

The Believer's
Daily Remembrancer

By

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VOLUME TWO

Note: This devotional can be accessed at: www.lifebpc.com/devotions

PREFACE

The present humble work is a pastoral effort, flowing from love to the Lord's people, and a desire to honor His great name. It is an acknowledged fact, that many of the Lord's people are living far below their privileges; and are walking as men, not aiming singly at the Lord's glory. This is to be regretted; and while none but the Lord the Holy Spirit can produce the change we desire to witness, yet the means are to be used, and we must stir up their pure minds by way of remembrance. In this little work, I aim to speak in the closet, in the cottage, in the kitchen, and even in the field, to the different classes of the Lord's family; endeavoring to draw them nearer to their God and gracious Father. My desire is to promote the power of GODLINESS; and these little pieces are written to convince, comfort, and correct; to fan the flame of devotion, and to produce holiness of heart and life. To this end some degree of sameness in the pieces, and a repetition of some important truths, appeared absolutely necessary. Habitual dependence upon God for all we need, acknowledging the hand of God in all we receive, and walking with God, notwithstanding all that may happen to us below, enter into the very vitals of genuine Christianity; and it is only while we are thus acting that we enjoy peace with God, and walk in the comforts of the Holy Ghost. That the Lord, who often uses weak things to confound the mighty, may bless this little work to thy good and His glory,

Is the prayer of,

Dear Reader,

Yours in the Lord Jesus

JAMES SMITH.

THEN David was one of the Lord's sheep. All His sheep know Him, love Him, and follow Him. They possess His disposition; He was meek, and lowly in heart. Are you a sheep of Christ? Are you looking to, following of, and rejoicing in your Shepherd? If so, it is His province to lead you, feed you, protect you, and heal you. Your person, life, health, comforts, and safety, are committed to His care. He is the good Shepherd, He laid down His life for His sheep; He searches and seeks out His sheep wherever they have been scattered; He feeds His flock; He gathereth the lambs with His arm, and carrieth them in His bosom. He loved His sheep more than His own life; He cares for His sheep more than for all the world beside. He feeds them in the most suitable pasture, and leads them in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Oh, view Jesus as your Shepherd! Expect Him to lead you, feed you, fold you, and present you to His Father with exceeding joy. Cleave to Him; let nothing tempt you to leave His feet, His flock, or His fold. He will never leave you, nor forsake you.

*The LORD is
my shepherd;
I shall not want.*

Psalm 23:1

*Jehovah is my Shepherd's name,
Then what have I, though weak, to fear?
My sin and folly I proclaim,
If I despond, while He is near:
In every danger He is nigh,
And will my every want supply.*

*The LORD is my
shepherd; I shall
not want.*

Psalm 23:1

THIS was David's conclusion, from the belief that the Lord was his Shepherd. If we are the sheep of Christ, He will supply us. He has all things in His possession, the silver and the gold are His, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. His private mark is upon all. All spiritual blessings are in His possession also; and He has a kind, tender, and liberal heart. He will give. He has engaged to supply, conduct, protect, and present His flock upon Mount Zion. He has promised to be to us, do for us, and bestow upon us, all that our

circumstances require. His conduct towards His flock in old times is a sufficient guarantee. When ever were the righteous forsaken, or His sheep left neglected and unheeded? Did David ever want? Few passed through greater changes, or severer trials; yet upon his dying bed he tells us, he had all his desire. If you belong to Christ, you may safely conclude, "I SHALL NOT WANT" Your fears are follies; your anxieties are groundless; your forebodings are sinful; you have a God to provide for you, and you ought to rejoice. "My God," says the Apostle, "shall supply all your needs, according to His glorious riches."

What want shall not our God supply

From His redundant stores?

What streams of mercy from on high

An arm almighty pours!

THIS implies DANGER—the Christian may be in danger from sin, self, foes. FEAR—his fears may be groundless, but they are often very painful. INABILITY—to defend himself or overcome his opposers. FORESIGHT—he sees the storm in the distance, and looks out for the covert. PRUDNECE—he hides before the storm, ere the enemy comes upon him. A laudable CONCERN for safety and comfort. The believer, if wise, will at all times flee to Jehovah. Jacob flies to Laban; the manslayer to the refuge; the bird to his mountain; and the Christian to his God. Asa may seek to physicians; Ephraim to King Jareb; and Saul to the witch: but the believer looks to his God. The Lord receives, befriends, and secures. Let us flee to Him by prayer, in faith, with hope, for salvation; and He will receive us, shelter us, and be our refuge and strength. Flee from sin, from self, from the world; but flee to Jesus. His heart is ever toward us, His ear is open to us, and His hand is ready to help, protect, and deliver us. His throne is our asylum, His promise our comfort, and His omnipotence our guard.

*Deliver me, O
LORD, from mine
enemies: I flee
unto thee to hide
me.*

Psalm 132:9

*Happy soul, that, free from harms,
Rests within his Shepherd's arms!
Who his quiet shall molest?
Who shall violate his rest?
He who found the wandering sheep,
Loves, and still delights to keep.*

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*But he saith
unto them,
It is I;
be not afraid.*

John 6:20

THE fears of the Christian are a dishonour to his Lord, a denial of his creed, and a fruitful source of distress to his own soul. All things are of God, He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will, and in every event He says to us, "IT IS I; BE NOT AFRAID." If friends turn to foes and distress us, if death enters our dwellings and bereaves us, if sickness lays us aside and fills us with pain, He says, "It is I; be not afraid." If losses, crosses, and sore trials come upon us, and discourage, distress, and perplex us, He says, "It is I; be not afraid." If death approaches, and calls upon us to leave the body and close our eyes upon our beloved relations, friends, and connections, He says, "It is I; be not afraid." Should we hear the pillars of heaven crack, and feel the strong foundation of the earth give way; should the heavens be rolled up like a scroll, and the great white throne appear; still, amidst the wreck of matter and the crush of worlds, He cries, "Be not afraid; it is I." Happy Christian! thy fears are groundless and thy brightest hopes well founded.

*O that I might so believe,
Steadfastly to Jesus cleave;
Only on His love rely,
Smile at the destroyer nigh:
Free from care and servile fear,
Feel the Saviour always near.*

NEVER forget that the Lord is our righteousness and strength. We are not sufficient to think rightly of ourselves, but through Him we can do all things. Never attempt anything without looking to Jesus for power. Let a knowledge and constant sense of weakness keep you near to Him; sensibly depending on Him; and ascribing all good unto Him. You cannot, He can. You have destroyed yourself, in Him is your help found. It is only by union to Him, and receiving from Him, that you can glorify God, adorn your profession, enjoy your privileges, and obey the holy precepts of the gospel. Never presume, but come up out of the wilderness, leaning on Him, your beloved. Live as one deeply sensible of your dependence upon, and obligation to, the Lord Jesus. He is the strength of the poor, the strength of the needy in his distress, and your strength too. Beloved, Jesus is your life-giving Head, the Fountain from which you are to draw all your supplies, and the Friend to whom you are to carry all your cares. He will work in you to will and to do of His own good pleasure.

*I am the vine, ye
are the branches:
He that abideth in
me, and I in him,
the same bringeth
forth much fruit:
for without me ye
can do nothing.*

John 15:5

*Jesus, immutably the same!
Thou true and living vine!
Around Thy all-supporting stem
My feeble arms I twine;
Thou art my strength, my life, my hope,
Nor can I sink with such a prop.*

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April

*Saying with a loud
voice, Worthy is
the Lamb that was
slain to receive
power, and riches,
and wisdom, and
strength, and
honour, and glory,
and blessing.*

Revelation 5:12

THIS is an ascription of praise to Jesus, thy Jesus, as the sacrifice for sin, the atonement of the Church, the Saviour of His body. Jesus who died for thy sins is worthy to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. We never can ascribe too much to Jesus. But He is worthy also to be BELIEVED, in preference to Satan, unbelief, the world, or appearances; to be TRUSTED with all, for all, before all; to be LOVED, more than any other, in opposition to any other that would

rival Him; to be OBEYED, though He commands us to cut off a right hand, or pluck out a right eye; to be FOLLOWED, wherever He may lead us, through evil report and good report; to be PREFERRED, to ease, pleasure, wealth, health, to anything and everything. Jesus is worthy to be our Example, our Confidant, our King, and our All. He is worthy of all He requires, all we can give, all His people have done for Him, or suffered in His cause. Believe His word, trust His grace, love His name, obey His commands, and prefer Him before all others. Make it your daily business to endeavour to bring sinners to His feet. He is worthy of every effort you can make.

*Jesus is worthy to receive
Honour and power divine;
And blessings more than we can give,
Be, Lord, forever Thine.*

THE things of time are transient, the things of eternity are permanent. The world passeth away. The body must die; earthly connections must be dissolved; but the soul must live forever. The welfare of the soul is the one thing needful. If the soul is in a sanctified and healthy state, it will be found at the feet of Jesus; it will relish His words; and enjoy His communications more than the riches feast. We shall be seeking to know Him, love Him, believe Him, obey Him, and enjoy Him. Fellowship with Jesus is needful as an evidence of interest in Him, and as a source of satisfaction and comfort. He that finds a home at the feet of Jesus, will enjoy an eternal heaven in the presence of Jesus. Let not then the *many* trifles of time affect, distract, and bewilder you; but let the *one thing needful* be the constant object of pursuit and desire. Live at the feet of Jesus, and you are safe. Seek above all things to enjoy Jesus, and you will be happy. Aim in all things to glorify Jesus, and you will be holy. Look daily for the coming of Jesus, and you will be consistent. O Jesus! manifest Thyself to me; draw me to Thy feet, and keep me there!

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:42

*Engage this roving, treacherous heart
To fix on Mary's better part;
To scorn the trifles of a day,
For joys that none can take away.*

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April

*The LORD thy God
in the midst of thee
is mighty; he will
save, he will rejoice
over thee with joy;
he will rest in his
love, he will joy
over thee with
singing.*

Zephaniah 3:17

WHOM?—the lost, the wretched, the unworthy. Every applicant, for “whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” “Him that cometh to Me I will in NO WISE cast out.” How?—freely, without money and without price; fully, by His blood, power, and providence; eternally, all who flee to Him for refuge, all who build on Him for pardon, peace, and life, shall be saved with an everlasting salvation, they shall not be ashamed nor confounded, world without end. **WHY?**—because it is His Father’s will;

because He delighteth in mercy; because it will eternally glorify His name. **FROM WHAT?**—from sin, in its guilt, filth, and power; from the present evil world; from Satan; from the wrath of God; from every evil work; and from all the evil designs of men. He has saved us, by receiving grace for us and dying in our stead. He does save us, by His presence, word, providence, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost.—He will save in every trouble, from every foe, even unto the end. Look to Him then, and to Him alone, to deliver, direct, relieve, and preserve. He says, “Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else.”

*Dear dying Lamb! thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power,
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved, to sin no more..*

THE believer is as his faith is. If faith is weak, he is fearful, fretful, and troubled; if faith is strong and rightly placed, he is courageous, active, and happy. Faith comes from Jesus, He is its author; it leads to Jesus, He is its object. Faith is like a grain of mustard-seed, it grows and increases; but Jesus alone can increase our faith. Let us apply to Him this morning, and let this be our prayer, "LORD, INCREASE MY FAITH." Strong faith will believe without feeling, yea, against feelings or appearances. It will trust God where it cannot trace Him; it assures the soul that what He has promised He is able to perform, and will assuredly do so. Great faith will have great trials; for God never gives faith without trying it; and the heat of the furnace is in proportion to the strength of our faith. Little faith lays hold on Christ, and brings salvation: strong faith receives much and often from Christ, and brings great consolation. Go to Jesus with the faith thou hast, and plead with Him for the faith He requires. He gives freely to every importunate pleader; and He will assuredly give to thee.

*And the apostles
said unto the Lord,
Increase our faith.*

Luke 17:5

*O Jesus, now Thyself impart
And fix Thy presence in my heart,
Give strong and living faith!
Then will I throw off every load,
And walk delightfully with God,
Observing all He saith.*

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*He shall glorify
me: for he shall
receive of mine,
and shall shew it
unto you.*

John 16:14

IF Jesus is to be glorified, our pride must be mortified, and our spirits humbled. It is the Spirit's office and work to glorify Jesus; this He does, by discovering to us our wretched and ruined state, and leading us to Him to crave salvation as a favour at His hands. By daily emptying us and leading us to Him for all we need. By giving us to see, that all God has created cannot satisfy an immortal spirit for one moment of time, but that there is enough in Jesus to satisfy it throughout eternity. Jesus is glorified

when we mourn over sin, and wash in the fountain of His blood; when we renounce our own doings and feelings, and desire to be found in His righteousness alone; when we refuse to look to any other quarter for help, relief, or comfort, but to Him; when His dear name fills all our songs; and when we long to have a crown to cast at His feet, and a harp that will worthily sound forth His praise. "He shall glorify Me." This decrees the death of pride, self, and creature excellence. Beloved, whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all to the glory of Jesus. He is the Lord of all.

*Lord, draw my heart from earth away
And make it only know Thy call;
Speak to my inmost soul, and say,
"I am thy Saviour, God, thine All!"
Oh, dwell in me, and fill my soul,
And all my powers by Thine control.*

EXCELLENT example! Let us imitate Rebekah, for God commands us to do so. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy steps. Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. Are you in trouble? Go, and inquire of the Lord—What is the cause? Unite with holy Job in praying, “Show me wherefore Thou contendest with me.” Are you in perplexity? Go, and inquire—What is the design? He will instruct thee and teach thee in the way thou shouldest go, He will guide thee with His eye.

Go in an inquiring spirit. Go persuaded, whatever thy circumstances or trials may be, that as a believer in Jesus, wrath and curse can have nothing to do with thee; they were exhausted when Jesus died in thy stead. Be assured that whatever comes from God is a blessing, a benefit, a favour, a proof of love; however painful, perplexing, or distressing it may be. Do not reason, but believe in the promise of thy God; do not despond, grieve, or complain; but go, and INQUIRE OF THE LORD; at His throne, of His word. He says, “I will be inquired of.”

*And the children
struggled together
within her; and
she said, If it be
so, why am I thus?
And she went to
enquire of the
LORD.*

Genesis 25:22

*Prayer was appointed to convey
The blessings God designs to give;
Long as they live should Christians pray,
For only while they pray they live.*

*If we believe not,
yet he abideth
faithful: he
cannot deny
himself.*

2 Timothy 2:13

GOD has opened His heart to us in His word. He has told us all His mind. He intends every word He has spoken, and will fulfill every promise He has made. He cannot deny Himself or falsify His word; He can have no temptation to do so. Man may be fickle, He is but a bruised reed; Jehovah is always the same, He is the Rock of Ages. He will have compassion on the miserable, who seek His face; and show mercy to all who plead with Him in Jesus' name. He cannot cast out a coming sinner, or refuse to receive a confessing

backslider. He cannot turn a deaf ear to our cries, or refuse to deliver us when we call on His name. He will take His own time, but will never dishonour His faithful word. He will be rigidly faithful, both to His threatenings and promises. Let us take courage and trust in Him; we have His word, it is true from the beginning; we have this assurance, that HE CANNOT DENY HIMSELF. Let us then stay ourselves on the word of our God; let us trust Him though the night be dark and the burden be heavy. He exhorts, "Trust ye in JEHOVAH forever, for in JAH, JEHOVAH. there is everlasting strength."

*God is love, and will not leave you,
When you most His kindness need ;
God is true—nor can deceive you,—
Though your faith be weak indeed,*

CONSIDER what Jesus has done for you, promised to you, and is gone to prepare for you. Consider what He is to you, your loving Bridegroom, faithful Friend, and gracious Saviour. What troubles you? Is it sin?—He will pardon, subdue, and destroy it. The world?—He has overcome it, redeemed you from it, and is leading you through it. Satan?—he is conquered, condemned, and will soon be imprisoned. The cares and troubles of life?—Jesus says, “Bring them to Me by prayer, cast them on Me in faith, leave them with Me; I know what you want, I have provided of My goodness, I will supply all your needs; your bread shall be given you, and your water shall be sure. I will make a way in the wilderness of trouble, and a path in the desert of perplexity. Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in Me. Try Me. Trust Me. In all your ways acknowledge Me, and I will direct your paths. I have wisdom, power, and love; and all that I have is yours; to be employed for your good.” Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass.

And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

Luke 24:38

*Yield to the Lord, with simple heart,
All that thou hast, and all thou art;
Renounce all strength, but strength divine,
And peace shall be for ever thine :
Behold the path the saints have trod,
The path which led them home to God..*

*And ye are
complete in him,
which is the head
of all principality
and power:*

Colossians 2:10

LOOK not too much at thyself, there is nothing but vanity, weakness, sin, and misery there; but thy God hath united thee to His beloved Son. Jesus is one with thee, and all that He has is thine. Thou art unholy, but He is made unto thee sanctification; and He will sanctify thee wholly, body, soul, and spirit. Thou art foolish, but He is made unto thee wisdom; and He will make thee wise unto salvation. Thou art weak, but He is thy strength; and thou canst do all things through His strengthening thee. Thou art unrighteous, but He is made unto thee righteousness; and thou art not only righteous, but the righteousness of God in Him. Thou art lost, but He is made unto thee redemption; He has redeemed thee from the curse of God, and from the present evil world, and He will redeem thee from death. In thyself thou art not only incomplete, but wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked; but in Jesus thou art holy, wise, strong, righteous, rich, happy; in a word, COMPLETE. View thyself, then, at least occasionally, as COMPLETE IN CHRIST, who is the head of all principality and power.

*Still onward urge your heavenly way,
Dependant on Him day by day,
His presence still entreat;
His precious name forever bless,
Your glory, strength, and righteousness,
In Him you are complete.*

WE are apt to be much affected by earthly things, but our affections should be permanently fixed on things above. Let us lift up our eyes and hearts to heaven this morning; there are the proper objects of our love, desire, and esteem. There is Jehovah our heavenly Father, dwelling in unapproachable light. There is Jesus, our dear and adorable Saviour, exalted, dignified and glorified at the right-hand of the Father. There is the Holy Spirit, our divine, gracious and condescending Comforter. There the love, favour, and presence of God are fully enjoyed.

There peace, rest, and happiness are eternally realized. There is the crown of righteousness, the throne of glory, and the rivers of pleasure, which our God has promised, and set before us. There are our brethren who have gone home before us, and there our affections should be. What is earth? Whatever it is we are leaving it. What is time? We shall soon have done with it. Oh, let us then SET OUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE, AND NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH.

*Set your affection
on things above,
not on things on
the earth.*

Colossians 3:2

*Why should my heart descend so low,
To brood on earth—a world of woe?
While heaven, where endless pleasures roll,
Waits to entrance my new-born soul.
Saviour! let thine attractions be
But felt in all their force by me
Then shall I mount on wings of love,
And feast my soul on things above.*

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April

*He will turn
again, he will have
compassion upon
us; he will subdue
our iniquities; and
thou wilt cast all
their sins into the
depths of the sea.*

Micah 7:19

SIN must not only be pardoned, but corruption must be subdued; the one is freely promised as well as the other. The grace of God pardons, the power of God subdues; but grace and power always go together in the salvation of a sinner. Pardon comes first, and sanctification follows. Light shining upon the understanding, discovers corruption working in the soul; holiness seated in the heart, produces hatred and opposition to it; prayer ascends to God for deliverance from it, and power descends and subdues it. But like fire apparently quenched, it

will break out again and again; like rebels in a state, it will seize every opportunity of disturbing the peace and happiness of the soul. Hear, then, what the Lord says to you this morning, "I WILL SUBDUER YOUR INIQUITIES." Carry your complaint to His throne, plead His faithful word, and expect His promised power to subdue your iniquities. Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law, but under grace. Grace reigns, and will conquer every rival lust.

*Jesus, thy boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to Thee,
And reign without a rival there.
O grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell, but thy pure love alone:
O may thy love possess me whole,
My joy, my treasure, and my crown..*

WHATEVER Jesus did was for His people. He is gone into heaven as our forerunner; as the PIONEER goes before the army to remove obstacles, clear the road, and render the march more easy, so did Jesus go before us. As an interested and kind FRIEND, He shows the practicability of the way; as a wise GUIDE, He marks out the road for us; as our EXAMPLE, He is gone before, and says to us, "FOLLOW ME." We have now an ADVOCATE with the Father, a HUSBAND preparing our mansions, a SAVIOUR waiting to receive us. We have one in heaven to whom in our addresses to His throne we can say, "Lord, Thou knowest from Thy own experience what I feel in my present situation, for Thou wast once tried in all points like as I am." We have one in heaven who will welcome us home, and who when He sees us enter will be glad in His heart. We know Him below, and we shall know, and enjoy, and love Him forever above. He is gone into heaven FOR US, nor shall we know until we arrive there, how much we are indebted to His intercession and pleading above. O my soul, look at Jesus as thy Forerunner, and follow in His steps!

*Whither the
forerunner is for
us entered, even
Jesus, made an
high priest for
ever after
the order of
Melchisedec.*

Hebrews 6:20

*Before His heavenly Father's face,
For every saint He intercedes:
For mercy and abounding grace,
There Jesus, our Forerunner, pleads.*

*Not that we are
sufficient of
ourselves to think
any thing as of
ourselves; but our
sufficiency is of
God;*

2 Corinthians 3:5

LET us think of this, whenever we are cast down on account of our weakness, or the difficulties we meet with in our way. We are weak, but Jesus is strong; and His strength is made perfect in our weakness. He has given us His word, that He will work in us to will and to do of His own good pleasure. He speaks, and it is done. The word of the Lord knows no obstacles or difficulties; all things must obey Him. When He sent Moses to Pharaoh, He said, "Certainly I will be with thee:" and the Lord's presence was his strength. He acts just so with

us; His fullness is our sufficiency; it is opened to us in Jesus, and we receive from it according to our wants, weakness, and faith. "Through God," said David, "I shall do valiantly." "I can do all things," said Paul, "through Christ which strengtheneth me." Look not then at your own emptiness, or weakness; but look at what God is to His people, and what He has promised to give them, and sing, "OUR SUFFICIENCY IS OF GOD." "God is our refuge and strength; and as our days so shall our strength be." "His grace is sufficient for us; His strength is made perfect in weakness."

*When we cannot see our way,
We should trust, and still obey;
He who bids us forward go
Will instruct the way to know.*

WHAT poor, dull, lifeless creatures we often feel ourselves to be; and how needful is this prayer. It is our duty to RUN in the way of God's commandments; it is our misery that through sin, weakness, and temptation, we scarcely creep. We are dependent upon the Spirit for quickening. He only can strengthen, animate and enliven us. Let us sow unto the Spirit this morning. He is gracious, and a grace-giving Spirit. He delights to exalt and honour Jesus. Let us therefore beseech Him in Jesus' name, for His sake, that we may bring honour unto His cause, to quicken our souls. Let us pray to Him to bring us near to God; for the nearer to God the happier, and holier, and livelier, we shall be. Let us ask Him to shed abroad the love of Jesus in our hearts; for the love of Christ will make us live well, bear the cross well, perform duties well, and die well. The command furnishes us with a rule, and the promise finds us strength; but it is only the Spirit that can put us in possession of the latter, and without that we cannot attend to the former, in a gospel spirit. The presence of Jesus, and the communications of His grace, are daily necessary to keep us lively, devoted, and working for God.

*Turn away
mine eyes from
beholding vanity;
and quicken thou
me in thy way.*

Psalms 119:37

*I need the influence of Thy grace
To speed me in Thy way,
Lest I should loiter in my race,
Or turn my feet astray.*

*Stand fast
therefore in the
liberty wherewith
Christ hath made
us free, and be
not entangled
again with the
yoke of bondage.*

Galatians 5:1

WE were once the slaves of sin, Satan, and the world; we were under the law as a covenant of life; but Jesus has made us free. We are now delivered from the law, and are under grace. We are dead to sin, and are justified from it. We are delivered from Satan, and are at war with him. We overcome the world, and are hastening out of it. We are at liberty to serve God, and walk with Him in friendship and holy love. The price of our freedom was the life and death of Jesus; the efficient cause of our freedom was the

power and operation of the Holy Spirit; the grand moving cause, was the infinite and everlasting love of God our Father; the instrument by which we are made acquainted with our freedom, is the holy gospel; the grace which puts us in possession of our freedom is faith; and the end of our freedom is, that we may serve our God in righteousness and holiness all the days of our life, and then be glorified with Him forever. We are freed from sin, that we may be holy; and are introduced to and accepted of God, that we may be happy. Let us stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.

*Sweet is the freedom Christ bestows,
With which He makes His people free;
A liberty no mortal knows,
Till they His great salvation see:
Freedom from wants, and fears, and cares,
From worldly lusts, and dangerous snares.*

PRIDE is one of our greatest evils; to indulge it is to nourish a serpent in the bosom. The grace of God always humbles us; and it is only as we are humble that we can be happy. God condescends to walk with the humble man, but He keeps the proud at a distance. Consider what you were by nature, what now lurks in your heart, what you would have been but for the grace of God, and be humble. All you have is the gift of free grace; all you do that is good, is the effect of God's working in you. What have you to be proud of? What reason to boast?

Oh, lie low in the dust of self-abasement; cherish humbling thoughts of yourself; admire the mercy, condescension, and infinite compassion of God, in noticing so vile, so unworthy a worm! Study the character and conduct of the humble Jesus, learn of Him, and endeavour to walk as He also walked. Serve the Lord in all humility of mind. But beware of spurious humility; that is not humility which rests contented without seeking for the utmost God has promised, or aiming at the highest duties God has commanded.

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Micah 6:8

*By faith in Christ I walk with God,
With heaven, my journey's end, in view;
Supported by His staff and rod,
My road is safe and pleasant too:
Though earth and hell my course withstand,
JEHOVAH guards me by His hand.*

*And thou saidst,
I will surely do
thee good, and
make thy seed as
the sand of the
sea, which cannot
be numbered for
multitude.*

Genesis 32:12

THOUGH this promise was given to Jacob, it was not confined to him, but is intended for all his spiritual seed. It is thus God speaks to us this morning. How gracious! We know not what a day may bring forth, but we know our God, who superintends every event, will do us good. We may mistake as to what will be for our good, but He is infinite in wisdom and goodness, and therefore cannot. We may look at afflictions, losses, and crosses, and cry out, "All these things are against me!" But read the

history of David, what a train of troubles attended him: hear his acknowledgement: "It is GOOD for me that I have been afflicted." Thy God will do thee good, therefore He will try thee, sift thee, humble thee, and prove thee. He will give thee medicine as well as food. He will consider nothing too expensive, or too painful, if necessary for thy soul's welfare. Look at your trials, and say, "This also shall turn to my salvation." Look on the past, and acknowledge, "Goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life." Look to the future, and rejoice, "The Lord will give that which is GOOD." Look in every direction, and say, "I will trust and not be afraid."

*I cannot doubt His bounteous love,
So full, so free, so kind;
To His unerring, gracious will
Be every wish resigned.*

YOU have His word, believe it; plead it; expect the fulfilment of it. He cannot deceive you. His ear is open to you. Try Him. What do you want? Why do you want it? If you really need, if your motives are good, plead with God for it; expect Him to bestow it; and receive it as coming from Him. In every trial, for all you need, have faith in God. He will be gracious unto you. He is ever with you. He is ready to help you. He rejoices over you to do you good. His word is true from the beginning. He is the faithful God. He keepeth covenant and mercy. Believe in God for all your circumstances require. Patiently wait His time for your supplies. Never give over praying or expecting because He delays: never doubt Him, but trust in Him with all thy heart. He is a God: He is thy God; He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. This is thy direction—thy duty—thy privilege: HAVE FAITH IN GOD. Walk with God. Talk with God. Expect from God. Use all for God. Be entirely devoted to God. “Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.” “Therefore will I look unto the Lord.”

*And Jesus
answering saith
unto them, Have
faith in God.*

Mark 11:22

*Begone, unbelief! my Saviour is near,
And for my relief will surely appear:
By prayer let me wrestle that He will perform;
With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm.*

*And Jesus said
unto them, I am
the bread of life:
he that cometh
to me shall never
hunger; and he
that believeth on
me shall never
thirst.*

John 6:35

JESUS proposeth Himself to be our daily sustenance;—we need bread for the soul as well as the body. In Jesus is all we need to refresh, strengthen, and satisfy us; but He must be received by faith. He must be daily received. Feeding upon Jesus yesterday will not do for today. We must go to Him afresh this morning. He presents Himself; He says, “Eat, O friends; yea, satisfy yourselves, O my beloved.” If the Holy Spirit has given us a spiritual appetite, if we are hungering after righteousness, Jesus, and Jesus only

will satisfy us; and we are heartily welcome to live upon Him. Let us set Him before us many times in the day; let us endeavour to feed upon Him; and if we feel weak, faint, or weary, let us make use of this life-giving bread; and let us ever retain the sweet assurance, that if we feed on Jesus we shall live by Him, and have eternal life. Beloved, if you can make a living of anything but Jesus; or if Jesus is not enough in your estimation, you are either in a carnal, or an unhealthy state of soul. Jesus only is THE BREAD OF LIFE, THE BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN.

*Jesus, Thou art the living bread
By which our needy souls are fed,
In Thee alone thy children find
Enough to fill the empty mind;
Oh, let me evermore be fed
With this divine, celestial bread!*

THERE is a wide difference between a Christian and a worldling; the one is dead in trespasses and sins, the other is alive unto God, by Jesus Christ our Lord. He has been quickened by the Son of God, is born of the Spirit, and taught by the eternal Father. He is a new creature, being created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God had before ordained that we should walk in them. Who made this difference? You are at once ready to answer, if really taught of God, "By the grace of God I am what I am." "Of HIS OWN WILL begat He me by the word of truth." Yes, it was the rich, free, and sovereign grace of God, and that alone, that made you to differ. Grace was given you in Christ before the world began; and the Spirit was given you in time, that you might know and enjoy the things which are freely given unto you of God. Oh, beloved, view yourself as an infinite debtor to grace; be humble before God who has thus made you to differ; and pity, pray for, and strive to benefit those who are still without. "Look unto the rock whence you were hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence you were digged."

For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

1 Corinthians 4:7

*What was there in you that could merit esteem,
Or give the Creator delight?
'Twas "Even so, Father," you ever must sing,
"Because it seem'd good in Thy sight!"*

*Then came Jesus
forth, wearing the
crown of thorns,
and the purple
robe. And Pilate
saith unto them,
Behold the man!*

John 19:5

JESUS is presented before thee crowned with thorns, scourged, with His face so marred more than any man's. His blood is flowing, His heart is breaking, and He is a Man of sorrows. Behold Him, then, for in this man, under these circumstances, dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. In Him the love of God centered and shone forth. He is the only foundation of His church's hopes, the only source of eternal salvation. He is Jehovah's first born, His only-

begotten Son, the express image of His person. He is thy Substitute, Surety, and Redeemer. He is the holy, harmless, and undefiled Lamb of God; taking away the sin of the world. Behold Him, for He here discloses the depth of His love; and teaches thee patience, meekness, and resignation under insult, suffering, and disgrace. Oh, behold Jesus, and be ashamed of complaining, of repining, or indulging any revengeful feelings. Behold and imitate! Behold, and love! Behold, and adore!

Wounded head! back ploughed with furrows!

Visage marr'd! behold the Man!

Eyes how dim, how full of sorrows!

Sunk with grief, behold the Man!

Lamb of God, led to the slaughter!

Melted, poured out like water:

Should not love my heart inflame,

Viewing Thee, Thou slaughter'd Lamb!

THE Lord's people are often low and desponding; they do not live up to their privileges; the things of time make too deep an impression, because they do not sufficiently realize eternal things. But Jehovah is their COMFORTER; as such He presents Himself unto us this morning. He is the God of all comfort. He comforteth those who are cast down. To Him alone we must look for comfort. Looking to creatures for what God promises, dishonours Him; and at such times the creature may well ask, "AM I IN GOD'S STEAD?" Our God comforts us by His Son, whom He hath given to us; by the Spirit, which He pours out upon us; by His word, in which He speaks to us: by His ordinances, in which He meets with us; and by His providence, when He appears for us. Let us look unto God as the Author and giver of all comfort, let us plead with Him to comfort us according to His word, and let us be suspicious of all comfort which does not come from Him, and lead to Him. He must be the centre to which we always tend, and the circumference within which we move.

I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

Isaiah 51:12

*Jesus, all our consolations
Flow from Thee, the sovereign good;
Love, and faith, and hope, and patience,
All are purchased by Thy blood;
Now Thy riches grace impart,
Sanctify and fill my heart.*

*I am become a fool
in glorying; ye have
compelled me: for I
ought to have been
commended of you:
for in nothing am
I behind the very
chiefest apostles,
though I be nothing.*

2 Corinthians 12:11

THIS was Paul's estimate of himself; less than the least of all saints, and the chief of sinners. The more we know of ourselves and of Jesus, the more shall we be humbled in the dust before God; and the lower we lie before God, the happier and holier we shall be. Man will, **MUST** be something; this is his pride and his misery: the Christian is willing to be nothing, that Christ may be all in all. If we daily felt that we are nothing, how many mortifications we should be spared; what admiring views of

the grace of God would fill and sanctify our souls. Apart from Christ we are less than nothing, but in Christ we are something. We are empty, but He fills us; naked, but He clothes us; helpless, but He strengthens us; lost, but He finds us; ruined, but He saves us; poor but He supplies us. All we are, is by Christ; all we have, is from Christ; all we shall be, is through Christ. Believer, thou art nothing: therefore beware of thinking too highly of thyself, or fancying that you deserve more than you receive, either from God or men.

*Oh, could I lose myself in Thee,
Thy depth of mercy prove,
Thou vast unfathomable sea
Of unexhausted love!
I loathe myself when God I see,
Content if Christ exalted be.*

REAL saints always feel themselves to be poor sinners. Many of God's people are really poor in reference to the things of time, for God hath chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him. They are often persecuted, tried, tempted and cast down; so was the church in Smyrna; but Jesus says to her, "THOU ART RICH." So are all the Lord's people. Rich by RELATION—God is their Father, and Jesus their elder Brother. Rich by DONATION—Jesus has bequeathed unsearchable riches to them. Rich by PROMISES—the Lord has promised all good things. Rich by FAITH—for he that believeth shall inherit all things. Rich in EXPECTATION—for they look for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Believer, thou art rich; Jesus has willed to thee His righteousness, to justify thee; His blood, to cleanse thee; His Spirit to sanctify thee; His name to procure for thee; His angels to minister unto thee; and His heaven, to be thy everlasting habitation. Precious Saviour! I would admire and adore Thy love! O teach me to live out of self on Thy fullness!

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2:9

*Called by grace, the sinner see,
Rich, though sunk in poverty;
Rich in faith that God has given,
He's a legal heir of heaven.*

*That which I see
not teach thou
me: if I have done
iniquity, I will do
no more.*

Job 34:32

WE were once blind, but now our eyes are open; but still we are absolutely dependent on divine teaching, or we shall never become truly wise. If God teach us, self will become vile; the world vanity; sin bitter; the blood of Christ most precious; His righteousness glorious; His name our only hope; His love our joy; His Spirit our strength; His glory our aim; and "Teach Thou me," our daily prayer. We see but little of what Christ is in Himself; of what He hath done for His people; of what He possesses, and will give to all who call upon Him in truth; of what He has promised to work in us, and bestow upon us. Beloved, let us daily plead with God to teach us, that we may know Christ, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, and be made conformable to His death. Let us beg the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, that we may know what is the hope of His calling, and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Jehovah alone can teach us to profit.

*O Jesus, teach my soul to know
Thyself, the Truth, the Life, the Way;
May I in grace and knowledge grow,
Till I arrive in perfect day:
From Satan, self, and sin set free,
And what I know not teach Thou me.*

NO man can be a loser by adhering to God's holy word, for he is promised a hundred-fold in the present life, and in the world to come life everlasting. Carnal connections must be broken off. Decision of character must be manifested. The world must be forsaken. Christ and the world will not unite. Carnality and spirituality cannot be reconciled. Our God says, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate: touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a FATHER unto you." What can we need more to encourage, embolden, and produce decision? Suppose men reject me, despise me, and persecute me; God will receive me. Suppose they injure me and try to starve me, God will be a Father to me. He will care for me—protect me—dwell with me—comfort me—supply me—and fill a Father's place. I cannot be friendless. I should not be fearful. Beloved, God says, "PROVE ME". Are you called upon to forsake friends, to break off connections, lose trade, or endure persecutions? Fear not, act for God—look to God—He will receive you, and be a Father to you.

*And will be a
Father unto you,
and ye shall be
my sons and
daughters,
saith the
Lord Almighty.*

2 Corinthians 6:18

*And wilt Thou, Lord, a Father be,
To those who leave the world for Thee?
Wilt Thou provide for every want,
And tokens of Thy favour grant?
Then, Lord, I bid the world farewell;
And now Thy word in me fulfil.*

2
May

*But grow in
grace, and in the
knowledge of our
Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ. To
him be glory both
now and for ever.
Amen.*

2 Peter 3:18

NEVER rest satisfied with present attainments. God has much to bestow, and we are capable of receiving, enjoying, and using to His glory. As the tree planted in a good soil grows both in the root and the branches, so should the Christian; he should be rooted in the love of God, and grow up in conformity to Jesus. If we grow in grace, we shall discover more of our own wretchedness, misery, and weakness; and more of the preciousness, fulness, and glory of Christ. We shall be humble before God, and active before men. We shall

trust in Jesus more simply, having no confidence in the flesh. Grace always leads out of self to Jesus, and puts the crown of crowns upon His head. Grace is spiritual beauty; it is the very glory of God. To grow in grace is to grow like Jesus, meek and lowly in heart; active and devoted in life; blameless and harmless as the sons of God. Let us have grace, for God loves to bestow it; let us grow in grace, for God commands it; let us look forward for the grace that is to be brought unto us at the coming of Jesus, for God has promised it. Look for that blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of Jesus.

*Though holy deeds and fruits of grace
Are in believers found,
'Tis Christ's command that they increase
And more and more abound;
O Saviour! may I grow in grace,
Till I behold Thee face to face.*

THE Lord's people need counsel, and Jesus is given to them as a COUNSELLOR. He is exactly suited to their needs, being possessed of infinite wisdom, unbounded benevolence, great experience, and high honour. He never lost a cause. He counsels freely, cheerfully, and successfully. He turns the counsel of all our foes into foolishness. But though we have this wonderful Counsellor, we neglect to consult, employ or trust Him; and it may often be demanded of us, "Is thy Counsellor perished?"

Now why dost thou cry out aloud? is there no king in thee? is thy counsellor perished? for pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail.

Micah 4:9

If not, why this perplexity? Why these mistakes? Why those fears and groans, and forebodings? Why this running to creatures for advice and succour? Beloved, let us stand reproved; we have walked in our own counsels, we have not *waited* for His counsel, we have neglected and forgotten Jesus in this office. Let us in future never act without His counsel, never employ men to His dishonour, never listen to Satan when He would persuade us not to apply to, trust in, and expect advice from Jesus as our COUNSELLOR. He says, "I will counsel thee, Mine eye shall be upon thee."

*Lord, be my Counsellor,
My Pattern, and my Guide;
And through this desert land,
Still keep me near Thy side;
O let my feet ne'er run astray.
Nor rove, nor seek the crooked way.*

4
May

*Return, ye
backsliding
children, and I
will heal your
backslidings.
Behold, we come
unto thee; for
thou art the
LORD our God.*

Jeremiah 3:22

SIN brings sickness. The believer can only be healthful as he walks with God, lives above the world, and looks for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the feet of Jesus we are safe, and shall be healthy; but if we wander from Him, spiritual disease will seize upon us. The backslider feels too weak, to run in the way of God's commands; too confused, to read his interest in God's promises; too guilty, to call God Father; too wretched, to rejoice in hope. He has no liberty in prayer; no enjoyment of his Bible; no peace

in his conscience; no delight in God's ways. But the Lord says, "Return, ye backsliding children; I WILL HEAL YOUR BACKSLIDINGS." This is a message from the GREAT PHYSICIAN, an invitation from our Father's throne, a promise of our Saviour's love. Oh, let us return unto Him with weeping and supplication, adopting David's prayer as our own, "Heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee." Let us take up the determination of the church, "Behold, we come unto Thee, for Thou art the Lord our God." He will receive us graciously, and love us freely.

*Give me Thy pardoning love to feel,
And freely my backslidings heal,
Repair my faith's decay:
Restore the sweetness of Thy grace,
Reveal the glories of Thy face
And take my sins away.*

BELOVED, let us visit Gethsemane this morning, and see this strange sight. Here is our SURETY; the only-begotten Son of God; the brightness of Jehovah's glory, and the express image of His person; groaning on the cold ground, and baptized in blood. He is sore amazed; His heart is filled with horror, and His mind with dread; His soul is troubled, tossed with tempests and not comforted; He is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. The sorrows of death encompass Him, and the pains of hell have gotten hold upon Him. His heart like wax is melted in the midst of His bowels. His whole nature is convulsed: He sweats blood; He cries aloud, with an exceeding bitter cry, and His heart faileth Him. No human hand toucheth Him; but it is the hour and power of darkness. Our sins meet upon Him; His soul is made an offering for our sins; and it hath pleased Jehovah to bruise Him. Was ever sorrow like unto His sorrow? HE IS IN AN AGONY. Here our sins are punished, our iniquities are expiated, and our justification is procured. Oh, to love Jesus even to an agony!

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Luke 22:44

*Go to dark Gethsemane,
Ye that feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away,—
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.*

6
May

*Pray without
ceasing.*

*1 Thessalonians
5:17*

IN prayer we must approach God as a Father, ask of Him what we really need, and expect to receive according to His wisdom and word. Our wants are constantly returning, therefore our prayers should be constantly ascending. The ear of God is always open: He is ever ready to listen to us; He invites, exhorts, and commands us to pray always in everything. Every object that meets the eye, every circumstance that occurs, every employment in which we engage, would afford matter for prayer if properly viewed. The believer should

acquire the HABIT of prayer. He should look up to his God for all he needs, through all he sees, whenever he has a moment to spare. The prayers of a Christian are pleasant to his God; He says, "Let me hear thy voice, let me see thy countenance; for sweet is thy voice and thy countenance is comely." The believer should pray as naturally and as constantly as he breathes; for prayer is the breath of the soul. Beloved, if prayer dwindle into a mere duty, is but occasionally offered, or becomes burdensome, it is clear that you are in a most unhealthy state.

*Through the skies when the thunder is hurl'd,
The child to its parent will flee;
Thus, amid the rebukes of the world,
I turn, O my Father, to Thee;
The spirit of prayer in Thy mercy impart,
And take up Thy constant abode in my heart.*

WHAT tenderness, mercy, and love are here! Friends forget us, relatives are careless about us, and we sometimes fear our God has forgotten us; but here He assures us that we shall never be forgotten of Him. Our names are in His book; our Representative is always before His throne, and we are the objects of His constant care. He cannot forget us while Jesus pleads for us; and if He does not forget, He will never neglect. There is only one thing He is ever said to forget, and that is our sins; but He is always mindful of His covenant. He will not forget the circumstances in which we are placed, the wants by which we are pained, or the prayers we put up at His throne. But though we are assured our God will never forget us, yet we can find no satisfaction, but as the Holy Spirit humbles us, empties us, and exalts Christ before us; showing us our pardon, peace, and salvation in His life, death, and intercession. Beloved, let us mind the things of the Spirit, and daily seek humbling, quickening, and sanctifying grace.

*Remember these,
O Jacob and
Israel; for thou
art my servant:
I have formed
thee; thou art my
servant: O Israel,
thou shalt not be
forgotten of me.*

Isaiah 44:21

*O Lord, my God! whose sovereign love
Is still the same, nor e'er can move;
Look to the covenant, and see,
Has not Thy love been shown to me?
Remember me, my glorious Friend,
And love me always to the end.*

8
May

*Say not thou, I
will recompense
evil; but wait on
the LORD, and he
shall save thee.*

Proverbs 20:22

BELOVED, it is your privilege in every perplexity and trial to go to the Lord, to spread your case before Him, to plead His precious promises, and to wait expecting Him to appear for you. Wait on Him for light to discover the nature and design of your trouble; for wisdom that you may act honourably, and endure scripturally; for power to sustain you under, and bring you through it; and for consolation to make you happy and resigned under it. Wait upon the Lord in earnest, simple, persevering prayer; in searching, reading, and meditating upon His holy word; in self-examination as to your views, motives, and designs. Wait upon the Lord, believing that He will fulfil His word, answer your prayers, and send you deliverance; patiently enduring until He shall see good to appear on your behalf. Waiting on the Lord you engage Him on your side; you put His mercy and faithfulness to the trial; you are assured your strength shall be renewed; and God has promised that you shall not be ashamed. Beloved, let us look to, trust in, and wait upon our God continually.

*Oh teach me, Lord, to wait Thy will,
To be content with all Thou dost;
For me Thy grace sufficient still,
With most supplied when needing most;
O Saviour! give me grace to wait,
And daily watch before Thy gate.*

THE glory of grace is its FREENESS: it fixes upon objects that are most unworthy; bestows upon them the richest blessings; raises them to the highest honour; promises them the greatest happiness; and all for its own glory. Nothing can be freer than grace, the glory of grace is its POWER; it conquers the stubbornest sinner; subdues the hardest hearts; tames the wildest wills; enlightens the darkest understandings; breaks off the strongest fetters; and invariably conquers its objects. Grace is omnipotent. The glory of grace is its BENEVOLENCE; it never injured one; it has delivered, supplied, conducted, supported, and glorified thousands; it brings the inexhaustible fulness of God to supply the creature's wants; it opens the treasury of heaven, to enrich poor, miserable, and wretched creatures on earth. Grace gives away all it has, reserving nothing for itself but the praise and glory of its acts. Jesus is grace personified; in Him it may be seen, in all its beauty, excellence, and loveliness; by Him it is displayed in all its native dignity. O Jesus! glorify Thy free, powerful, and benevolent grace in me!

*To the praise of
the glory of his
grace, wherein
he hath made us
accepted in the
beloved.*

Ephesians 1:6

*O Jesus! full of truth and grace,
More full of grace than I of sin,—
Yet once again I seek thy face,
Open thine arms and take me in;
Oh! freely my backslidings heal,
And love the dying sinner still.*

*For he doth not
afflict willingly
nor grieve the
children of men.*

Lamentations 3:33

OUR afflictions do not flow from sovereignty, but from our Father's wisdom, holiness and love. He finds no pleasure in our pains, groans, and sighs. He is never hasty in using the rod; mercy flies to help us, but He is slow to anger and of great kindness. He never afflicts us without a sufficient cause; either sin has been committed; duties neglected; mercies slighted; lukewarmness discovered; worldly-mindedness tolerated; privileges abused; warnings despised; temptations trifled with; or danger is near. He never afflicts without a good and gracious

intention, to make us fear, loathe, and flee from sin; to show His disapprobation of our unholy course; to quicken us in His ways; to make us long for, seek, and partake of His holiness; to produce contrition and godly sorrow; or to prove that His authority is not surrendered because His love is great. He only afflicts partially, occasionally, and sparingly. He always strikes in love, and aims at our spiritual welfare; and we are often more benefited by afflictions, than we are by comforts and joys. O Saviour, sanctify to me every afflicting stroke!

*In the floods of tribulation,
While the billows o'er me roll,
Jesus whispers consolation,
And supports my fainting soul:
Sweet affliction,
Thus to bring my Saviour near.*

THIS is a very difficult precept; sometimes the Lord hides His face; we fear and doubt our interest in His love; we are almost bewildered through the powerful workings of corruption within us: we are bowed down by Satan's sore temptations; and the dispensations of providence are so perplexing, that we are ready to cry out, "All things are against us." But we are not bidden to rejoice in frames and feelings, or in the dispensations of providence, but in the Lord. He has loved us with an everlasting love, and His love is immutably the same; He is our God in Jesus, and has promised to be unto us, to do for us, and freely give us, all that our circumstances require, or that will be for our good and His glory. In weakness we may rejoice in His power; in darkness we may rejoice that He knoweth our path; in sickness and sorrow, that He careth for us; and under any circumstances, in His covenant relations; for He is always our Father, Friend, and God. We should rejoice in His free grace, rich mercy, omnipotent power, faithful promises, special providence, and unchangeable love.

*Rejoice in the
Lord always:
and again I say,
Rejoice.*

Philippians 4:4

*Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus, the Judge, shall come,
And take His servants up
To their eternal home:
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice,—
The trump of God shall sound, REJOICE.*

12 May

*No weapon that is
formed against thee
shall prosper; and
every tongue that
shall rise against
thee in judgment
thou shalt condemn.
This is the heritage
of the servants of
the LORD, and their
righteousness is of
me, saith the LORD.*

Isaiah 54:17

THE longer the Christian lives, the more he learns; and the more the Spirit teaches him, the more he loathes himself and renounces his own righteousness as filthy rags. He hoped sensibly to grow in holiness, to feel his corruptions subdued, and to enjoy without interruption the presence of his God; but instead of this, he seems to grow more like Satan, corruption appears to get stronger and stronger, and the depravity of his nature appears so dreadful, that he enjoys scarcely anything. He thinks himself a monster

of iniquity, and wonders how God can possibly love him, or show any favor unto him. This experience endears free grace, renders Christ unspeakably precious, and the gift of righteousness invaluable. How can such a man be just before God? Where is his righteousness to come from? Jehovah answers, "HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS OF ME." Jesus wrought it; the Father imputes it to us; the gospel reveals it; and faith receives it, puts it on, and pleads it before God. O Jesus! in Thee have I righteousness and strength.

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame;
But wholly lean on Jesus' name:
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

BELIEVER, cannot you join with the children of Joseph this morning, and bear a similar testimony? Thy God hath blessed thee in Jesus, and through Jesus; look back to the rock whence you were hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence you were digged; call to mind the time and place, when and where thy God first led thee to cry for mercy, and seek for salvation; remember the distress and bondage felt before mercy was manifested; and then remember how your soul was delivered, and the comforts of the Holy Ghost imparted.

And the children of Joseph spake unto Joshua, saying, Why hast thou given me but one lot and one portion to inherit, seeing I am a great people, forasmuch as the LORD hath blessed me hitherto?

Joshua 17:14

Think of thy difficulties and dangers, thy trials and fears, the deliverances the Lord has wrought, the favour He hath shown, and the comforts He has imparted: and surely you will gratefully acknowledge, "HE HATH BLESSED ME HITHERTO." He promised to bless, and you have found Him faithful. He has manifested a Father's love, and a Mother's tenderness in dealing with you. But what have been your returns? Oh, be humble, for you have been ungrateful! But cleave to Jesus, for God gives no blessing but by and through Him.

*Jesus found me vile and guilty,
I had broken all His laws;
When He look'd, He saw me filthy;
All corrupt my nature was:
Mine appear'd a hopeless case,
Such it had been but for grace.*

And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Malachi 3:17

WHO? They that fear the Lord and think upon His name. They who fear to offend Him because they love Him. Who desire above all things to obey Him, be conformed unto Him, and glorify Him. They who think upon His name, "OUR FATHER"; and believe Him to be gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth. Who approach Him as children; who walk before Him, desiring to do everything as under His eye; who are jealous of His honour, and concerned for His glory. Who speak of His goodness, talk of His power, and adore

the riches of His grace. "THEY SHALL BE MINE, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS." He will treat them as children, prize them as His jewels, and acknowledge them before assembled angels. He will put a difference between them and others, and will manifest Himself unto them as He does not unto the world. Beloved, are we entitled to claim this precious promise? Do we fear God? Are we grieved at sin, because it dishonours Him? Do we think upon His name with love and reverence? If so, He will spare us, preserve us, and place us among His jewels forever.

*Hail, sacred day! that shall declare
The jewels of the Son of God;
Design'd to deck His crown they were,
Chosen of old, and bought with blood.*

THE Christian's path is often very rough; thorns and briars grow on either side, dark clouds hang over it, and no cheering prospects appear to animate the heart. But if he acts consistently, he still believes it is the right path; that trials are mercies in disguise, and that the path of tribulation ends in the kingdom of God. He believes it is all needful, it is the very best way his Father could select; that the design of God is gracious, and his present trials are to end in His eternal welfare. He believes his God is with him, though he does not enjoy His presence, and that all needful supplies will be sent, though he cannot tell from whence. He rests on the faithful word, trusts in an immutable God, and says, when surrounded by trials, "None of these things move me; I know that it is through much tribulation that I must enter the kingdom; my God will support me, His hand will defend me, and His grace shall be glorified in my present and eternal salvation. I know not the way, but my God knows, and He will lead me; He will never leave me, but will be my guide, even unto death."

*(For we walk
by faith, not
by sight:)*

2 Corinthians 5:7

*Oh may I daily walk by faith,
Believing what my God has spoke;
Rely on His unchanging love,
And cease to grasp at fleeting smoke;
On His eternal truth depend,
And know Him as my God and Friend.*

*Blessed are ye
that hunger now:
for ye shall be
filled. Blessed
are ye that weep
now: for ye
shall laugh.*

Luke 6:21

APPETITE supposes life, and is regulated by nature; the carnal appetite is satisfied with carnal things; but a Christian can only be satisfied with spiritual things. He hungers to enjoy an interest in Christ; for righteousness wrought in him by the Spirit, and given to him by Jesus; to be conformed to the image of Christ; to know Him extensively, experimentally, and practically; to enjoy God as his portion; and that Christ may be magnified in him by life or by death. His appetite is fixed on its object; no

substitute can be found; it is only as he feeds upon Christ that he enjoys satisfaction. Beloved, how is it with you this morning? Are you hungering for Jesus? He filleth the hungry with good things; He pronounces them blessed. They are blessed with spiritual life; with an interest in the things for which they hunger; and with the operations of the Holy Spirit. None but God can produce this hunger, and only God can satisfy it; and He will; for He has said, THEY SHALL BE FILLED. This is plain, positive, unconditional; and certain. Believe it and be happy.

*Bless'd are the souls that thirst for grace,
Hunger and long for righteousness;
They shall be well supplied, and fed
With living streams, and living bread:
Oh, may my hungry soul receive
The food on which Thy people live.*

MAN'S love is changeable, being a passion; God's love is unchangeable, being a perfection. Having loved, He always will love. Nothing can occur in time, but what He knew from eternity; consequently there can be no reason today, why God should not love me, but what He knew would be before He set His heart upon me. He fixed His love upon us in the fore-view of all that would be done by us, or felt within us: and connected us with Jesus, that He might never withdraw His love from

*The LORD thy
God in the midst
of thee is mighty;
he will save, he
will rejoice over
thee with joy; he
will rest in his
love, he will joy
over thee with
singing.*

Zephaniah 3:17

us. Oh, to be able to say with holy John, "We have known and believed the love that God hath to us! God is love!" The love of God is from everlasting to everlasting; without variableness, or the shadow of a turn. Here God resteth, and here we should rest. Herein is love, that God should take such poor, vile, ungrateful, wretched creatures, and make them the bride of His Son, the delight of His soul, and His portion for evermore. Oh, the riches of divine love! Admire it, trust it, rejoice in it, and make it the subject of your daily meditation. HE WILL REST IN HIS LOVE. On this rock we may rest with confidence; on this pillow we may repose in peace.

*The cov'nant of grace all blessings secures;
Believer, rejoice, for all things are yours;
And God from His purpose shall never remove,
But love thee, and bless thee, and rest in His love.*

*And his disciples
came, and took
up the body, and
buried it, and
went and told
Jesus.*

Matthew 14:12

WHEN Herod beheaded John, his disciples took up his body and buried it, and went and told Jesus. Let us imitate their example, and carry all to Jesus. He loves to listen to the tale of human woe. He can and will sympathise with us in all our trials and troubles. He is our Father, and to whom should the child tell his troubles, but to his kind and tender parent? He will direct our steps, avenge our wrongs, and turn all things to our advantage. Does business go wrong? Are enemies active? Is corruption

strong? Does faith flag? Are you tried in your family? Go and tell Jesus. It will ease your mind; prevent sin; insure supplies; manifest relation; and frustrate the designs of Satan. Do not sit poring over your miseries; go not to creatures; neither murmur, complain, nor fret; but go to Jesus; go with speed; go in hope; go and tell Him all, without reserve. Go this morning, with all thy complaints, desires, and fears; lay them all before Him, and beseech Him to undertake for you. He loves to hear you, has promised to help you, and will certainly bless you. It is your duty, and your privilege, to pour out your heart before Him, and find Him a refuge for you.

*Our sorrows and our tears we pour
Into the bosom of our God;
He hears us in the mournful hour,
And helps to bear the heavy load.*

THIS was the language of a believer, in trouble; and it should be our language under similar circumstances. Our trials, troubles, and difficulties may be great; but it shall be well with them that fear God. Are you alarmed at the powerful working of corruption within you? It shall be well, for sin shall not have dominion over you; for you are not under the law, but under grace. Are you distressed by the evil suggestions and powerful temptations of Satan? It shall be well, for the God of peace will bruise Satan under your feet shortly. Is your soul cast down by the vexations, difficulties, and trials of the way? It shall be well, for all things shall work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. Do you conclude your case is singular, and therefore fear? It shall be well, for no temptation hath taken you, but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will also with the temptation make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. Oh, precious promise of a gracious God! Lord, help me to believe, rely, and rejoice.

*And he said,
Wherefore wilt
thou go to him to
day? it is neither
new moon, nor
sabbath. And she
said, It shall be
well.*

2 Kings 4:23

*What cheering words are these
Their sweetness who can tell?
In time, and to eternal days,
'Tis with the righteous well.*

*But he giveth more
grace. Wherefore
he saith, God
resisteth the proud,
but giveth grace
unto the humble.*

James 4:6

IT is impossible to be more welcome at the throne of grace than we are, or for God to be more willing to bestow. We are as welcome to the throne of grace, as angels are to the throne of glory. Our God has provided on purpose to give. He invites us to come that we may receive. He gives grace upon grace. He is never weary of bestowing, though we are of asking. We dishonour Him when we ask doubtfully, when we ask for small matters; He bids us ask in faith, nothing doubting; to open our mouths wide that He may fill them. Grace comprises all we need, to pardon our sins, sanctify our natures, conquer our foes, bear our trials, or perform our duties. If we have not, it is because we ask not, or because we ask amiss, to consume it on our lusts. There is grace for us this morning; let us apply for it, expect to receive it, and determine to use it for God's glory and the good of souls. He will give grace and glory, and no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Ask, and YOU shall receive; seek, and YOU shall find. He giveth liberally, and upbraideth not.

*Transporting truth—amazing word!
What! grace and glory from the Lord;
Oh, may I feel the promise true,
Fulfill'd in grace and glory too!*

THE spirit of the believer should be characterized by forbearance, humility, and love; he is exhorted to put away all anger, wrath, clamour, evil-speaking, and malice; and to put on bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering and to be ready to forgive. A bitter, contentious, censorious spirit, is just the opposite of the Spirit of Christ; and an unforgiving person cannot be a Christian, for Jesus has said, "Except ye forgive men their trespasses, neither will My heavenly Father forgive you."

And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

Malachi 2:15

Take heed then to your spirit; lest it be said, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of." Learn of Jesus; He was meek and lowly; patient and forbearing; kind to His enemies; and ready to forgive. A proud, contentious overbearing disciple, cannot expect to have fellowship with a humble, lowly, and broken-hearted Master. Beloved, let us watch over our spirits; he that rules his own spirit, does more than he that conquers a city; and a spirit that is not under control, is like a city with the walls and gates broken down; open to the enemy on every side.

*Come, blessed Spirit, heavenly Dove,
Descend on balmy wings;
Come, tune my passions all to love,
And strike the peaceful strings;
Let every action, thought, and word,
Bring honour to my holy Lord.*

*If ye shall ask
any thing in my
name, I will do it.*

John 14:14

THIS is the word of Jesus to us this morning; it is intended to encourage and embolden us at the throne of grace, and to comfort us under all our privations and wants. Jesus has all power in heaven and in earth; all things are delivered unto Him by the Father. He has a large store, and a kind and tender heart. Let us therefore go to Him with our wants, that He may supply them; with our fears, that He may quell them; with our sins, that He may pardon and subdue them; with every thing that troubles us,

or is likely to harm us. Let us go to Him with confidence. He says, "What wilt thou that I shall do for thee? If you ask any thing that will do you good, promote My cause, or glorify My name, I WILL DO IT. Be not afraid to ask, for I am omnipotent; do not doubt, for I give you My word, I WILL DO IT." Oh, believer, what a friend is Jesus! how kind! how gracious! Never complain, never despond, never be cast down, while Jesus is thy FRIEND. He is, and will be thy friend forever. Oh, make a friend of Him! visit Him daily; trust Him implicitly; and follow Him fully. Make Him your all in all. He is worthy. He will not deceive.

*Jesus, my Lord, I look to Thee;
Where else can helpless sinners go!
Thy boundless love shall set me free
From all my wretchedness and woe.*

OUR beloved Saviour is now at the right hand of God. He waits, expecting His enemies to be made His footstool. He will come again; the time is hastening on; and we should be living in expectation of His appearing. The Christian posture is that of waiting, looking, hasting to the coming of the day of God. He will come the second time, as certainly as He did the first. He will come as a thief in the night. He will come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him. He will come to reign, to reward His people, and to punish His foes. Let us not be slothful, careless, or indifferent about the coming of our Lord. He comes for our salvation. Let us look for Him daily, with earnest desire, ardent hope, fervent love, importunate prayer, and diligent preparation. When He comes, the earth will be delivered from the bondage of corruption, into the glorious liberty of the children of God; the groans of creation will be silenced, the prayers of the Lord's people will be answered, and crowns of righteousness bestowed. Let us abide in Him, that we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Philippians 3:20

*Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favour'd sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending,
Swell the triumph of His train;
Hallelujah!
Jesus comes, and comes to reign.*

*And he said unto
them, I beheld
Satan as lightning
fall from heaven.*

Luke 10:18

THE Christian has many foes, but there is one who is emphatically called "THE ENEMY". He is the god of this world; all worship him, except those whom Jesus has delivered from him. He is the prince of the power of the air; he rules over and works in all unbelievers. He is a subtle serpent, endeavouring to deceive; a roaring lion, seeking to devour. He has the power of death. He gains access to our hearts, and is always attempting to lead us astray. He is well versed in Scripture, and will often quote it, in order to misapply it; he

will use one part to fill us with terror, and another to lead us to make light of sin. He is always planning how he shall injure us, and is incessantly trying to draw us from God. Beloved, there is no safety for us but at the feet of Jesus; it is only as we abide in Him, and walk with Him, that we can overcome Satan. Our weapons are the blood of the Lamb, and the word of the divine testimony; faith seizes the perfect work of Christ as its shield, and the word of God as its sword, and thus overcomes the infernal foe. Let us put on the WHOLE ARMOUR of God.

*Jesus hath died for you;
What can His love withstand!
Believe, hold fast your shield, and who
Shall pluck you from His hand!
You shall o'ercome through Jesus' blood.
And stand complete before your God.*

IT is a great honour to be favoured with the presence of Jehovah: but in every enterprise for His glory, in every duty required in His word, in every dangerous part of the pilgrim's path, in every trouble in this land of strangers, He has promised to be with us. His presence is to encourage, strengthen, protect, and prosper us. This promise should arm us against fear, nerve the mind against opposition, and embolden us in a good cause. Beloved, has God promised to be with us? Let us then seek to realize

*And he said,
Certainly I will be
with thee; and this
shall be a token
unto thee, that I
have sent thee:
When thou hast
brought forth the
people out of Egypt,
ye shall serve God
upon this mountain.*

Exodus 3:12

His presence; never let us be satisfied with any religion, without the Lord's presence.—If God be with us we shall be successful; all He requires He will provide; and display in our experience the exceeding riches of His grace. His presence is sure to His people; He is not always perceived by sense, but certainly He is present; for though heaven and earth may pass away, one jot or tittle of His word shall in no wise pass away; all must be fulfilled. Let us then seek and expect the presence of Jehovah this day; and rejoice that He has said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

*Then rest, my soul, upon the Lord,
Believe and plead His faithful word;
He will be with thee, He will guide,
And for thy every want provide;
Then trust His faithful love and power;
In every gloomy trying hour.*

*But let a man
examine himself,
and so let him eat
of that bread, and
drink of that cup.*

*1 Corinthians
11:28*

THIS is necessary, that we may know upon what we are resting; and whether we are growing or declining. Let us examine this morning upon what foundation we are building for eternal life, and from what does our hope arise? What is the source of our satisfaction, pleasure, and peace? What do we possess to prove the reality of our religion? Have we been quickened by the Holy Spirit? Is Christ our life, and is He living in us? Are we enlightened to see sin, in its nature, character, and actings? Have we living faith which receives Christ; believes

His word; and lives to Him? Have we a good hope through grace? Is the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost? Do we love God because He first loved us, and walk with Him in peace and holiness? Have we the earnest and witness of the Spirit in our hearts? Are we conflicting with sin, and praying to be delivered from it, as from a tyrant, a plague, the most fearful evil? Let us examine carefully, deliberately, prayerfully; taking God's word for our rule and guide. Let us prove our own work, so shall we have rejoicing in ourselves alone.

*Searcher of hearts! oh, search me still;
The secrets of my soul reveal;
My fears remove: let me appear
To God and my own conscience, clear:
Each evidence of grace impart,
And deeply sanctify my heart!*

POOOR Jacob, full of fear and alarm, retired to plead with his God; he wept and made supplication, he had power with God, and prevailed. "AND HE BLESSED HIM THERE" Our God delights to bless us; therefore He began so early, for He blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Jesus, before the foundation of the world; He gave us grace in His Son, before He gave us a being: but yet He will have us plead with Him, and weep before Him. He is "THE BLESSING GOD." There never was a want, that ever pierced the heart of fallen humanity, or met the omniscient eye of Jehovah, but that want was anticipated, and provided for, in the person and fulness of Christ. And however great our conflicts and trials may be, we can have no reason to despond, for grace is given us; and grace always goes hand in hand with omnipotence. Our heavenly Father's love cannot fail, our divine Saviour's fulness cannot be exhausted, the faithful promise cannot be broken; let us therefore plead in the valley of Achor, wrestle on the battle-plain, and it shall again be said, "HE BLESSED HIM THERE." Oh for the Spirit of prayer.

And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

Genesis 32:29

*Lord, let me know the grace below,
To all believers given:
Oh, bid me feel Thy love, and go
In perfect peace to heaven!*

*In all thy ways
acknowledge him,
and he shall direct
thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:6

BELOVED we are the Lord's, the creatures of His power, the purchase of His blood, the subjects of His grace. He has set His love upon us, employed His wisdom for us, and is deeply interested in all that concerns us. Everything we do, should be done with a view to His glory; and in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, we should let our requests be made known unto Him. Everything should be mentioned at His throne; His presence, direction, and blessing, should be sought in reference to every circumstance of our lives. Our

misery can never exceed His mercy, or our application at His throne find His ear pre-occupied. He is our Father, and as such ought to be consulted; He is our God, and ought to be honoured. We should ask of Him, and ask with the whole heart: for he that withdraws his heart in asking, will find God withdraw His hand in giving. Acknowledging God in all things, will produce a steady peace of mind; preserve us from many temptations; and strengthen our faith in Him. He that always acknowledges God, will find that God always acknowledges him.

*Stretch o'er my head Thy guardian wings,
Secure my soul, O King of kings!
My shield and refuge be;
Thy grace and mercy, Lord, display
Through Christ the Life, the Truth, the Way,
That I may come to Thee!*

To be in Christ, is to be united to Him by faith and love; and it is of the utmost importance. Apart from Christ we are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked; united to Christ, we are immensely rich; immutably safe; exalted to the highest honour; and shall appear without a fault before the throne of God. If we are in Christ, or one with Christ, we are justified by His obedience, as the debtor is cleared by the payment made by his surety; we are sanctified through Him, as the vessel is cleansed in the fountain; we are protected by Him, as Noah was in the ark; we are preserved from judicial proceedings, as the manslayer in the city of refuge; and are exalted to honour as the BRIDE of the KING ETERNAL, Immortal, the only wise God. Well may the Apostle desire "TO BE FOUND IN HIM." No mind can conceive, no tongue can declare the blessedness that flows from being ONE WITH CHRIST. Let us therefore, beloved, ask, this morning, "Am I in Christ at present? Am I living with Him as His faithful bride; for Him as His devoted servant; upon Him as His dependant child? Do I renounce all for Christ? Can I say, I am crucified with Christ? The world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world?"

*And be found
in him, not
having mine own
righteousness,
which is of the
law, but that which
is through the
faith of Christ,
the righteousness
which is of God by
faith:
Philippians 3:9*

*Yes, yes, I must and will esteem
All things but loss for Jesus' sake;
Oh, may my soul be found in Him,
And of His righteousness partake.*

*As well the singers
as the players on
instruments shall
be there: all my
springs are in
thee.*

Psalms 87:7

JESUS is the fountain of living water; the wells of salvation are found in His person, work and word; He says, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." The springs of comfort, peace, and salvation are all in Him; and in Him for us; therefore called our springs. The waters cleanse from all defilement; refresh the faint and weary; and satisfy the longing soul. The springs bespeak plentitude—whosoever will may come and take; for they are never dry. We are absolutely dependent on Jesus, this is our mercy;

we are not absolutely dependent on any besides, this is our happiness. Our desires should concentrate in Him; our affections should be fixed upon Him; and our expectations should be only from Him. In Jesus is all possible variety: He can do, and bestow, all we can possibly want; for it hath pleased the Father that in Him should ALL fulness dwell. If all our springs are in Jesus, let us not then look to any other; but let us with joy draw water out of the fountains of the Saviour. Let us ask, and He will give us LIVING WATER; that we may thirst no more.

*To whom, dear Jesus, oh, to whom
Shall needy sinners flee,
But to Thyself, who bid'st us come?
Our springs are all in Thee:
Now fill my soul with Thy pure love,
And raise my thoughts and hopes above.*

THE Lord's people are justified by grace, through faith, in the righteousness of Jesus; and all who are thus justified are created anew, have immortal principles of holiness and justice implanted in their hearts, so that they hate sin, follow holiness, and walk uprightly. Sin has not dominion over them, nor will they be slaves to lust. They meet with many troubles, they have to pass through fire and water, but they shall come out into a wealthy place. They shall not perish in their affliction, for the Lord upholdeth them with His hand. Beloved, look beyond your present trials; remember if you suffer as a Christian, you suffer with Christ; and if you suffer, you shall also reign with Him. Your God is able to deliver; He has promised to do so; trust in Him without wavering; yield not to temptation; avoid the appearance of evil; and your God will bring you out of trouble. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your judgment as the noonday. You shall also forget your misery, or remember it as waters that pass away. Present troubles will end in everlasting peace.

The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.

Proverbs 12:13

*Millions who now His throne surround,
Here sought relief, here mercy found;
The Lord dispell'd their gloomy fears,
Heal'd all their wounds, and dried their tears;
And thou shalt also mercy find,
For God is faithful, just, and kind.*

1
June

In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jeremiah 23:6

JESUS is Jehovah, the self-existent, eternal, and immutable God. He is our righteousness. To this end He assumed our nature; came into our place; laboured, suffered, bled, and died in our stead. We have no righteousness by nature, but we have the righteousness of God by grace. "Their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Jesus completed for us all that was necessary to justify us; He made an end of sin; He magnified the law and made it honourable; He brought in everlasting righteousness; and now He clothes us with the garments of

salvation, and covers us with the robe of righteousness. In Him we possess all justice can demand, or God requires, for our full and eternal justification. This portion is not necessary merely for one day, but every day; it silences an accusing conscience, confounds Satan, strengthens the soul, and glorifies God. Let us look today, all the day, and every day to Jesus, as "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." Let us go to duty, to conflict, to trials, in the strength of the Lord; making mention of His righteousness, even of His only. This is our plea at the throne of grace, our song in the house of our pilgrimage, and our confidence in the prospect of death.

*Saviour divine, we know Thy name,
And in that name we trust;
Thou art the Lord our Righteousness,
Thou art our joy and boast.*

So the Lord promised Jacob, and the promises made unto our fathers, He will fulfill unto us their children. But such a promise does not exclude great trials, sore temptations, deep personal afflictions, fiery persecutions, poverty, disappointments, and perplexity; all these things may happen unto us, and yet the Lord deal well with us. The promise secures the sanctification of our troubles, the communication of grace, deliverance from real evils, the supply of all wants, and the satisfying of our best desires. Is not this enough, to know that Jehovah will deal well with us, in sickness and health; in life and in death; in time and through eternity? This promise is Jehovah's bond, the believer's plea, the ground of the Christian's confidence, a reason for contentment and gratitude, and the cause of our enemies' confusion. Jacob, though tried, found the Lord faithful, and so shall we. Let us therefore rejoice that our God has said, "I will deal well with thee. I will make all my goodness pass before thee. I will save thee with an everlasting salvation. I will be thy God and thy glory."

And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

Genesis 32:9

*Jesus! in whom but Thee above,
Can I repose my trust, my love;
Thy counsels and upholding care.
My safety and my comfort are;
And Thou shalt guide me all my days,
Till glory crown the work of grace.*

*That in the
ages to come he
might shew the
exceeding riches
of his grace in his
kindness toward
us through Christ
Jesus.*

Ephesians 2:7

JEHOVAH glories in His grace. It is His riches—His wealth. All its riches are intended for us, to be expended upon us. They are all treasured up in Jesus to be received by us. They are promised and presented to us. They exceed our thoughts, our expectations, our faith, we do not believe that God has provided and promised so much for our good as He has; and therefore we do not ask for, and expect so much. Let us this day think of THE EXCEEDING RICHES OF GRACE. Jesus was the gift of grace, so was the Holy

Spirit, and so are all spiritual blessings. Grace includes, and is the source from which flows all the church has received, is receiving, and will receive throughout eternity. Grace freely gives, but never sells. It has a bountiful eye, a tender heart, and a liberal hand. We are not straitened in God, but in our hearts. Oh, that we did but believe what God has revealed in reference to the riches of grace, and expect to receive according to His most liberal promises! There is an abundance of grace, and it is for us; for us this morning, for us whenever we apply. Let us therefore have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear.

*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound!
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

WHAT a subject is the kindness of God towards us! Let us think of it, as it appears in the place and circumstances of our birth; in happy Britain, not in a heathen land. In our education and preservation. Especially in our regeneration, that we were born again not of the will of the flesh, nor of blood, but of God. How many, born in the same place, about the same time, and educated in the same school, have been allowed to pass out of time into eternity, carnal, and under the curse of God; or are living in that state! Why were we distinguished? Called by grace! Justified from all things in the righteousness of Jesus? Kept by the power of God? Supplied according to the promises? Walking with God? Looking for the coming of Jesus with hope, holy longing, and steady faith? Having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come? Warranted to say, "All things are mine, for I am Christ's, and Christ is God's." Oh, how great is the goodness of our God! How unsearchable His grace! His kindness to us is wonderful!

*That in the
ages to come he
might shew the
exceeding riches
of his grace in his
kindness toward
us through Christ
Jesus.*

Ephesians 2:7

*Who can have greater cause to sing,
Who greater cause to bless,
Than we, the children of a King,
Than we who Christ possess?
Our all we to His kindness owe,
And grateful praise should ever flow.*

*And he trembling
and astonished
said, Lord, what
wilt thou have me
to do? And the
Lord said unto him,
Arise, and go into
the city, and it shall
be told thee what
thou must do.*

Acts 9:6

A VERY proper inquiry to bring to the Lord's throne, for all the Lord's people should be employed in the Lord's vineyard, for the Lord's glory. There is something for each of us to do, and something for us to do today. JESUS is our MASTER, He has a right to reign over us, and employ us as He will. He should be obeyed. We especially who are so deeply indebted, should obey Him willingly—cheerfully—habitually. Is our enmity subdued? How can we manifest it, but by seeking to be in His employment? Have we

faith, hope, love, humility, peace, gratitude? Are we not then desirous of obeying Him, who gave us all these blessings? We ought to be employed—always employed—and so employed as if every day were our last. That is the best employment, which we can look at with satisfaction on a death-bed; of which we shall not be ashamed at the day of judgment. Are you doing for Jesus? Are you doing in the spirit of Jesus? Beware lest you put your doings in the place of Jesus; do all you can, and then lay all you do at the feet of Jesus.

*Never did men by faith divine
To selfishness or sloth incline;
The Christian works with all his power,
And grieves that he can work no more:
Commits his works to God alone,
And seeks His will before his own.*

THIS was the testimony of the multitude concerning Jesus, He did many things, but He did everything well. Cannot we bear the same testimony this morning? He called us by His grace; and when we reflect upon the means, the manner, and the period, must we not say, "He did it well?" He has tried us in many ways; but when we think of His design, the mercies He mingled with the afflictions, and the deliverance He granted us out of them, must we not say, "He hath done all things well?" If we look back, and

*And were
beyond measure
astonished,
saying, He hath
done all things
well: he maketh
both the deaf to
hear, and the
dumb to speak.*

Mark 7:37

see Him standing forward as our SURETY with the Father in eternity; or if we behold Him taking our nature, bearing our sins, procuring our righteousness, and sending His Holy Spirit to sanctify and save us; must we not say, "He hath done all things well."? And when our mansions are prepared, our bodies raised from the grave, and our persons are perfectly conformed to His image; when we hear Him say, "Come, inherit the kingdom;" oh, with what rapture, gratitude, and love shall we shout, "HE HATH DONE ALL THINGS WELL!"

*How sovereign, wonderful, and free,
Is all His love to sinful me;
He pluck'd me as a brand from hell!--
My Jesus hath done all things well:
And since my soul has known His love,
What mercies has He made me prove;
Mercies which all my praise excel--
My Jesus hath done all things well.*

*I have declared,
and have saved,
and I have shewed,
when there was no
strange god among
you: therefore ye
are my witnesses,
saith the LORD,
that I am God.*

Isaiah 43:12

WE are to witness to the truth, power, and sweetness of religion; to the goodness, holiness, and faithfulness of God. We are to witness to the world, by our spirit, testimony, and conduct; we are to witness to poor, doubting, fearful souls. Our witness should be unequivocal, and should be borne with courage, constancy, and love. Our testimony should be from experience. Do we know the Lord? Do we daily experience the power of truth in our hearts? Does it free us from slavish fear, the love of the world, and the dominion of sin? Can we say, we

have known and believed the love which God hath to us—God is love? Are we saying to those around us, “Oh, TASTE and see that the Lord is good; there is no want to them that fear Him?” Suppose we should be called to bear witness before judges and kings; in the prison or at the stake; how would it be with us then? Could we witness that God is good and gracious; that He is enough to make us happy; if He were to strip us as He did Job, or try us as He did Paul? He says, “YE ARE MY WITNESSES.”

*Give me to bear Thy easy yoke,
And every moment watch and pray;
And still to things eternal look,
And hasten to Thy glorious day!
I would Thy daily witness be,
And prove that I am one with Thee.*

BELOVED, if we are believers in Jesus, all the perfections of Jehovah's nature are arrayed for our defence and safety. He is engaged by covenant, by promise, and by oath, to support, supply, and befriend us. He is for us. Engaged in our cause. Opposed to our enemies. Pledged to deliver us in six troubles, and not forsake us in the seventh. We may challenge our foes, for God is with us; what then is man? What devils? We may admire our safety, happiness, and honour; God, the Lord God omnipotent, is our ally. We should be grateful, for what is our desert? What do we possess? What were our expectations? What has God promised? We may triumph in Christ, but only in Christ. If God be for us, then supplies shall certainly be sent us. If God be for us, men or devils shall never prevail over us. If God be for us, we shall overcome the world, conquer death, and eternally inherit glory. But God is for us, who then shall harm us? What then shall alarm or terrify us? God is ours; we are God's. This is our honour, our happiness, our boast and glory.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31

*Yes, God is above men, devils, and sin,
My Jesus's love the battle shall win:
On His mighty power I'll daily rely,
All evil before His presence shall fly:
I fear no denial, no danger I fear,
Nor start from a trial, when Jesus is near.*

*Let Israel hope
in the LORD:
for with the
LORD there is
mercy, and with
him is plenteous
redemption.*

Psalm 130:7

THIS title is applied to all the Lord's people; it sets forth their dignity,—they are PRINCES; it refers to their experience—they wrestle with God in prayer, and they prevail. Despondency does not become a prince, much less a Christian. Our God is "THE GOD OF HOPE:" and we should hope in Him. Israel should hope in His mercy—in His patience—in His provision—in His plenteous redemption. They should hope for light in darkness: for strength in weakness; for direction in perplexity;

for deliverance in danger; for victory in conflict; and for triumph in death. They should hope in God confidently, because He has promised; prayerfully, for He loves to hear from us; obediently, for His precepts are to be observed by us; and constantly, for He is always the same. Beloved, let not your hope rest on frames, or duties, or men or anything; but hope in the Lord, in the Lord only. Israel's God is at all times Israel's hope. The hope of Israel shall never be disappointed. Therefore hope in God, for it is good that a man should both hope, and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

*The gospel bears my spirit up;
A faithful and unchanging God
Lays the foundation for my hope,
In oaths, and promises, and blood;
Then, O my soul, still hope in God,
And plead thy Saviour's precious blood.*

JESUS is the first and the last. He began, He carries on, and He will complete the great work of our eternal salvation. He was the first object to which we were directed to look, and He will be the last we shall wish to see. He was the first subject we began to learn, and we shall be learning Him to all eternity. He is first with us in every trial and trouble, and will never leave us nor forsake us. He is the foundation on which we build, and He will be for a covering. We should look to Him first in every trouble, and go to Him first with every want. He includes all that is good, great, and glorious. He that hath Jesus hath all things. Let us begin with Jesus, and then go on with Jesus, so shall we end with Jesus, and a blessed ending it will be. He is our great lesson, and we have learned nothing to purpose until we know Him. Oh, to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, and to be made conformable to His death! Let us endeavor to learn the happy art of looking to Jesus, expecting from Jesus, and glorifying Jesus as our ALPHA and OMEGA from day to day.

*I am Alpha and
Omega, the
beginning and the
end, the first and
the last.*

Revelation 22:13

*Christ is my hope, my strength, my guide,
For me He groan'd, and bled, and died;
Christ is the source of all my bliss,
My wisdom, and my righteousness:
My Saviour, Brother, faithful Friend,
On Him alone I now depend.*

11
June

*The LORD is my
portion, saith my
soul; therefore
will I hope
in him.*

Lamentations 3:24

HOW poor is the worldling's possession, if compared with the Christian's portion; it is but for a few days; it cannot satisfy, it cannot bless. But, beloved, Jehovah hath given up Himself; He says, "I AM YOUR INHERITANCE." We are ever with Him, and all He has is ours. His power is ours to support us, His wisdom to guide us, His love to comfort us, His mercy to relieve us, His goodness to supply us, His justice to defend us, His covenant to secure us, and His heaven to receive us. He is a suitable,

sufficient, and immutable portion. We are to live upon Him, draw from Him, rejoice in Him, and look to Him for all we need. For Him we must renounce all other; to His glory all our efforts must be directed, and with Him we must daily walk. Men cannot deprive us of our portion, fire cannot consume it, nor rust corrupt it; let us not therefore be much affected by anything that occurs below: if the streams are dried, the fountain remains; if creatures fail or deceive us, our God is the portion of our inheritance and of our cup; He maintains our lot, He is our strength, and OUR PORTION FOREVER.

*Begone, ye gilded vanities;
I seek the only GOOD;
To real bliss my wishes rise,
The FAVOUR OF MY GOD:
Thy love, my God, my portion be,
And let me find my all in Thee.*

TO Him we must look for light, comfort, and fruitfulness. He is our light and our salvation. He will not leave us comfortless. From Him is our fruit found. The people who know Him, believe Him, and walk with Him, are blessed. He giveth light in darkness, joy in sorrow, and life in death. He is our defence; from Him we must expect protection. His salvation is our shield; faith lays hold of it, and employs it against all our foes. He will enlighten and protect us; He will never fail us, or leave us to want or perish.

*For the LORD
God is a sun and
shield: the LORD
will give grace
and glory: no
good thing will
he withhold from
them that walk
uprightly.*

Psalm 84:11

He communicates His favours as freely, as easily, and as plentifully as the sun shines. There is enough in Him, and He will cheerfully bestow. Let us therefore wait upon Him this day, and walk in the light of His countenance. Who is among you that feareth the Lord, and obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God. His heart is ever more towards us, His promises shall be fulfilled to us, and He will glorify every perfection of His nature in us.

*Lord, be my safety and defence,
My light, my joy, my bliss;
My portion in the world to come,
My confidence in this:
Be thou, O Lord, my Shield and Sun,
As I the path of duty run.*

And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

Zechariah 3:5

WHO was it that thus stood by Joshua, when Satan accused and resisted him; when his filthy garments bore testimony against him, and he was cited to appear before God? Surely it was Jesus. Jesus, the messenger of the covenant; the minister of the true tabernacle, which God pitched, and not man; the angel of Jehovah's presence. This same Jesus stands by all His people; He stands by us. He stands on our side in prayer—in trouble—in temptation—in all our efforts to glorify His name. He stands by to instruct us

in the will of God; to help us in the work of God; to enrich us with the wealth of God; and to watch over us for good. Beloved, whoever leaves us, Jesus still stands by us. Our eyes should always be fixed upon Him. We ought never to forget, there is one witness to every action; Jesus stands by observing. We should therefore be circumspect—grateful—and courageous. He stands at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those who condemn his soul. He stands ready to help, waiting to give, determined to bless. May we always realize that Jesus stands by.

*Look up, my soul, with cheerful eye,
See where the great Redeemer stands,
The glorious Advocate on high,
With precious incense in His hands!
On Him alone thy hopes recline:
His power and love are all divine.*

NO man can possibly tell what is before him: but our God knoweth, and He has promised His people strength proportioned to their trials. We should not be anxious, for with the trial comes the strength. Our troubles are very generally to be numbered amongst our mercies. Temporal prosperity without a special blessing from God, will prove to be a curse; and it always brings a solemn responsibility with it. We have always found our God faithful; He always has given strength according to the day; and why should we now doubt? We may look forward and suppose the worst, and then say, "I will trust and not be afraid; for the Lord Jehovah is my STRENGTH and my song; He also is become my salvation." We go from strength to strength, and every true believer shall appear in Zion before God. He will perfect that which concerneth us, but will never forsake the work of His own hands. Let us then expect the Lord to give WHEN we want, AS we want, ALL we want; let us believe that our strength will be equal to our burden, to our day. The promise is plain, it is positive, it is sure, and our God is faithful.

*Thy shoes shall
be iron and brass;
and as thy days,
so shall thy
strength be.*

*Deuteronomy
33:25*

*God is love, and will not leave you,
When you most His kindness need;
God is true, nor can deceive you,
Though your faith be weak indeed.*

*Let not your heart
be troubled: ye
believe in God,
believe also
in me.*

John 14:1

JESUS does not approve of your being in an agitated, perplexed, uncomfortable state. He wishes to see you steady, holy, and happy. He forbids your fear; He commands your faith. As He is with you, as He is engaged for you, you should leave your concerns very much with Him. But how can we attend to this exhortation? Get the mind assured of a covenant interest in God, as your God. Live under the impression, God is with me; He minutely observes everything that takes place within and around me;

He is watching for an opportunity to do me good; He will not allow anything to hurt me; He will glorify Himself in me, and me in Himself; He bids me trust Him; I will trust and not be afraid. What will follow? He will keep them in perfect peace, whose minds are stayed on Him; because they trust in Him. Trust then in the Lord forever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. Let nothing trouble you, for your souls are in the hands of Jesus; your life is hid with Christ in God; your times are at God's disposal; and all things are working together for your good.

*O my soul! what means this sadness?
Wherefore art thou thus cast down?
Let thy grief be turned to gladness,
Bid thy restless fear begone;
Look to Jesus,
And rejoice in his dear name.*

SEE, beloved, what Jesus is doing. He is engaged for us; He did all He could for us on earth, and then ascended to heaven to carry on His work. The place He prepares will be worthy of Himself; "His rest will be glorious." It will just suit us; there the wicked cease from troubling, sin shall no more annoy, troubles shall no more beset, but the weary shall be at rest. He is preparing us for it, as well as it for us; therefore we are so tried and afflicted. Our light afflictions which are but for a moment, are working out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Let us daily think of Jesus as employed for us; let us consider death as going to take possession of the place He has prepared for us; and under all that tries us or casts us down, let us remember, Jesus will come again and receive us unto Himself; that where He is we may be also. Our present cottage may be incommodious and uncomfortable; but our mansion will be spacious, magnificent, and worthy of a God. He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and Jehovah will be his God.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:2

*And art Thou, gracious Saviour, gone,
A mansion to prepare for me?
Shall I behold Thee on Thy throne,
And there forever sit with Thee?
Then let the world approve or blame,
I'll triumph in Thy gracious name.*

*But I will sacrifice
unto thee with
the voice of
thanksgiving; I
will pay that that
I have vowed.
Salvation is of
the LORD.*

Jonah 2:9

THE love of the Father, the work of the Son, and the operations of the Holy Ghost, save the soul. The Father devised the scheme, the Son gave the ransom, and the Holy Spirit puts us in possession of the blessing. It is of God. It is by grace. It is through faith. Deliverance from dangers, trials, and wants, is of the Lord. He delivered Jonah when he cried, though he was a poor, proud, obstinate, peevish, fretful sinner: and He will deliver us. He says, "Look unto me and be delivered, for I am God. Look, for I bid you. Look, for I will attend to you. Look, for I will deliver you." He will deliver in six troubles, and in seven He will not forsake us. He will deliver our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. He will deliver the needy when he crieth, the poor also, and him that hath no helper. Are you looking to others? Are you drooping, fearing, or desponding? Your God takes it unkindly; He asks, "Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Is anything too hard for me?" He says, "I WILL WORK." He asks, "WHO SHALL LET IT?"

*Of all the crowns JEHOVAH bears,
Salvation is His dearest claim;
That gracious sound well pleased He hears,
And owns IMMANUEL for His name;
He saves us by His precious blood,
And proves Himself the MIGHTY GOD.*

BELIEVERS when in darkness, often fear that Jesus has forsaken them: this is natural; but it is unscriptural; for He has said, "I will never leave thee, I will never forsake thee." His offices require His presence with us. His love secures His presence to us. He will not leave us orphans. We are absolutely dependent upon Him; our comfort is His gift, and the countenance of comfort depends on His presence and grace. He is the great source of comfort to His people; His presence and His comforts are generally connected; He may withhold them for a time to reprove—instruct—or correct us; but we may calculate upon His comforts returning, for His promise is plain; it stands unrepealed in His word; and His nature and love are the same. His precious word of promise should be believed—pleaded—firmly trusted. We never shall be orphans, for our Father ever lives; our home waits to receive us, and our hope is imperishable. Oh, beloved, plead this precious word of Jesus: expect Him to make it good: aim at His glory, and your comforts are sure.

*I will not leave
you comfortless:
I will come
to you.*

John 14:18

*Most Holy Spirit, give me faith,
To rest on what my Saviour saith;
May I the sweetest comforts prove
Of His divine eternal love:
And daily trust His faithfulness,
Who will not leave me comfortless.*

19
June

*Yea, he loved the
people; all his
saints are in thy
hand: and they sat
down at thy feet;
every one shall
receive
of thy words.*

Deuteronomy 33:3

EVERY believer is a saint, separated by the purpose of God: sanctified by the operations of the Holy Spirit; set apart for God, and devoted to His service. Every saint is in the hand of Jesus; in the hand of His mercy—in the hand of His power—and in the hand of His providence. The hand of Jesus is large enough to hold all; strong enough to defend all. They are in His hand as His property, purchased by His blood; as His charge, committed to Him by His Father; at His disposal, to do with them as

seemeth good in His sight; under His protection, to be kept from Satan, death, and hell; to be guided through this desert world, to our Father's house above; to be moulded by His skill, and conformed to His own lovely image; to be covered from the storm, and preserved from the furious blast; to be used for His praise, and be lifted up to His eternal throne. They are HIS SAINTS; He chose them for HIS BRIDE; He rescued them from the hand of the enemy; He claims them as His right; He made them what they are; and He will glorify them forever.

*Blessed are the saints of God!
They are bought with Jesus' blood;
They are ransom'd from the grave,
Life eternal they shall have;
With them number'd may I be,
Now and through eternity!*

TO be justified is to be acquitted, and pronounced righteous. Every believer in Jesus, however ungodly he may have been, or however vile and unworthy he may feel, is justified by Jehovah. The perfect work of Jesus is imputed to him, free grace is glorified in him, and he is passed from death to life. To him there is no condemnation; no one can lay anything to his charge; he is accepted in the Beloved; Christ lived and died for him, and now he liveth and shall be glorified through and with Jesus. All his trespasses are freely forgiven and eternally forgotten. God has cast all our sins behind His back, and now He pronounces us just. Let us approach God, believing that He has justified us; and let us look forward and rejoice that the Judge of all the earth will declare us righteous. Who shall lay anything to our charge? It is God that justifieth. 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. My soul, look to Jesus, to His perfect work and prevalent intercession; there see thy salvation and find peace.

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

Romans 8:33

*They are justified by grace ;
They enjoy the Saviour's peace:
All their sins are washed away;
They shall stand in God's great day.
With them numbered may we be,
Here, and in eternity.*

And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Mark 4:40

WHERE there is little faith there are many fears. The disciples were filled with alarm, and Jesus inquired, "How is it that ye have no faith?" May not our heavenly Father often address us in the same language? "How is it that ye give no credit to My word? How is it that ye place no dependence on my relation—character—and veracity? How is it that ye have no confidence in my presence—power—and love? How is it that ye do not expect my interference, and look for my supplies? Have I not made promises which are plain—positive—and sure? Have I not fulfilled my promises again and again? Have I not summoned witnesses to attest the truth of my word? Have I not promised you my Holy Spirit? Have I not pledged my holiness? Have I not given my son for you, and to you? Have I not appeared for you in every past difficulty? How is it, then, that ye have no faith?" Beloved, let us humble ourselves before God. Let us plead guilty of indulging in unbelief, and plead for faith. Let us look for God in every place and in everything.

*Why should my soul indulge complaints,
And yield to dark despair?
The meanest of my Father's saints
Are safe beneath His care:
Dear Lord, increase my faith in Thee,
Till I Thy full salvation see.*

THIS is the believer's sheet anchor; without this his comforts would droop, and hope would give up the ghost. We are at times shaken to pieces by unbelief, and filled with tormenting doubts. We feel nothing of the presence, power, or comforts of the Holy Ghost; faith, hope, and love seem to be quite extinguished. We have no power, and scarcely any inclination to pray; and we feel only hardness, fretfulness, and misery. We are tempted by Satan, and harassed with tormenting thoughts, so that we feel tired of this miserable life. But God is faithful; He never fails us; but appears again and again, restoring us to peace, joy, and satisfaction; and our most miserable times are often succeeded by peculiar joys. The Scriptures are opened up to our understandings, the promises are applied to our souls, and we are filled with the comforts of the Holy Ghost. Then our souls melt before God in contrition and holy penitence; we feel crumbled into dust before Him, and can only admire and adore the riches of free and sovereign grace. Beloved, in the darkest night, remember, "GOD IS FAITHFUL."

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
1 Corinthians 10:13

*He will not His great self deny;
A God all truth can never lie:
True to His word, God gave His Son
To die for crimes which men had done:
Blest pledge! He never will revoke
A single promise He has spoke.*

*Then said the
princes of the
Philistines, What
do these Hebrews
here? ...*

1 Samuel 29:3

DAVID'S host wanted to mingle with the Philistines' army: this was decidedly wrong; and it is as wrong when God's people unite with the world, contrary to His word. We may ask, "What do these Christians here?" What do they joining with the world? Their Master has told them to "come out and be separate." What do they seeking a settlement below. He has said, "Arise ye, and depart, this is not your rest." What do they out of the path of duty, or by their presence sanctioning sin? He has said, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." What do they on Satan's ground? In the enemy's ranks? Do they intend to leave Jesus, and join the world? Are they tired of His company, set against His word, and determined to throw off His yoke? Do they intend to share in what they have proclaimed as the sinner's doom; the frown of Jesus, the wrath of God, and the slavery of Satan? WHAT DO THEY HERE? Their conduct is unnatural—degrading—traitorous. Beloved, you should keep the company of Jesus, walk with spiritual persons, and keep yourselves unspotted from the world.

*Ye tempting sweets forbear,
Ye dearest idols fall;
My love ye must not share,
Jesus shall have it all:
Aid me, dear Saviour, set me free,
And I will all resign for Thee.*

RELIGION does not originate in chance, but in the purpose of God; it flows not from the nature of man, but from the unalterable decree of the Most High. Every believer is a chosen vessel. The church had its origin in Jehovah's eternal election. Election flows from love; it is the exercise of sovereignty; it secures man's salvation and God's glory. It injures none, but it pours incalculable blessings upon thousands. It was the act of God before time. He chose us in Christ as our Head; it was of pure

*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
1 Peter 2:9*

grace; it was to holiness. We were chosen to be redeemed from death; purified from sin; separated from the world; devoted to God; and raised to a state of oneness with Jehovah. Being chosen of God, we choose God in return. He chose us to be His people, we choose Him to be our God. He chose us to be the beloved Bride of Jesus, and we choose Jesus to be our beloved Bridegroom. His election is the cause, our choice is the effect. His choice prevented ours; or else we had chosen death, in the error of our ways. Beloved, if we are the elect of God, we are holy; we are in union with Jesus.

*All the elected train
Were chosen in their Head,
To all eternal good,
Before the worlds were made;
Chosen to know the Prince of peace,
And taste the riches of His grace.*

*Seeing then that
all these things
shall be dissolved,
what manner of
persons ought ye
to be in all holy
conversation and
godliness,*

2 Peter 3:11

THE people of God are expected to be different from the world; they profess to have another Spirit in them, and to be the sons of God. They believe the present frame of things is to be dissolved. They look for a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. They are strangers and pilgrims here. What manner of persons then ought we to be? Surely we ought to set light by the things of time, and aim at the things which are eternal. We ought to be watchful—prayerful—diligent—

holy—patient—thankful—and expectant. We ought to be contented with such things as we have; to give all diligence to prove our title, make sure of our election, and rejoice in our destination. We ought to walk as Jesus walked. To live as Paul lived, dying daily. Let us ask this morning, Do we habitually believe that present things will soon be dissolved? If so, are we acting according to the same? Are we laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven? Are we doing good, that we may be rich in good works, and an honour to religion?

*Then let us wait the sound,
That shall our souls release;
And labour to be found
Of Him in spotless peace,
In perfect holiness renew'd,
Adorn'd with Christ, and meet for God.*

YOU need look to no other quarter for help, relief, or comfort. Jesus assures you that His grace is sufficient. You are welcome to it. You are exhorted to have it. To be strong in the grace which is in Christ Jesus. It is sufficient to support you under every privation, to help you over every difficulty, to strengthen you for every duty, to mortify every lust, and fill you with all joy and peace in believing. His grace is almighty—it is free—it is durable—it brings salvation. Look not at difficulties—dangers—

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

or thy own weakness; but look to the free, powerful, and promised grace of Jesus. Go to His throne of grace this morning, on purpose to receive grace for this day; go every day, and whenever you feel weak, timid, or cast down. His grace was found sufficient for Paul, for the martyrs and saints, in the deepest trials, and it shall be found sufficient for thee. He says, "I am the Lord thy God; open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. Come boldly to the throne of grace, that ye may obtain mercy and find grace to help you in time of need. Every one that asketh receiveth." O Jesus, make good Thy word in me!

Thy strength in weakness is display'd;

My soul this truth can relish now:

A worm upon Thy power is stay'd;

The weaker he, the stronger Thou:

My hope, my joy, is this alone—

My strength is Christ, THE MIGHTY ONE.

*Remember Lot's
wife.*

Luke 17:32

SHE received the angels, and hospitably entertained them, she believed their message, and prepared to act upon it: she obeyed their command, and left Sodom and her children behind her. She forsook the ungodly, and went in company with the saints; yet her heart was left in the city, and she looked back. She was deprived of life for too highly prizing its comforts. She was cut off by a visible display of God's judgment. The situation in which she died was instructive: it was not in Sodom, but on the plain; she escaped one judgment, but was overtaken by

another. She was left as a sad example of God's jealousy, and displeasure against sin. Here is a warning to the covetous, whose hearts are set on things below; to the self-willed, who trifle with God's commands; and to the undecided, who stand between Sodom and Zoar. God will be honoured by our obedience, or by our sufferings. It is dangerous to trifle with the smallest of God's commands. We may overcome one temptation, and yet fall by another. Let us examine—are our hearts detached from the world? Be not high-minded, but fear.

*Waiting for our Lord's returning,
Be it ours His word to keep;
Let our lamps be always burning;
Let us watch, while others sleep:
We're no longer of the night:
We are children of the light.*

WE know not what a day may bring forth: we are born to trouble; many unexpected trials may befall us; but our God will be our hope. He is the REFUGE, to which we may always repair, and find safety; the Fullness, from which we shall receive a plentiful supply. His oath, His promises, His covenant character, and the blood of Jesus, lay a firm foundation for our hope; and His gospel warrants us to hope in Him at all times, for all things. Therefore, let what will come, we can have no reason

The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.
Joel 3:16

to be disconsolate; we can have no cause to fear; our God is our hope. May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Ghost. Let us gird up the loins of our minds, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto us at the appearing of the Lord Jesus. Let us look for that blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of the great God, even 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.

*In Him I hope, in Him I trust,
His bleeding cross is all my boast;
Through troops of foes He'll lead me on
To victory, and the victor's crown.*

*My son, give me
thine heart, and
let thine eyes
observe my ways.*

Proverbs 23:26

BELOVED, the Most High presents Himself as a Suitor this morning. He asks for thy heart. It is His workmanship, He wants it to be His habitation. He made it by His power, He wants to rule it by His grace. He will not be satisfied with anything else. If He have the heart, He has all; if He has not the heart, He has nothing. Let us surrender our hearts to Him this morning, and every morning. Let us ask Him to sanctify them by His grace, to fill them with His Spirit. To engrave on them His image, to keep them by His power, and to fill them with the fruits of holiness. If the heart is given to God, the life will be according to His word. If He rule in us, we shall walk as Jesus walked; and if our walk is not holy, our religion is but a form. "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." Oh, how awful, to think and profess that we are the Lord's, and yet to have the heart under the influence of sin, Satan, and the world! Jesus says, "MY SON, GIVE ME THINE HEART." Let our reply be, "Lord, take my heart, reign and rule in it forever."

*O Jesus! wounded Lamb of God,
Come, wash me in Thy cleansing blood;
Take my poor heart and let it be
Forever closed to all but Thee:
Unloose my stammering tongue, to tell
Thy love immense, unsearchable.*

WE profess to be the Lord's. We are not our own. We belong not to the world. We are no longer the servants of sin. We are solely and entirely the Lord's: having willingly giving up ourselves into His hands, to be saved by His grace, devoted to His service, and employed for His glory. We are His children by grace and adoption; His servants by voluntary engagement; His soldiers by public profession; and His spouse by affection and union. Being the Lord's, we may expect His interference on our behalf; and we should call on Him and plead with Him in all straits and difficulties. He will save. He will deliver us. Let us therefore lay our case before Him; and then ardently expect Him to glorify His grace in us. Let us walk worthy of God as beloved children, and live under the impression that He will make all grace abound toward us, so that we, having all sufficiency in all things, may abound in every good work. His mercy is great unto the heavens, and His faithfulness unto the clouds; and He never said to the seed of Jacob, "SEEK YE ME," in vain. But He saith, "SEEK YE ME, AND YE SHALL LIVE."

*I am thine,
save me; for I
have sought thy
precepts.*

Psalms 119:94

*Jesus, my Saviour, and my God,
Thou hast redeem'd me with Thy blood;
By ties both natural and divine,
I am, and ever will be Thine;
Save me from sin, and Satan's power;
Guide me and guard me every hour.*

Scripture Memory Programme 2015
Wonderful Words of Life!

Sing them over again to me, Wonderful words of life!
Let me more of their beauty see, Wonderful words of life!
Words of life and beauty, Teach me faith and duty!
Beautiful words! Wonderful words! Wonderful words of life!
- Philip P. Bliss -

The Word of God is filled with words of truth, assurance and comfort. The 28 passages of Scripture found in this booklet are carefully selected to lead sinners to eternal life through Christ, and saints to experience abundant life in Christ. May the Lord bless and enrich your life with His wonderful words of Life as you memorise and meditate on them!

* * *

January 4 & 11 – Only One Way

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

January 18 & 25 – Man’s Sinfulness

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

February 1 & 8 – Man’s Sinfulness

Romans 3:10 - As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.

February 15 & 22 – God’s Salvation

Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

March 1 & 8 – God’s Protection

Nahum 1:7 - The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

March 15 & 22 – Courage for Living

2 Timothy 1:7 - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

March 29 – Strength for Living

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

April 5 & 12 – Christ Gives Life

John 11:25 - Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

April 19 & 26 – Christ Gives Rest

Matthew 11:28 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

May 3 & 10 – God Sustains

Isaiah 46:4 - And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

May 17 & 24 – God Empowers

Isaiah 40:29 - He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

May 31 – Salvation by Grace Alone

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.

June 7 & 14 – Shining as Lights

Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

June 21 & 28 – God’s Benevolence

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.

July 5 & 12 – God Heals

Jeremiah 17:14 - Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

July 19 & 26 – A Ready Answer

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.

August 2 & 9 – Reconciliation

Romans 5:10 - For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

August 16 & 23 – Confessing Christ

Luke 12:8 - Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.

August 30 – God’s Love

John 3:16 - 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.

September 6 & 13 – Eternal Life

1 John 5:11,12 - And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

September 20 & 27 – God’s Security

2 Timothy 1:12 - For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

October 4 & 11 – God’s Help

Isaiah 41:13 - For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

October 18 & 25 – Perseverance

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).

November 1 & 8 – Confessing Christ

1 John 4:15 - Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

November 15 & 22 – God Gives the Increase

1 Corinthians 3:7 - So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

November 29 – Discipleship

Matthew 28:19,20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

December 6 & 13 – Abounding Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:5 - For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

December 20 & 27 – Rejoicing in God

Habakkuk 3:18 - Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

