now they say, "I took Jesus." They used to say, "I was enabled by the Holy Ghost to turn from myself to God, to turn from serving self to lay hold on Christ." And they ceased not to honor Christ, they gave Him all the glory. I could listen to present-day preaching now and never know there was a Holy Ghost, never know that God Almighty was a God of purpose, never know that God had anything to do with salvation!

I long to hear the old language repeated that poor old Rolfe Barnard was laid hold of by the Holy Spirit, arrested by God Almighty, stopped on his mad road to hell, and enabled to repent of his sins and lay hold on Jesus Christ. That's right. In saving a sinner, Christ purchased the gift of the Spirit. Romans 10:17: "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." But that is not apart from the illuminating work of the Holy Ghost. There will be a lot of people in hell who read the Bible and believed every word of it in their heads. That isn't the way it works. Watch it! Not only did Christ purchase for us the gift of the Holy Spirit to convict us, to regenerate us, to slay the enmity in us, and to make us delight in His Holy Law, but He took upon Himself our curse. 2 Corinthians 5:21: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." He endured the penalty of the righteous Law.

In the last place, my Lord Jesus Christ in saving sinners empowers them to walk in holy obedience to the Lord. The only way on earth that Rolfe Barnard ever found out that he was a lost church member was I kept facing the fact that I had no power in here to live for Jesus Christ. I tried to, I taught a Sunday School class, I

did this, I did that and I did the other. I was constantly brought face to face with the truth that my Lord Jesus Christ came down here not to make mockery, He didn't come down here by regeneration to make old Rolfe Barnard hate sin and yet do sin and be enslaved and overcome by it every day of his life. He didn't come down here to regenerate me and plant something in me that longed to be holy, without giving me the power inside whereby practical holiness could be a truth in my life! Bless God, He came down here not to make fun of us, but to liberate us and empower us that the righteous demands of God's Holy Law might be fulfilled in us. Did you get it?

When I was a student at Southwestern Seminary, Dr. M.E. Dodd came and preached two weeks down there. I was a young preacher then. I remember the story that he told and I want to close with this illustration. Dr. Dodd was hit by an automobile years ago and he had hovered at the brink of death for six or seven weeks. People all over the South were asked to pray for him. When he was over this, he came to preach to us and told about this experience. He said while he was in the hospital after he came back from the very brink of death, the nurse was gone, and all the visitors were out, the door being about half open somebody came and knocked on the door and he said, "Come in." A little nine-year-old boy with a little bunch of violets in his hand, holding them so tight they had already started to wilt, came in. He came up close to my bed, Dr. Dodd said, and I could tell he had his speech memorized. He said, "Dr. Dodd, my mother sent me to give you these violets, cause we love you, cause you done so much for us." And he said, I took the violets and visited with the little boy a while. I didn't know who he was but I wouldn't let him know. I thanked him for the violets and asked about his mother, and we had a little visit. After a while the little fellow went his way. I lay there on that bed and looked at that bunch of withered violets and thought about what was behind it.

God was good to me, he said, and the little boy's face came back to me and I remembered the day before I was hit by a car; I was walking down the street of my city and it was zero weather. I heard a little boy say, "Paper mister, paper mister." And I saw this little boy, his face was blue and his teeth were chattering and he was

standing out there with no stockings on, and a shirt but no coat. He just had a little bundle of papers and was about to freeze to death. I went up to him and began to talk to him, and I saw that he was awfully cold. So I bought all his papers and took him by the hand, and he took me home. He took me to a little old shack out behind some of the stores, and there on a straw mat, his mother lay sick with the flu, and a little year-old baby screaming because there was no milk. There wasn't a fire in the house, all the coal and wood was gone. There wasn't a bite to eat or a drop of milk. This widow made a living washing and she had been down two weeks with the flu and nobody had found it out. So the little boy was out on the street corner trying to sell a few papers to buy them some milk for the baby.

He said, "I called up some people and they brought some coal and some cover, and somebody brought the doctor and some brought groceries and we got things all fixed up. So I went on my way, and the next day I went down and had dinner with them. The woman was about over the flu and there was a fire in the stove, and the little baby was full of milk, and everybody was happy, so I stayed and had dinner with them. We had a glorious time, then I went my way and that afternoon a car hit me and for weeks I was between heaven and this old earth." He said, "I had forgotten about it, then that little boy came in and said, 'Dr. Dodd, my mother sent me to give you these violets, because we love you, cause you done so much for us.' Then I looked at those violets and I thought of all that was behind it and (he said) I began to weep, and there on my hospital bed I got converted all over again. It kindly helps to, every once in a while." And he said, " 'Lord, Lord, I love You, I love You, I love You... when I was a little 13-year-old boy down on an old split rail fence like they used to have in the country, You touched my heart by Your grace and saved me; You called me to preach; You have ministered to me. Lord, I love You; Lord, I love You; Lord, I love You.' "

Then Dr. Dodd said, "Lord, all over again, one more time, here is this old broken body of this Baptist preacher. Lord, I want You to have me, cause I love You, cause You have done so much for

me!" Anybody that comes into a relationship with the Lord like that, I'll turn you loose with the Bible to see whatever is in there, and put it into practice. Amen! "Lord, I love You! Lord, I love You!"

God The Reconciler

Romans 5:11

In the opening chapters of the book of Romans, we stand face to face with GOD THE JUSTIFIER (3:25-26). "God set forth Christ to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time His righteousness; That He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus," All that Christ is, all that Christ does and has done on our behalf enables God to be just and justify those who believe in Christ.

Now as we begin Chapter Five, we are introduced to GOD THE RECONCILER (5:11). "And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the reconciliation." In scripture reconciliation is presented in two aspects. [1] As a finished work accomplished by the death of Christ, and the sinner enters into the benefits of it by faith. [2] As a present work of our High Priest. Reconciliation for the sinner who believes is the result of the death of Christ; reconciliation for the believer who sins depends on the present priestly ministry of Christ. It is concerning the first aspect of this truth that we now deal. Reconciliation is an accomplished fact. It is not something that is to happen or that may happen if certain conditions are met; but it has been accomplished. It was accomplished on the cross of Christ; it is a work done on Calvary by God, for God and to God. Note the words "we WERE reconciled" and God WAS in Christ reconciling the world to Himself."

God accomplished reconciliation through the death of His son (II Cor. 5:19). It is God reconciling us to God by the death of Christ. Reconciliation is not that the hearts of sinners were changed toward God, but that the change was and is in the attitude of God toward men. This reconciliation (Rom. 5:11 and II Cor. 5:19) was wrought on the cross for God that He might be FOR the sinner and NOT AGAINST him. God cannot be indifferent toward sinners. Sin made the sinner the enemy of God; AS SUCH God must regard him

or reconcile him. This He did on the cross!

The Church In The Home

Collosians 4:15

It is a matter of history that for the first two hundred years after Christ the church never had special buildings of their own, and when at last they did the art of exhortation degenerated into the issuing of commands. Many groups which began in homes and have now become well-known organizations have lost out in spiritual effectiveness since they moved into special buildings for their gatherings. This has not happened suddenly. A special building is not a sin but merely a sincere effort to glorify God, which may ultimately involve more drawbacks than advantages.

A study of the Acts of the Apostles and the epistles of the New Testament, especially the epistles of Paul, confronts us with the church in the home. Four times "the church in the home" is specifically mentioned. For instance, the apostles wrote letters to churches and to individuals and sent greetings to or from the church in So-and-So's house. In Romans 16:5 we read, "Likewise greet the church that is in their house" (the house of Aquila and Priscilla). In I Cor. 16:19 we read, "The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house."

And from scriptures like this we gather the idea that the church in the home of Priscilla and Aquila was a firmly established church of that time. Again, in Col. 4:15 we read: "Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house." And then in Philemon verse 2 we hear Paul addressing himself to Philemon and the church in his house.

Not one single instance can be found in the New Testament where the early Christians ever built what we call a house of worship. Sometimes they will meet down by the riverside where Paul will preach and God will open Lydia's heart that she will attend upon the Word. In Jerusalem for a while the temple was used as a place of public testimony, but also in addition to the public testimony in the temple every house of every believer was a place of meeting. We need to carefully note Acts 2:46 and then read with

great care Acts 5:42. For a while, you understand, before the Jews really came to understand the issue, Jewish believers were welcome in the temple and were asked to speak.

When the temple was denied the preachers, then only the house remained. Then Paul and others journeyed into Gentile domain, and being Jewish believers, were permitted for a while to preach in synagogues. There the God-fearing people and the proselytes whose hearts God had been opening and preparing, He saved, and out of them little groups called New Testament churches gathered. But later, as the issue was more clearly defined and the Jewish people understood its implications, the synagogues were closed to the preachers of the gospel, and then only the house or "the church in the home" remained. Over twenty times in the Acts of the Apostles and in the epistles we read of believers carrying out their united worship in the home of a believer. The word "church" is, of course, of Latin origin. The Greek word translated "church" in our Authorized Version is "ekklesia" and it means "the called out ones." EK equals out from; KALEO means to call. This word is also translated "assembly." The word "church" or "assembly" is found 115 times in the New Testament. It is used once for a town council (Acts 19:39), and twice for a mob or unlawful council (Acts 19:32-41). The word "church" or "assembly" is used twice for Israel in the old covenant (Acts 7:38). But the word "church" is used 110 times for the body of Christ or believers.

The church is not:

- (1) A building.
- (2) A denomination.
- (3) An organization, nor
- (4) Many bodies organized, such as synods, conventions, associations, denominations, Church of England, etc.

The church is:

- (1) A body of believers. Read carefully Eph. 4:4 and I Pet. 2:5.
- (2) A fellowshipóone fellowship.

(3) A living (not organization but) organism. The church as one body is clearly shown in such passages as I Cor. 12, Romans 12, Col. 1:18 and Eph. 1:22-23.

The church is a body of called out ones. Read chapter two of Ephesians, especially verses 19 and 22. The church is a "building," yes, but it is a building that is being built by the Holy Spirit, not with brick and mortar and hammer and nailsóand it is a building indwelt by God the Holy Spirit. It has Christ as the Chief Cornerstone and the Foundation of the church, as to order, structure and doctrine, as outlined here in this passage.

Well-nigh buried under the elaborate structures which man has built upon it is the church (so-called) of todayóbut God's purpose concerning His true church has not changed.

Let's review just a moment the assembly of called out ones. It is the building of God. It is the household of God. It is the body of Christ. It is the pillar and ground of truth. It is a holy temple. It is the habitation of God. It is a heavenly colony sojourning here on earth, bearing witness in the power of the Holy Spirit to the risen, ascended, glorified Lord. That is the church.

It is important to get fixed in our minds that the early church was taught to regard itself not merely as a collection of saved individuals but as active members of the body of Christ. Not only did all believers form the one body universal, but each group functioned as the body locally. In each of the three cases where these are mentioned (Rom. 12; I Cor. 12; Eph. 4) is no suggestion of only one man ministering to the whole group but each is shown as having the privilege of possessing some spiritual gift and the responsibility to minister this gift to the rest of the saints so that every believer is looked on as a minister to the rest. Modern research in education has shown that we learn little by merely listening, but when we try to impart what we know to others we really begin to master our subject. This shows us the wisdom of God in planting the church, not as a vast congregation of listeners, but as a small body sharing with each other what they learn from the Holy Spirit.

The picture we have of the early church, therefore is

something very simple but very vital. Whenever two or three would gather together in the name of the Lord, there they would expect to find their once crucified, now risen Lord present in the midst of them. They would also expect the Holy Spirit to work in each of them and share with each other what was thus revealed. In Col. 3 we read, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...teaching and admonishing one another"óand this was addressed to a whole congregation, not simply to one man we call the pastor.

As the Holy Spirit worked in the midst, some or all of the gifts of the Spirit mentioned in I Cor. 12 would be manifested for He divided severally to every man as He chose. Each would himself be edified by His gift, and those who heard would likewise be blessed. As each small group divided, and so grew into a number of groups, these continued in fellowship with each other, and all of the small gathering in one city would together form the church of God in Ephesus or wherever it might be. Yet each group would have no say in the way another was carried on. The Lord was the Head of each and worked in each as He saw fit, but they would be free to exhort and admonish each other, though not to command.

We find that this true church did not usually get on well with organized religion, but if there was a division it always came about by the organized religious group casting out the true believers. Until this happened, we find the position pictured in Acts 2:46,

Continuing daily...in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house.

Some Implications Of Sovereign Grace

Exodus 33:19

Why do we use the double term sovereign grace? What does it mean and what is implied by the epithet 'sovereign' as attached to the term grace?

The answer is immediately at hand. The whole, so called Christian world professes to believe in salvation by grace. Only a remnant within the whole believes in Sovereign Grace. I am happy to be found among the latter group. The popular conception of salvation by grace is that God used to be holy, but now He has found a way to let men off easier. Nearly all of the major groups talk of salvation by grace and it means, usually, whatever the holder of the view thinks it means. I am trying simply to say this; there seems to be no division among professing Christians as to salvation by grace, as the term is loosely and widely used — but there is a wide and real division among them when we consider the term 'Sovereign Grace'! Because I believe there is no grace save sovereign grace, I use the term and dedicate my own ministry, unprofitable as it is, to the expounding of sovereign grace and to the calling of the ministry back to similar action.

(1) What do the terms 'grace' and 'sovereign' mean? One of the attributes of God is goodness. The goodness of God is the divine essence seen as energized benevolently and kindly toward the creature. "I will be gracious - I will be merciful," saith the Lord. "The Lord is plenteous in " "The Lord delights to show mercy." Mercy and grace are varieties of God's goodness. Grace has reference to sinful man as guilty, while mercy has respect to sinful man as miserable.

(2) This attribute (goodness) expressed in grace and mercy is free and sovereign in its exercise. "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." Exo. 33:19. The goodness of God is infinite and circumscribed by no limits: but the exercise of His goodness may be limited by Himself. God is necessarily good in His nature, but free in His communication of it. If the Bible is plain about anything it is plain

about the fact that God must be just to all men; He may be merciful to some. God owes all men justice; He owes no man mercy or grace! A sovereign God exercises mercy and grace as it seems good to Him. "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight." Matt. 11:25-26.

(3) Actually God exercises mercy in a general manner toward all men. Anything this side of hell is mercy! Mercy is found in and by the works of creation and providence and the delay of punishment, but special grace or saving grace and mercy in Christ are only exercised in redemption and regeneration toward those whom a sovereign God is pleased to save. Eph. 1:36; Rom. 9:11-16. This is our battle cry! How seldom it is heard, yet it is the very truth of truths.

If you will consider the history of the preaching of sovereign grace, you will arrive at the startling fact that every great period of spiritual awakening this world has ever known has come in connection with such preaching. Brethren, history and the pale imitation of revival present among us today, demand a restudy of and a return to the truth of grace in the hands of a Sovereign, Whose exercise of mercy is optional within and to Himself.

The preaching of sovereign grace is not therefore the giving of undue prominence to any single doctrine of scripture. It is rather the proclaiming of a sovereign God graciously dealing with sinners as it pleases Him. We are often and somewhat vociferously accused of being guilty of the first part of this statement. This writer would certainly join in condemning the same. It is quite true that there is danger here. Any doctrine isolated from the whole body of revealed truth becomes perverted doctrine.

The preaching of sovereign grace is not an enemy of true evangelism. Let me hasten to say that the preaching of sovereign grace will kill deader than a doornail the message and method of present-day evangelism! And some of us believe with a deadly intensity that the false message and method must be killed before the true message and method can become effective. We further believe

that the only way this can be done is by the preaching of truth about God, the Truth about man, and the truth about Christ Who died and lives that God might be just and justifier! These lines will appeal to no one who is happy about the results evangelism today, but should you be one of many who mourn here, you will join in the task of raising up again the standard of sovereign grace!

A sovereign Christ is almost unheard of in church circles today. A Christ into Whose hands all things have been given; Who has all authority; Who gives life and quickens whom He will; Who decides the destinies of all men; Who is Lord over all flesh. Present-day evangelism, for the most part poses to men the question, "What will you do with Jesus?" Bible or true evangelism poses the question, "What will the sovereign Christ do with me?" Present-day evangelism says to men, "believe and be born again." Bible evangelism says to men, "Be born again so you can believe." The one makes the new birth depend on an act of men, the other an act of God. Present-day evangelism takes for granted God's mercy and grace, rather than marveling at them in adoration and worship. Hear Paul say, "I obtained mercy;" hear Peter say, "to all who have obtained like precious faith." How I long to hear this note in the churches today. Salvation today is a physical rather than a spiritual matter. The preaching of sovereign grace is the need of the hour if we shall be true to God's Word and true to the souls of men.

Some Alarming Things In Today's Preaching

1 Corinthians 1:17-2:16

There are two things about current Christianity and present day gospel preaching that alarm me painfully. First: all of a sudden the gospel? has gotten quite popular. One wonders where the offence has gone. Second: this gospel presents a Christ who does not change and transform lives as He touches them. I wonder if many do not share my concern here. The noble, the wise, the mighty are sponsoring the gospel? now, 'And religious America attends church on Sunday morning and enters Hell that night'. Faced as I am with the burden and privilege of proclaiming the gospel, responsible for tending well my small potato patch, I have been camping for some time in the first two chapters of Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth. One cannot do this without being brought up sharply against the contrast in Paul's presentation of the gospel and its results and that of our day. For this and subsequent issues of this page I wish to sit with my readers at the feet of Paul praying for a recovery of his offensive but transforming message, for I deeply believe that if such a message is not proclaimed, the world in our own generation is going to get converted and go on to Hell.

Let us graze around somewhat freely in the passage I Cor. 1:17 through chapter 2. Let us for this moment look at Paul's preaching that resulted in changed lives. We read as follows in the Authorized Version, these words: "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." A very literal translation of this passage reads as follows: "As for myself, having come to you, brethren, I came not having my message demonstrated by transcending rhetorical display or philosophical subtlety. When I announced to you the testimony of God. For after weighing the issues, I did not decide to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this very One as crucified," or, "This very One having been crucified." Here is a brief commentary on Apostolic preaching. The whole book of the Acts of the Apostles is

found here. How was Christ proclaimed? Note carefully that Paul began with a Living Lord and worked backwards. Today most preaching is in the exact opposite direction. Thus the Person who is now alive forever more and Who alone transforms men is lost in the journey and the gospel is well nigh exhausted before His person is proclaimed. A word from another is helpful here. The Scottish theologian, James E. Stewart, of Edinburgh comments here; "Such a declaration might appear to justify those treatments of the atoning work which focus all attention on the earthly ministry of Jesus and the cross in which it is culminated, and either omit the Resurrection altogether or else bring it in only as epilogue not essential nor integral to the drama of redemption. But this would be to seriously misunderstand the Apostle's meaning, for "knowing Christ" means here precisely what it means regularly in Paul: the primary reference is not to the Jesus of history, but to the exalted, ever present Lord. Hence the historic Phrase 'Knowing Christ and him crucified' indicates the direction of the Apostle's thought: it is moving, not as is often supposed, forward through the earthly life to the final act on Calvary, but backward from the risen life to the sacrifice which lay behind it. Christ alive forever: this is the viewpoint at which Paul takes his stand to gaze upon the cross and to preach Christ, the one having been crucified. It is one thing to preach the cross as the last word of revelation. It is quite another thing to preach it as the road travelled once for all by one now known to be alive forever."

What this man is saying is simply this: Paul went to Corinth and confronted men with a living sovereign Lord, alive forever more, reigning at the right hand of the majesty on High, exalted on a throne forever, given all authority now and forever, having been installed there by way of a bloody tree and in virtue thereof. It is this Jesus that this generation of fact believing church people do not know experientially and thus have not been made new creations in Him.

If we would see lives changed we must recover the proclamation of a Living Lord, raised and seated on the throne of power and authority. It is this one who gives eternal life to as many as the Father has given Him, and this eternal life is to know by

experience God through Jesus Christ. Multitudes of sincere people today believe in the fact of the glorious death of Christ but have never by faith laid hold of the Living Lord and been changed by His powerful touch. But Salvation is to be so touched.

We must preach, proclaim, gossip, testify, this Living Lord who got on a throne by way of a cross and who gives life to as many as He will. Let men be shut up to a living, vital union with Him or the pangs of eternity utterly separated from His bliss and blessing.

Is This Your Church?

Sixteen hundred years ago the church was adopted by Rome. Millions of pagans flooded its membership; and they brought with them their pagan culture, tradition, and faith. It took that "successful church" a thousand years to recover from that brilliant success. Something like that has happened in our day here in America. In this century, the church and religion have been adopted by society, politicians, entertainers, and popular persons. All of a sudden "Jesus" and the "gospel" have become quite popular. Millions have joined to swell church membership to an all-time high. Results: a church today that bears no resemblance to the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Religion" has become man's chief defense against the true gospel.

Christ, Lord Over All

In the New Testament, calling upon Jesus as Lord was and is the same thing as calling upon God as Lord. Now if this be true, and it is true, there are two implications that follow. The first implication of the reality and the exclusiveness and the inclusiveness of Christ's Lordship in which He brooks no rival – in which He is absolutely unique – and this is serious for everyone who hears me now – is that the Lord Jesus Christ demands total, absolute surrender, He demands from men more than admiration, for many think well of Jesus – He demands more than approval - He demands total surrender!

Ladies and gentlemen, to be a Christian is first of all to bow the knee to Jesus, to crown Him Lord of all. Friend, He is as well as Counselor, as well as example and guide; but before all these He is absolute Lord. For the Lord God our God, the Almighty, reigns – that is the theme of the Word of God. And it was the theme song of the early church; and it must become the theme song of every one who names the Name of Christ today.

A Problem Proposed For Baptist Preachers

There is no logical intermediate between Calvinism and Arminianism that is capable of combining both systems. It is impossible to say:

- (a) That a man is both totally and partially depraved.
- (b) That election is both conditional and unconditional.
- (c) That regenerating grace is both irresistible and resistible.
- (d) That redemption is both limited and unlimited.
- (e) That perseverance is both certain and uncertain.

Nor can there be a modification of one by the other. One or the other of the above mentioned points must overcome the other. It is impossible to blend the two, which is a requisite in order to a modification. History records such efforts in the past; but despite the efforts the two will not mix, nor can they walk together in peace. Nor can those holding either system force the other to their own view.

The endeavor by the Arminians in Holland, in the 17th Century, to modify the Belgic Calvinistic Creed (the chief Spirit of which was Calvin) and of the Calvinists to suppress the Arminian creed by the Civil power, resulted in one of the most bitter conflicts in Church history, and filled both parties with an unchristian spirit. Had there been no union of Church and State at that time, neither of these two theological divisions would have interfered, by civil and military power, with the doctrine and practice of the other and mutual respect would have characterized both. Whenever the endeavor is made to mix the unmixable and to fuse two types of theology that exclude each other, hypocrisy and the pretence of being what one is not are liable to prevail. A Calvinist is a dishonest disorganizer if he poses as an Arminian, and so is an Arminian if he pretends to be a Calvinist.

The above-mentioned facts (and they are facts) pose a tremendous problem for Baptist preachers. Whichever system of theology (of the two) be correct, or the nearest correct, is not my

concern as I -thus write. Here is the problem: Every confession of Faith of Baptists, all standard books on theology written by Baptists, all doctrinal statements of our schools, without (I am informed) exception; confess, proclaim and expound the great Calvinistic system. At the same time, a Calvinist is not acceptable in Baptist pulpits for the most part.

In both message and method Baptists are more and more becoming Arminian. My contention is this: In order to be honest, new statements of belief, new confessions of faith, new doctrinal standards for schools ought to be formulated and published. Baptists ought frankly to be told by their pastors and leaders that our forefathers were wrong and that what Baptists used to believe is just not so. The trouble today is that a present-day Baptist has nowhere to find out what a Baptist believes as to doctrine. If he goes to the books of theology or the old confessions of faith, he soon is informed that they are no longer held to be true.

To add to the dilemma, suppose by accident (?) a Calvinist comes along and preaches what he believes the Bible teaches, a fight is started at once. The Calvinist is branded as a disturber and a Non-Baptist. I know, from twenty-five years of holding meetings for Arminian Baptist preachers, whereof I speak.

Is it not time, in all honesty, for Baptist preachers to return to the old paths doctrinally or formulate new statements of Faith? I respect, honesty demands one or the other of these.

It is high time that preachers cease bragging about not being theologians. It is not a matter to brag about. This generation knows little of the character of the true God, nor of the condition and danger of mankind. We need some preachers who believe something, not just some cheerleaders for a program.

I see no discernible hope that Baptist leaders will either come back to the old beliefs or honestly frame new doctrinal beliefs, but as for me I am a Baptist who still believes in the doctrines and Christ of Sovereign Grace. If I could, I would call my brethren back to them.

We want no new convention or denominations, but we will not apologize for, in however poor way we are able, preaching the

grand old truth that Whitfield and Spurgeon preached. If not in Baptist Churches now constituted, we will preach them in tents and chapels and new Churches. Thus . . . we earnestly solicit the prayers . . . of every preacher who believes in the old truths once held by and preached by Baptists and the many hundreds of God's dear sheep who hold membership in an Arminian Baptist Church, who long to hear the old truth preached again! We say that such ought to help support our small beginning and that without apology. We ought to support and bid Godspeed the preaching of what we believe to be the truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

Present Day Evangelism Must Repent Or Perish

It is 'Repent or Perish' for present day evangelism. These are harvest days. The crop is now being reaped. What we have sown and watered is now come to maturity and the barns are full. Behold what we have done. We have spawned this great Religious Monster called Christendom or Christianity? The barns, we fear, are filled with more tares than wheat. The net seems to contain more snails than salmon. Behold thrice religious American; and thrice pagan America. More church members and riots in the streets. A Bibleless, Christiess monster on our hands threatening to continue to count noses, while Rome burns. Can it be that the message and method of popular, successful evangelism need to-be summoned to the bar and examined as to guilt and accomplices after the fact.

One encouraging sign of the times in our day is that many are seeking to examine the culprit, viz, modern, popular, successful? evangelism. Few are boastiiig these days. Burdened, almost defeated, pastors and evangelists are almost shut up to honest confession and earnest entreaty. Some are well nigh at the place of resorting to the Bible message and method of obeying our Lord's command to evangelize all nations. It may be that the time is not too far off when the many books will for a while be shelved and the Book of books will be studied again. In that Book is the message to be proclaimed and the method to be followed. May God hasten such a day.

Just how much responsibility for the 'status quo,' which is Latin for the mess we are in,' should be laid on present day evangelism is, of course, a matter of opinion. Of one thing I am reasonably certain, the 'much' or the 'how much' is enough to justify a conviction that we must set ourselves to the task of slaying the evil giants of evangelism today. The preaching of a perverted gospel and the use of man-devised methods which we thought would be so much more successful than Bible methods and message must be challenged, destroyed and replaced if possible with true evangelism. Let me single out one of these 'giants' and, if space permits, offer them a word of caution.

The 'giant' I thus now expose is as follows: Today's evangelism has become a thing of externalism. This is made manifest by, among others, the following.

A. By legalism on the one hand and antinomianism on the other. Churches today are heavily loaded with people who make their own rules and live by them, and others who have done away with all law in the name of liberty. Pharisees in one corner, thanking God they are not as others, and profligates in the other, sinning the more because of abounding grace. Both miss the mark and bring reproach on the name of the Lord. One need not experience the new birth to be either of the two here mentioned. (We need a John Wesley and a George Whitefield to return with their one message of an inward work of grace in a man's life which changes also the outside.)

B. By a faith which is mere intellectual assent. What a rebuke needs to be administered to us today, who, perhaps in our zeal to simplify the way of salvation, tell the sinner that faith is like stepping on to a motor bus, or agreeing to buy an insurance policy, as though faith had no moral quality and involved no moral decision. The keynote of faith and knowledge must be love. It has always been so. We have disunited faith from love and forgiveness from purity. The soul of true religion is still love, humility and obedience. The true gospel is of the Spirit not the letter.

C. By a widespread tendency in many professedly evangelical circles today, namely, where salvation by grace through faith is quite openly treated as a separate thing from a life of self-denial and cross bearing. Again it must be insisted that Christ can be known only in discipleship.

D. By methods of evangelism, which methods of course must logically follow the perverted message of 'another Jesus,' wherein physical acts of people, viz, hand showing, signing on the dotted line, walking an aisle, coming to the 'alter of prayer' etc., etc., are of more account than humility and repentance. We have succeeded far too well in divorcing justification and sanctification and in our success are sending souls to the judgment seat clothed in the garments of a tight evangelical formula without any inward

conformity to the law of Christ. Martin Luther, who was given a copy of the book, "German Theology," the voice of the pre-reformation Reformers and then wrote that he owed more to it than any other book, save the Bible and the writings of Augustine, imbibed the spirit of these his predecessors. To him repentance was not the mere overture to salvation, it was the permanent ground and condition of it. The first of his ninety-five theses rang the death knell of all externalism whether found in Rome or modern evangelism. Here it is: "When Jesus Christ in the Gospel says 'Repent,' He means that the whole life be one of repentance." That death knell must be sounded again.

E. By the popular espousal of antinomianism in its worst possible form, the idea that it is possible to 'take' Christ as Saviour without also, taking' Him as Lord. This evil giant must be dethroned.

F. By a scrupulous avoidance today of the fact of the inwardness of true salvation and the reality of union with God. At the age of 85, Nicholas of Basle was arrested and burned as a 'heretic.' The chief crime of which he was accused was that he "audaciously affirmed that he was in Christ and Christ was in him." The preaching of such men as Nicholas was that the union of the soul with God is the ultimate goal and that this can only be affected by the denial and dethronement of self, and the incoming and enthronement godliness is unselfishness: a godly life is the steadfast working of inward freeness from self: to become Godlike is the bringing back of man's first nature. They set forth a living Christ who must be embraced, not merely historically as an article of faith but much more as a principle of life, inasmuch as His highest and full significance lies in the fact that He perpetuates and reproduces Himself anew in man. The lifegiving power is not the letter but the spirit, not the work but the disposition. It requires of man to strive after God in Christ, goodness and virtue, not for the sake of reward or merit, but from the purest love and because these are the highest, noblest and most desirable objects. Surely we must have once more this vital note in our evangelism or we perish!

Evangelism Inside The Church Membership

The other day I received a call from a pastor from whom I had not heard for years. A long time ago the sovereign Lord performed a major operation upon a congregation of which he was pastor and I was the evangelist. Now he is in another state and pastor of another congregation. He said that the people of his congregation needed to be plowed up, busted right down the middle, and brought to an awareness of the gospel of God's glory. He asked that I come to be used, if it should please the Lord, to perform the operation. His call reminded me of a situation that I have to wrestle with each time I go for a "revival meeting. Shall I aim at the condition within the church that prevents it from truly representing Christ or just seek to pull some precious souls from the fire, as if by fire?

Increasingly it is (at least in my limited experience) becoming harder each day to do the latter. Evangelism which seeks to reach men for Christ, who are outside our churches, is essential, but I am persuaded that what is more crucial in our time is evangelism inside the membership of our churches. This seems to be the imperative for our time. Nearly everyone is a member of somebody's church. I am far from being a loner in this regard. There are two questions that are pressing for answer now and pressing more people than at any time in memory. They are, first, are we the church of Jesus Christ that we claim to be? Secondly, are we the ministry of Jesus Christ that we claim to be? We need desperately to ask and answer these questions. I believe that self-criticism lies at the very heart of a biblical ministry and church. It is no cause for satisfaction that at present in this country we are still strong on confidence and weak in self-criticism. We ought to face the fact that the very existence of most churches is under serious attack, not simply whether they shall continue but whether they should continue!

The ability to see any line of distinction between the Christian faith that has its origin in the person of Jesus Christ, and the forms of today's respectable religion that stop short of an unconditional relationship with God in Christ and stop short of an

unconditional commitment to Christ, has largely been lost. One could almost say that church membership is fast becoming the best place to hide from God.

When we turn from the Gospel to the situation today, we are met by the fact that congregations have made decisions for Christ, they believe the Bible, they meet once a week for a period of "worship", and for the hearing of a sermon. Occasionally they call in a visiting preacher and hold a revival meeting, employing techniques and pressure to manipulate other human beings (for their own good, of course) to "decide for Christ." When one plays with this sort of thing, one should know that he is walking on the edge of the pit of hell.

It is still true that membership in the church is meant to be the outer symbol of inner commitment to Jesus Christ. But churches today are loaded with nominal (unreal) members, at peace with the status quo. (That's Latin for the mess we are in). They are nice, quiet, friendly folks who are totally ignorant of the word of God but quite devoted to the traditions of their fathers. They yearn for institutional security, rather than adventures of Christian freedom, come weal or woe. Their preachers have sold their evangelical birthright for a mess of pot-bellied respectability.

Back after all this to my opening remarks. Can we afford to ignore and religiously refuse to open the awful sore of powerless, popular Sunday morning religion? Shall we allow church members to go to hell unwarned or shall we set our faces toward God and cry, "Revive thy work in the midst of the years."

Who Are You Bowing To?

In the New Testament, calling upon Jesus as Lord was and is the same thing as calling upon God as Lord. Now if this be true, and it is true, there are two implications that follow. The first implication... of Christ's Lordship (in which He brooks no rival – in which He is absolutely unique; and this is serious for everyone who hears me now) is that the Lord Jesus Christ demands total, absolute surrender, He demands from men more than admiration, for many think well of Jesus – He demands more than approval – He demands total surrender! Ladies and gentlemen, to be a Christian is first of all to bow the knee to Jesus, to crown Him Lord of all. Friend, He is as well as Counselor, as well as example and guide; yea, before all these, He is absolute Lord. For the Lord God our God, the Almighty, reigns – that is the theme of the Word of God. And it was the theme song of the early church; and it must become the theme song of every one who names the Name of Christ today.

God Will Punish Sin!

Almost everybody in America is a church member, but they don't think that God will punish sin. They sleep well at night, because they don't believe that God will punish sin. They don't let their church membership interfere with their daily living, because they don't believe that God will punish sin. Talk to them about Jesus dying on the cross and they are not interested, because they don't believe that God will punish sin. And, of course, nobody will be interested in whether Christ did anything for him on the cross until he believes that God will punish sin. There is no use to apply a remedy to this generation; this generation does not need its sins forgiven, for they don't think there is any punishment awaiting them. What they need to hear is the first message of that bloody cross of my Lord, **GOD WILL PUNISH SIN!** Every time they nailed those nails into the flesh of the Son of God, every stroke of the hammer was saying, "God will punish sin," "God will punish sin," "God will punish sin."

The Kind Of Preaching That Will Bring Revival

In general it may be said that every revival to date has been marked by the preaching of God's Sovereign Grace in Christ! Paul preached after this fashion and planted churches everywhere. Augustine came near to saving the Roman Church for the truth by such preaching. Calvin drove a wide wedge in Europe and the world with such preaching, and Spurgeon stood England on its head for two generations with the preaching of the Sovereign Grace of God.

This kind of preaching breaks up the fallow ground before sowing the seed of the gospel. Most preachers today ignore the condition of the ground and hasten to apply a mixture of law and grace, mercy and works, to ground that cannot bear fruit.

The urgent need is for preaching that will break up the ground and prepare the way for the preaching of the gospel. But I warn you, beware should you try this, my preacher brother. Truths that God uses to produce revival are truths least acceptable to the flesh. It is just here that the preacher must make his choice. Shall it be preaching that pleases the flesh or preaching that glorifies God? It cannot be both!

I mention four things in particular that must be preached if we are to have revival in our generation!

(1) The Character of God.

What kind of God is the God whom men shall meet at the judgment and with whom they have to do now? This generation does not know. For the most part it has not heard preaching on the character of God! God is holy! Men do not believe this today. Do we who preach believe God is holy?

We must preach the holiness of God until some spue out their hatred of such a Holy God and others flee for refuge to His Holy Son. God's Law was and is holy, just, and good. He did not make a mistake when He gave His law, nor has He ever apologized for it. It is still the expression of His holy character. God delights to show mercy, but He will save no one apart from the absolute

satisfaction and vindication of His law and justice. He cannot be bribed nor coaxed. It is redemption through Christ who obeyed the perfect law and endured the righteous judgment of a Holy God for believers, or it is to experience the punishment of that God.

(2) God is Sovereign.

He reigns in grace. He blesses those in Christ and damns all outside of Christ. He raises up vessels of mercy and vessels of wrath. He shows mercy on whom He will, and whom He will He hardeneth (Rom. 9:18). He loves Jacob and hates Esau (Rom. 9:13). He saved Israel and hardened the heart of Pharaoh (Exo. 7:13). He gives salvation to whom He will (John 5:21). He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1: 11).

This generation of church goers has yet to hear for the most part the truths that are basic in God's way of grace. Depravity, election, predestination, salvation as a free-gift (not a timid offer), and the effectual sacrifice of Christ has not been preached. As a result, sinners have a mighty poor conception of God and a mighty high opinion of themselves. To the average person God is a person or a principle who is trying to catch them and is failing. To them God is one to whom they propose someday to give some attention. How the truth of God's absolute sovereignty would strike fear in their hearts if preached today!

(3) The True Condition of Men.

This generation does not know the truth about itself. Consider the condition of man morally and spiritually. He is not as God made him! He is a fallen creature, morally depraved. He is dead spiritually and hates the Living, Holy, and just God. Original sin is explained away, if dealt with at all; yet it is basic! The fact of man's enmity of God is not flattering to so-called enlightened men, so we soft-pedal its preaching. Man's helpless condition as spiritually dead is denied by many, debated by some, and preached by few. A man can improve his moral condition somewhat, but a dead sinner cannot

give himself life! Christ did not die that men might not die, but that dead men might live! We must shut men up to God's intervention and mercy. We must strip sinners of their high estimation of themselves and of all hope in themselves if we would see revival.

(4) The Destiny of Men.

We must preach Christ Jesus as the only Redeemer – just and justifier! To be in Christ is to be eternally saved. To be out of Christ is to be as certain for Hell as God is true. Not a hell of reformation, but of retribution and punishment. God will punish sin! Preachers who dare to shut men up to the mercy of God in Christ and who dare to leave the rest to bear their sins in Hell are the need of the hour!

Two Things About Baptism

There are two things about Christian baptism that are very important today. The first thing is this: the Gospel is that Christ died for sinners and that upon savingly believing in Him, they become identified with Him in all that He is, and all that He did, and all that He ever shall do. The act of baptism is simply a picture of the baptism of the Spirit by which we are made a part of His very flesh, His bone and His body, and where we absolutely become one in the sight of God with the Lord Jesus Christ. So far as I am able to find out by study, the New Testament recognizes only one way for a person to publicly profess that he has been joined to and identified with the Lord Jesus Christ, and that is by baptism. Men cannot see your faith but men can see your baptism.

Still True Today

One encouraging sign of the times in our day is that SOME are beginning to examine modern evangelism. Burdened, weary of trying to pastor and motivate unsaved church members, preachers are ALMOST at the place of resorting to the Bible message and method of evangelism and missions. It may be that the time is not far off when many books will be shelved and "The Book of Books" will be preached again, when preachers will quit trying to fill the pews and begin to FILL THE PULPIT, when pastors will cease to be men pleasers searching for a better place and become prophets of God seeking His face! If this happens, lawless rebels will no longer talk of patronizing the Son of God, debate whether or not they will let Him in their hearts to save them, accept Jesus as their saviour while they bow to the idols of materialism. But we will hear cries from smitten hearts which were heard in days gone by—"Men and brethren, what shall we do?" "Lord, if You will, You can make me clean." "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

One of the championship football teams of the past had a coach who would come into the locker room at half-time, when the team was down by two touchdowns, and say (if you will pardon the expression), "Alright, men, it's gut-sucking time." Every preacher knows what that means! It's time to quit counting the cost and start paying the price! It's time to quit building the kingdom and start tearing up some false foundations! It's time to quit getting everybody saved and start getting somebody lost!