

The Believer's
Daily Remembrancer

By

The Rev. James Smith

VOLUME FOUR

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.

WHEN ye pray, say, “OUR FATHER.” When ye are cast down, remember you have a Father in heaven who loves you, cares for you, has given His word to you, and is ever ready to do you good. It is truly blessed to begin this month, and every month, believing that we have a Father in heaven; and that, “like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him; for He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust.” Let there be no reserve between us and our heavenly Father, but let us communicate everything to Him; let there be no hard thoughts of our Father encouraged; but let us take His own word, which sets forth His own immutable mind, and rejoice. Our heavenly Father knoweth what we need, He hath provided all we need, He will give all He has provided; but He will be acknowledged and sought unto. Nothing is too hard for Him to effect, nothing is too great for him to produce, nothing is too good for Him to bestow upon His people. What a mercy to have a Father, and such a Father, in this inhospitable world! To Him let us carry, and with Him let us leave all our cares.

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Matthew 6:32

*Father, on me the grace bestow,
To call Thee mine while here below,
To love Thee as Thy law requires;
To this my longing soul aspires:
May every word and action prove,
My soul is filled with heavenly love.*

2
October

*Then Moses stood
in the gate of the
camp, and said,
Who is on the
LORD'S side? let
him come unto me.
And all the sons
of Levi gathered
themselves
together unto him.*

Exodus 32:26

EVERY believer is ready to answer, "I am." Well, the Lord has a cause upon the earth; it is weak, and wants your support; it is opposed, and needs your countenance. If you are on the Lord's side, you are on the side of truth—holiness—charity—of His worship and ordinances—of His people and His ways—and you are jealous of His honour. You unite with His people, go forth to Jesus without the camp, bearing His reproach. If you are on the Lord's side, He will spare you as obedient children; supply you as

faithful servants; protect you as loyal subjects; and honour you as brave and courageous soldiers. You will never see any just occasion to change sides; or regret that you decided to serve so good a Master. You will find the Lord to be on your side, supporting you in affliction; comforting you in trouble; giving you victory in death; and pronouncing you just in the judgment. If you are on the Lord's side, avow it openly; prove it daily; and let your whole conduct say, "I AM THE LORD'S." Use all your influence for His cause, consecrate all your energies to His cause, and rejoice to suffer for His name.

*Shall I, for fear of feeble man,
The Spirit's course in me restrain?
Awed by a mortal's frown shall I
Conceal the word of God most high?
How then before Thee shall I dare
To stand, or how Thine anger bear?*

WE were by nature cursed of God, and a curse to others; but a God of love interferes for us, pours out His blessing upon us, and makes us a blessing. He gives grace to form the character; gifts to fit for usefulness; wisdom to choose the course; strength to do His will; supplies to complete the design; faith to trust His word; patience to persevere and wait His time; and success to crown our efforts. The result of His thus blessing us is, we are a blessing to others; to sinners and to saints. We are a blessing by the spirit we breathe, if it is meek, gentle, and lovely; by the example we set, if it is an imitation of Jesus; by our prayers for the good of souls, and the glory of God; and by our efforts to spread abroad the knowledge of the truth in every place. What a blessing to be the means of the conversion of but one soul! To be used to instruct the ignorant, to strengthen the weak, or to comfort the desponding, or distressed. O Jesus! make us a blessing. Thy grace is sufficient; fulfil to us Thy promise to Abraham. Beloved, let us look to Him, depend upon Him, act for Him, give praise daily unto Him, and **WE SHALL BE A BLESSING.**

*And I will make
of thee a great
nation, and I
will bless thee,
and make thy
name great; and
thou shalt be a
blessing:*

Genesis 12:2

*Lord, make me faithful unto death,
Thy witness with my latest breath,
To tell the glories of the Lamb,
Him whom I serve, and whose I am;
On whom for strength I daily lean,
Whose strength is in my weakness seen.*

*And go not after
other gods to
serve them, and
to worship them,
and provoke me
not to anger with
the works of your
hands; and I will
do you no hurt.*

Jeremiah 25:6

HOW is it possible that a God of love, who is full of compassion, plenteous in mercy, ready to forgive, waiting to be gracious, should do His children hurt? It cannot be. His dealings may cause us pain, but nothing shall by any means harm us. We ought rather to argue with Paul, "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" He sent His ancient people as captives to Babylon, but it was for their good; He allowed His children to be

cast into the fiery furnace, into the lion's den, to be driven out to wander in sheep-skins and goat-skins, but He did not allow them to be hurt; all was sanctified to them, and the curse was turned into a blessing. If He scourge us with one hand, He will support us with the other, and at last we shall come up before His throne, out of great tribulation, having washed our robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Not one who has arrived safe in heaven will say that his God allowed him to be hurt; notwithstanding the trials endured by the way. Nothing shall by any means hurt you.

*Lord, I would my all resign,
Gladly lose my will in Thine,
Careless be of things below,
Thee alone content to know;
Simple, innocent, and free,
Seeking all my bliss in Thee.*

WILL the Lord receive us when we have backslidden from Him, and are desirous of returning to Him? Oh, yes, He invites, He exhorts, He beseeches us to return. Nor does He prescribe any hard conditions, but He says, "ONLY ACKNOWLEDGE THINE INIQUITY." He is so ready to forgive, so infinitely gracious in His nature, that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Have we wandered? Have we left our first love? Let us go and return to our first husband, for then it was better with us than now. His bowels yearn over us, His arms are open to receive us, and He waits to fall upon our neck and kiss us. Let us go to His throne, and there confess our sins, crave His pardon, sigh for the enjoyment of His love, and He will restore unto us the joys of His salvation, and establish us with His free Spirit. Let us daily confess our iniquities unto the Lord, and He will pardon our numerous sins. In His favour is life. In His frown is distress and woe. He delighteth in mercy. He will receive, pardon us, and bless like a God. His mercy endureth forever.

*Only acknowledge
thine iniquity,
that thou hast
transgressed against
the LORD thy God,
and hast scattered
thy ways to the
strangers under
every green tree,
and ye have not
obeyed my voice,
saith the LORD.
Jeremiah 3:13*

*This glorious news dispels my fears,
Makes glad my heart, wipes off my tears,
Displays the riches of His grace,
Inflames my love, and claims my praise:
A pardon'd sinner lives to prove
The height and depth of Jesus's love.*

6
October

*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*

THE righteousness here intended is that which God requires in His law; provided by the life and death of His Son; presents to sinners in the everlasting gospel; imputes to every believer, of richest grace; accepts when pleaded at the throne of His grace; and honours with a title to eternal life. This righteousness is by faith; it is the office of faith to receive it; plead it; trust it; rejoice in it; embolden the soul through it; and clothe the soul in it. It is not offered to anything but faith, nor can it be received and enjoyed in

any other way. Every unbeliever and self-righteous person rejects it, but every man who is taught of God feels that he needs it; discovers the beauty, glory, and value of it; applies for it with ardent desire and earnest longing; embraces it as one of God's greatest favours; enjoys it as a rich and durable treasure; and dies confidently expecting to be accepted in it and admitted to glory through it. Oh, may we be found in Jesus, not having on our own righteousness, which is of the law, but THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS OF GOD BY FAITH! And while we pant for holiness with every breath, and aim at it in every action, may each of us devoutly say—

*And even when I feel Thy grace,
And sin seems most subdued,
I'll wrap me in Thy righteousness,
And plunge me in Thy blood.*

DO we love Jesus? Are we cultivating an acquaintance with Him? If we love Him, we desire to know Him more fully; to serve Him more cheerfully; and to enjoy Him continually. If we love Jesus, we are willing to part with all things for Him, to renounce whatever He forbids, and pursue whatsoever He commands. If we love Him, we want to love Him more; and to be always with Him. If we love Him, He assures us His Father will love us; for He so delights in His beloved Son, that He visits, revives, and blesses every soul that loves Jesus. If God loves us, what good thing will He withhold from us? Will He suffer any one to hurt us? Oh, no! He will manifest Himself to us. He will appear for us. He will glorify Himself in us. He will be to us all a God can be, and do for us far above our expectations and hopes. To be the object of the love of God is to enjoy the highest honour, and to possess a title to the greatest happiness which it is possible for rational creatures to enjoy. Let us therefore ascertain beyond a doubt, that we love Jesus, ardently, sincerely.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:21

*To His meritorious passion
All our happiness we owe;
Pardon, uttermost salvation,
Heaven above and heaven below:
Grace and glory
From that open fountain flow.*

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October

*Draw me, we will
run after thee:
the king hath
brought me into his
chambers: we will
be glad and rejoice
in thee, we will
remember thy love
more than wine: the
upright love thee.
Song of Solomon
1:4*

WHAT subject is so sweet as the love of Jesus? The goodwill of His heart towards us, which He fixed on us sovereignly, immutably, and eternally. Let us remember this love of Jesus, for it is sufficient to fill us with joy, peace, and love. Oh, how it condescended to look upon us, come and die for us, and now to dwell with us! What benevolence it has and does display, giving everything that is necessary for life and godliness. How it dignifies its objects, raising them to glory, honour, immortality,

and eternal life. Let us remember His love; to comfort our hearts amidst changing friendships; to encourage our souls in seasons of darkness; to produce confidence in times of trial; to inspire with fortitude in times of danger; to beget patience when burdened and oppressed; to reconcile the mind under bereaving dispensations; and to produce zeal and devotedness in the Lord's cause and service. Oh, love of Jesus! be Thou my daily subject and constant theme! Beloved, let us remember His love, if we forget everything beside; there is nothing so sweet, so valuable, so excellent as this!

*God only knows the love of God:
Oh, that it now were shed abroad
In this poor stony heart!
Give me to know this love divine,
This heavenly portion, Lord, be mine;
Be mine this better part!*

THOSE who appear the most friendless, have the best and truest Friend. The Lord's people are poor, but they are not friendless nor forsaken. They have Jehovah for their God, Jesus for their Saviour, and the Holy Spirit for their Comforter and Guide. They know God, and commit themselves and their all to Him. But how do they commit themselves to Him? As the debtor does to his Surety. As a sick man does to his Physician. As the client does to his Lawyer or Advocate. As the needy does to his rich and generous Friend. As a sinner to the Saviour. As the loving bride to her beloved Bridegroom. But why do they commit themselves unto Him? They commit themselves to His grace to be saved by it; to His power to be kept by it; to His providence to be fed by it; to His word to be ruled by it; to His care to be preserved by it; and to His arms at death, to be safely landed in glory. This flows from grace, and produces peace, safety, satisfaction, and success. Let us, beloved, commit ourselves to the Lord daily, heartily, deliberately, and unreservedly.

*Thou hast seen it;
for thou beholdest
mischief and spite,
to requite it with
thy hand: the poor
committeth himself
unto thee; thou art
the helper of the
fatherless.*

Psalms 10:14

*My soul shall cry to Thee, O Lord,
To Thee, supreme, incarnate Word,
My rock and fortress, shield and Friend,
Creator, Saviour, source, and end;
And Thou wilt hear Thy servant's prayer,
Though death and darkness speak despair.*

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

Romans 8:33

GOD'S elect are sinners; they know it, feel it, and deplore it. The world is against them, and Satan tries every means in his power to ruin them. But blessed be God he cannot prevail. The work of the Holy Spirit within them, sets and keeps them panting for holiness; striving against sin; aiming at God's glory; and desiring to be a blessing to all around them. The work of Christ for them, brings forth a sentence of justification from the eternal Father; and believing His word they realize their privilege, and may

boldly ask—"WHO SHALL LAY ANYTHING TO THE CHARGE OF GOD'S ELECT?" Will God? No—for He is perfectly satisfied through the death of His Son. Will conscience? No—for it is cleansed by the blood of Jesus, silenced by the word of God, and corroborates Jehovah's testimony. Can Satan? No—for he is cast out, his testimony cannot be received, having long since been proved a liar by the God of truth. Will Jesus as Judge of all? No—for He would rather die for us than condemn us. O beloved, see the perfection of the Saviour's work.

*Complete atonement He has made,
And to the utmost farthing paid
Whate'er His people owed;
How then can wrath on me take place,
If shelter'd in His righteousness,
And sprinkled with His blood?*

THE love of God to His people is free, unspeakably great, and eternal; our love to God is dependant on His love to us as its source, on faith and fellowship with Him as its fuel; therefore we are exhorted to keep ourselves in the love of God. This implies that we are beloved of God, and that we know it, and love Him in return. That we should endeavour to retain our standing, and keep ourselves sensibly in the love of God, by setting it always before our minds; exercising our faith on it; and seeking the enjoyment of it by prayer and in the Lord's ways. We should keep ourselves in the exercise of love to God, by avoiding temptations, walking by faith, and living as in His presence. We should keep ourselves in the exercise of love one to another, by exhortation, forbearance, and example. We should preserve ourselves by the love of God, from the temptations of Satan, the snares of the world, and the lusts of the flesh. Beloved, consider how the love of God aggravates our sins; how it should fire us with courage to oppose everything that is unholy or forbidden.

*Keep yourselves
in the love of God,
looking for the
mercy of our Lord
Jesus Christ unto
eternal life.*

Jude 21

*O love divine, how sweet Thou art!
When shall I find my longing heart
All taken up by Thee?
Grant me, O gracious Lord, to prove
The sweetness of redeeming love,
The love of Christ to me!*

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October

*But if ye will not
do so, behold,
ye have sinned
against the
LORD: and be
sure your sin will
find you out.*

Numbers 32:23

SIN cannot be concealed; it meets the eye and affects the heart of God; and unless we find it out, confess it with sorrow, and forsake it with disgust, it will find us out, and expose us to the rod of God, and the contempt of godly men. It found Achan out, and proved his ruin; it found Noah out, and covered him with disgrace; and it found David out, so that the sword never departed from his house. God cannot be reconciled to sin, nor should we be. However secret the sin, God is a witness; and He will bring it to light.

“HE THAT COVERETH HIS SIN SHALL NOT PROSPER; but he that confesseth and forsaketh his sins, shall find mercy.” Let us be careful that we give sin no quarter, or vainly fancy that because God loves us He will not expose us; He assures US OUR SIN WILL FIND US OUT. Oh, to hate sin as God hates it, to loathe it as Jesus loathed it, and to become dead to it, and be entirely delivered from it! It is the source of all our miseries, the cause of all our pains, and the occasion of all our troubles. It cannot be hid, it will find us out, and sorely wound us.

*O God, our sins have found us out,
And melted us with grief!
Before Thy throne ourselves we cast,
And supplicate relief:
To Jesus' feet we now repair,
And seek, and find salvation there.*

WE are prone to wander, and are daily going astray; our God may justly cast us off, but He lovingly invites us to return. He bids us take words and come to Him, and gives us every encouragement to hasten to His feet. We are CHILDREN, though backsliding; and it is our FATHER who bids us return. Beloved, let us return to our God this morning, let us confess our sin, deplore our folly, crave His pardon, plead His word, hope in His mercy, and expect the token of reconciliation and love. What

*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

an unspeakable mercy to have such a Father! So ready to forgive! So willing to receive! So desirous that we should be happy and blest! His love is wonderful, His forbearance beyond description. See His arms extended; hear His word inviting; and hasten to be blest. Do not dwell on your miseries, or your wretchedness; they are the effects of your backsliding; but He says, "I will heal your backslidings." "Come, and let us return unto the Lord; for He hath torn, and will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up." His heart is grieved for us, His word invites us, and His love will make us happy.

Father of mercies, God of love!

Oh! hear a humble suppliant's cry

Bend from Thy lofty seat above,

Thy throne of glorious majesty;

Oh, deign to listen to my voice,

And bid this drooping heart rejoice.

*For I will restore
health unto thee,
and I will heal thee
of thy wounds,
saith the LORD;
because they called
thee an Outcast,
saying, This is
Zion, whom no
man seeketh after.*

Jeremiah 30:17

JESUS is a skilful Physician. He heals all the falls, bruises, and dislocations of His people. He brings health to the heart. Believer, is thy heart hard, wandering, unbelieving, or wounded? Jesus can heal it, and to you He says, "COME AND BE HEALED." He restores the fainting, the dying and the dead. He is the perfect master of every disease. His terms are "NO MONEY: NO PRICE!" But He will have an absolute surrender to Him; you must refuse all other medicines; take all He prescribes, bitter or sweet. Touch—trust—and be

happy. Jesus is JEHOVAH ROPHI, therefore look for health to no other. Lodge in His neighbourhood. Consult Him daily. Lay open your whole case to Him. Never despond until His nature changes, His skill fails, or His advertisement is withdrawn from the book of God. Be grateful for healing, and show your gratitude by endeavouring to send others to Him. Recommend this gracious Physician. Trust Him, and remember His question, "Were there not ten cleansed, BUT WHERE ARE THE NINE? They are not found that return to give glory to God, save this stranger." Beloved, come to Jesus and be healed; and be sure you render again according to the mercy shown you.

*Saviour, I wait Thy healing hand!
Diseases fly at Thy command;
Now let Thy sovereign touch impart
Life, health, and vigour to my heart.*

UNBELIEF is represented as filling Jesus with surprise; and is it any wonder, especially our unbelief? Consider what God hath done to remove doubt. He hath sent His character, "God is love." He hath made a proclamation, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." He hath given an invitation, "Look unto me, and be ye saved." He hath employed entreaty, "As though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." He hath issued a command, "This is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ." He hath sworn an oath, "That by two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation." He hath given His Son as a pledge, to assure us that "whosoever believeth on Him shall never perish, but have eternal life." He hath added the testimony of all His saints. Well then may He marvel at our unbelief. Never let us attempt to excuse it, but let us plead and pray against it, until we conquer it.

*And he marvelled
because of their
unbelief. And
he went round
about the villages,
teaching.*

Mark 6:6

*O Lord, fulfil in me Thy word,
Now let me feel Thy pardoning blood,
Let what I ask be given;
The bar of unbelief remove,
Open the door of faith and love,
And take me into heaven.*

*For the LORD
shall be thy
confidence, and
shall keep thy
foot from being
taken.*

Proverbs 3:26

OUR happiness consists in knowing God and believing Him; if we know His true character, we can believe His precious word; and if we believe His holy word, we enjoy peace and sacred satisfaction. He presents Himself to us in His word, as able and willing to make us holy, happy, and honourable. To Him we may communicate all that troubles us, from Him we may receive all that our circumstances require, with Him we may walk and enjoy peace. We may be confident in God, for He has power, love, and faithfulness; He has spoken to us, will

appear for us, and will never turn away from us; but will rejoice over us to do us good, with His whole heart and with His whole soul. Let us make Him our confidence, by believing His word, frequenting His throne, and seeking His glory in all things. Are you troubled, fearful, and cast down? Acquaint now thyself with Him and be at peace, thereby shall good come unto thee. They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever.

*Thou, Lord, on whom I still depend,
Wilt keep me faithful to the end:
I trust Thy truth, and love and power;
Shall save me to the latest hour;
And when I lay this body down,
Bestow a bright immortal crown.*

THE more the believer feels his weakness, the more should he expect his Saviour to appear for and strengthen him. The strength of Jesus is imparted, enjoyed, and displayed in our sorest trials and most distressing seasons. Never was Abraham so strong, as when offering up his beloved Isaac upon the mount; never were the martyrs so courageous, as when in prison they felt their entire weakness, cried to Jesus for strength; and depending on His faithfulness and love, left all and went to the stake.

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

Then they could exclaim, "None but Christ. None but Christ." "Farewell life, welcome the cross of Christ." Beloved, let us walk by faith, not by feeling; when we feel weakest, the strength of Jesus is nearest, and He magnifies His mercy by giving power to the faint, and increasing the strength of the weak. Let us depend on Him, for we can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us. He is our strength, a very present help in trouble. The Lord is our strength and song, He also is become our salvation.

*Saviour, on earth, I covet not
That every woe should cease;
Only, if trouble be my lot,
In Thee let me have peace:
Thy grace and strength display in me,
Till I arrive at perfect day.*

*Therefore I will
look unto the
LORD; I will
wait for the God
of my salvation:
my God will
hear me.*

Micah 7:7

LOOKING to creatures always ends in disappointment; therefore it is forbidden by Him who loves us best, and consults our best interests at all times. The prophet had been weaned from this, by many and sore trials; and now he determines to look unto the Lord. Let us imitate his example. We cannot do better than look to the Lord, as our Captain, to command; as our Master, to direct; as our Father, to provide; and as our God, to defend. His name is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and are

safe. Looking to Jesus, will preserve us from a thousand snares; and prepare us to suffer as Christians and triumph as conquerors. The eyes of the Lord are always upon us; may our eyes be ever towards the Lord. Let us look to Him for all we need; from all we fear; through all that obstructs our progress; and so press on towards the mark for the prize of the high calling, which is of God in Christ Jesus. He says, "Look unto me and be ye saved." It is recorded, "They looked upon Him and were lightened, and their faces were not ashamed." Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

*Lord, shine on my benighted heart,
With beams of mercy shine;
And let Thy Spirit's voice impart
A taste of joys divine:
To Thee I look, to Thee I cry,
Oh, bring Thy sweet salvation nigh.*

*In the day of my
trouble I will call
upon thee: for
thou wilt answer
me.*

Psalm 86:7

SUCH was David's purpose, and such his assurance; and we have the same warrant for confidence as he had. Our God will answer prayer. Let us inquire what is necessary, in order to the assurance that our God will answer us. We must REALLY MEAN what we say when we pray. We must pray for a definite object. We must pray in accordance with the will of God, as revealed in His promises and precepts. We must pray in submission to the will of God, as to the time when, and the means by which He will answer us. We must heartily desire what we pray for. Our motives must be pure, as that God may be glorified, sin subdued, and Jesus exalted. We must pray with importunity and perseverance. We must offer all our prayers in the name of Jesus, and expect them to be accepted and honoured only for His sake. There must be no sin indulged; for if we indulge iniquity in our hearts, GOD WILL NOT HEAR OUR PRAYER. We must pray in faith, believing that God is, and that He is the rewarder of all them who diligently seek Him.

*Lord, on me Thy Spirit pour;
Turn the stony heart to flesh;
And begin from this good hour,
To revive Thy work afresh:
Lord, revive me!
All my help must come from Thee.*

*Behold, the LORD
hath proclaimed
unto the end of
the world, Say ye
to the daughter of
Zion, Behold, thy
salvation cometh;
behold, his reward
is with him, and his
work before him.*

Isaiah 62:11

THE Lord's people may be now sorely tried and often cast down; but the present is the worst state they will ever be in; they are hastening to the day of God, which is to them the day of deliverance. Their salvation is on the road; they will soon be freed from all disease, from which they now suffer; from all sin, under which they now groan; from all foes, of whom they are now afraid; and from all cares and troubles, with which they are now burdened. Beloved, why are you so fearful, and why do desponding thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold, your salvation cometh; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will free you from all that pains you, and raise you above all you fear. The time of deliverance is at hand, the year of release is near; the trumpet of the Jubilee will soon be heard; our Saviour will arrive to lead us to our Father's house, to the mansions which He hath prepared for us, and so shall we be ever with the Lord. Comfort one another with these words, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him!"

*Jesus beckons from on high;
Fearless to His presence fly;
Thine the merits of His blood,
Thine the righteousness of God!
Go, His triumphs to adorn,
Made for God, to God return!*

THIS supposes a knowledge of the Lord as infinitely gracious; inflexibly just; inconceivably wise; and immutably faithful: except we know Him we cannot trust Him. But here is an entire surrender to Him, to be led where He pleases; as He chooses; and by whom He will. This surrender is becoming, prudent, gainful; for godliness with such contentment is great gain. Such a surrender is the effect of faith in the Lord's promise, gracious presence, and covenant character; it exhibits expectation from the Lord. Whom the Lord guides He protects; He preserves; He supplies; and receives. He receives them now at the throne of grace, to be His charge and His care; and He will receive them at the throne of His glory, and introduce them to holiness, happiness, and honour. Beloved, have you thus surrendered? Are you daily surrendering? Can you say to your gracious God, "Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory?" If so, happy are ye; the Spirit of glory and of God will rest upon you.

*Thou shalt guide
me with thy
counsel, and
afterward receive
me to glory.*

Psalm 73:24

*Thy word, O Lord, is light and food,
The law of truth, and source of good;
Oh, let it richly dwell within,
To keep me from the snares of sin;
And guide me still to choose my way,
That I no more may go astray.*

*And so, after he
had patiently
endured, he
obtained the
promise.*

Hebrews 6:15

ABRAM was long tried, but he was richly rewarded. The Lord tried him by delaying to fulfil His promise; Satan tried him by temptations; men tried him by jealousy, distrust, and opposition; Hagar tried him by contemning her mistress; and Sarah tried him by her peevishness. But he patiently endured. He did not question God's veracity; nor limit His power; nor doubt His faithfulness; nor grieve His love: but he bowed to divine sovereignty; submitted to infinite wisdom; and was silent under delays, waiting the Lord's time. And so, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. God's promises cannot fail of their accomplishment. Patient waiters cannot be disappointed. Believing expectations shall be realized. Beloved, Abraham's conduct condemns a hasty spirit; reproves a murmuring one; commends a patient one; and encourages quiet submission to God's will and way. Remember, Abraham was tried; he patiently waited; he received the promise and was satisfied; imitate his example, and you will share the same blessing.

*All anxious cares I fain would leave,
And learn with sweet content to live
On what the Lord shall send;
Whate'er He sends, He sends in love,
And good or bad things blessings prove,
If blessed by this Friend.*

ALL who profess Christ are supposed to possess a new nature; they are brought under new obligations; and are expected to keep new objects in view. Being baptized into the death of Christ, and participating in His resurrection, they should walk as influenced by new principles; the free grace, holy truth, and divine power of God, should lead them to newness of life. They should walk by new rules, no longer following custom, or imitating the world; they should walk according to God's word, the Saviour's golden rule, and bright example. The love of God, gratitude to God, and zeal for His glory, should be the motives from which they act; while to honour God; to enjoy His presence; to exalt Jesus; to benefit others; to prove the power and purity of their principles; to justify their profession; and to evidence their faith and love; should be the ends they have constantly in view. A new life is expected from new creatures; and without it our religion is vain, and our profession a falsehood. Beloved, do we walk in newness of life?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

*Finish, Lord, thy new creation,
Pure, unspotted may we be;
Let us see our whole salvation
Perfectly secured by thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before thee
Lost in wonder, love and praise.*

*And he said, Who art thou, Lord?
And the Lord said,
I am Jesus whom thou persecutest:
it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

Acts 9:5

IMMANUEL presents Himself this morning, and tells us He is exactly suited to us, whatever may be our circumstances, or feelings; He says, "I AM JESUS." Are you seeking the Lord? He is Jesus, the gracious, powerful, tender-hearted, ready and willing SAVIOUR. Are you tried, troubled, and cast down? He is Jesus, the constant, sympathizing, present, wise and unchangeable FRIEND. Are you a returning backslider, filled with your own ways? He is Jesus, and He says, "I will receive you; I will

heal you; I will restore you; I will rejoice over you, as the shepherd over the sheep he had lost." Beloved, Jesus is the Lord our God, our all in all; our God is Jesus the Saviour, merciful, kind, and tender; this proclamation is cheering to the sinner, and delightful to the saint. Let us remember, whoever may change, whatever may change, He is Jesus still; still touched with the feeling of our infirmities; still able and willing to help us; still full of compassion and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Him; still ready to forgive, waiting to be gracious, full of pity, and pledged to receive us.

*When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil;
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,—
All other ground is sinking sand.*

EVERYTHING we enjoy should be viewed as coming from the liberal hand of God; all was forfeited by sin; what we receive is of grace. The providence that supplies us, is the wisdom, benevolence, and power of God in operation for us, as expressive of His infinite love and unmerited grace. Talents to provide supplies, opportunities to obtain, and ability to enjoy, are alike from the Lord. Every mercy increases our obligation and deepens our debt. Thanksgiving is the ordinance that God hath appointed, that we may express our gratitude, and acknowledge our obligation; and our thanksgivings are acceptable and well-pleasing in His sight. Thanksgiving is never out of season, for we have always much to be thankful for. In everything we should give thanks, to that end view all things as arranged by His wisdom, dependant on His will, sanctified by His blessing, according with His promises, and flowing from His love. All our blessings come through Jesus, and all our praises must ascend through Him; for our Father only accepts what is presented in the name of His beloved Son.

*In every thing
give thanks: for
this is the will
of God in Christ
Jesus concerning
you.*

*1 Thessalonians
5:18*

*Praise Him who by His word
Supplies our every need,
And gives us Christ the Lord,
Our hungry souls to feed:
Thanks be to God for every good,
Eternal thanks for Jesus' blood.*

*And Jacob's
anger was kindled
against Rachel:
and he said, Am
I in God's stead,
who hath withheld
from thee the fruit
of the womb?*

Genesis 30:2

ALL our mercies are to be traced up to our God, and all our miseries to ourselves. We are constantly making ourselves wretched, by departing from our God, or by putting creatures in His place. We often put persons and things in God's stead in reference to our affections, loving them inordinately; in reference to our dependence, trusting them instead of Him; in reference to our worship, idolizing them instead of adoring Him; and in reference to our expectations, expecting them to relieve, comfort,

or deliver instead of Him. But insufficiency is written upon every created object. No creature can fill the place of Jehovah, take the richest—the wisest—the kindest—the nearest relative or friend, and you must exclaim, “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” But Jehovah can fill the place of all; He can be instead of Father, Husband, Child, Wealth, Health, yea, of all things. Creatures may say, Am I in God's stead? If not, why look to me? why depend on me? why expect from me? why grieve so to part with me? Am I in God's stead? If so, He will remove me, or I shall disappoint you.

*Heavenly Adam, life divine,
Change my nature into Thine :
Move and spread throughout my soul,
Actuate and fill the whole;
Now my fainting soul revive;
There forever walk and live.*

THIS is good news, for except the Lord give us grace we shall never be sanctified; and unless He give us glory, we shall never be glorified. All must be the free gift of free grace. If anything good was required of us to entitle us, we must sit down in despair; but now all is of divine bounty, we can hope; we need not be afraid. The Lord has given grace to thousands. He has given grace to us; and He will give more grace; grace to fit for duty, grace to support in trial, grace to sanctify the heart; and He will give glory, which is grace in perfection. Brethren, let us endeavour to believe that our God is as kind, bountiful, and beneficent as His word declares. Let us confess our sins before Him, seek grace from Him, and look to be glorified with Him. Our all is in God; our all must come from God; and all the glory should be daily given to God. Whenever we want grace, let us ask it of God; for He giveth liberally and upbraideth not. Let us approach His throne this morning, and be this our prayer, "Lord, give us more grace. Give us grace daily, grace to devote us to Thy service, and fill us with holy love."

*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

*Blest is our lot whate'er befall;
Who can affright, or who appall?—
Since on Thy strength, our rock, our all,
Jesus! we cling to Thee.*

But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

Matthew 21:28

SOME are God's sons only by creation; the Jews were so by national adoption; believers are so by regeneration. They are born of God, and adopted by God. Our God never intended that His children should be idle; He says to every child, "SON, GO WORK." This is the command of a Father; it contains affection, it flows from authority. We are to work for His glory, for the good of others, and to lay up for ourselves treasure in heaven. Working for God is creditable—profitable—pleasant. Our work is in

His vineyard, the church finds work for all. Some are employed to plant, some to weed, some to water, and some to watch. The command is "WORK TODAY." The present is the period. Today, while you have light, strength, and opportunity. Remember, it is but a day, a short period at longest, but it often proves to be but a short day. Are you standing all the day idle? Go into the vineyard. Are you discouraged? Imitate her who did what she could. Look to the Lord; He will give ability—opportunity—and crown with success.

*O give me, Lord, an upright heart,
Well nurtured with a godly fear;
Which from Thy precepts will not start,
When clouds and threatening storms appear:
But onward press with even pace,
Refresh'd and fortified by grace.*

WHO shall describe it? What tongue or pen can set it forth? It is infinite, and what can finite mortals say? It is eternal, and how can we who are but of yesterday declare it? It is the present heaven of the saints, to know and believe the love that God hath to them. None can reveal it to us, or shed it abroad in our hearts, but the Holy Ghost. He can direct our hearts into the love of God, and into the patience of Jesus Christ. He is in office to show the saints the things of God, and enable them to believe and enjoy them. Let us, beloved, daily pray that we may know and enjoy the love that God hath to us; it will be an antidote to all our miseries, a source of joy under all our sorrows. Our friends and frames may change, but the love of God is unchangeable. Our temporal prospects may be all blighted, but if we know and enjoy the love of God, we cannot be unhappy. WHO, OR WHAT SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD? Jesus has told us that we shall never perish, neither shall any pluck us out of His hand. The love of our God is the source of our happiness, and the cause of our safety. Oh, to know and believe the love which God hath to us! GOD IS LOVE.

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:16

What shall I do my God to love?

My loving God to praise?

The length, and breadth, and height to prove,

And depth of sovereign grace?

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Luke 12:15

THIS is a warning from the lips of our beloved Lord. He knows our weakness and our foes, and He cautions us against them. We want but little here below, for we shall not be here long; and we are going to the land of plenty, rest, and joy. A little with the Lord's blessing is enough. We ought not to be anxious about temporals; only let us be careful that the world is not a loser by us, and we need trouble no further. The Lord will give us enough if we are living by faith upon Him, and walking in communion with Him.

We are all prone to be covetous, and it is a fearful sin. Covetousness is idolatry. It steals the heart from God, and sets it upon base and sordid things. It prevents our enjoying either temporal or spiritual blessings. A covetous man must be miserable, must be unholy, must be lost forever; well may our dear Lord say, "TAKE HEED, AND BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS." It is sly and insinuating, it is deceitful and powerful; and if it once becomes rooted in the heart, nothing but omnipotent grace can root it out. Covet only the best gifts, spiritual blessings.

*Great things we are not here to crave,
But if we food and raiment have,
Should learn to be therewith content;
Into the world we nothing brought,
Nor can we carry from it aught;
Then walk the way your Master went.*

KEEP the straight path of duty, and if troubles come, or difficulties arise, thy God invites thee to call upon Him. He will come to thy help, and bring all His boundless resources with Him. He is always within call. His ear is never heavy, that it cannot hear; His arm is not shortened, that it cannot reach or save. He can make thy greatest troubles prove thy choicest blessings; He can give thee cause to bless Him through eternity, for thy sorest trials. Oh, trust Him, and fear not! Run not to creatures; but, "Arise and call upon thy God." Look not to others, until thou hast proved that He cannot, or will not help; and that will never be. His heart is too kind, His word is too faithful. Art thou in trouble this morning? If so, you have a SPECIAL invitation from thy God to pay Him a visit, and lay thy whole case before Him; expecting His sympathy, interference, and blessing; He says, "CALL UPON ME IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE. I WILL DELIVER THEE, AND THOU SHALT GLORIFY ME." He is faithful who hath promised. Oh, trust Him, for so you honour Him; expect from Him, and you cannot be disappointed. Wait for Him, and you shall not be ashamed.

*And call upon
me in the day of
trouble: I will
deliver thee, and
thou shalt glorify
me.*

Psalm 50:15

*Dear refuge of my weary soul,
On Thee, when sorrows rise,
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,
My fainting hope relies.*

1
November

*I have sinned;
what shall I do
unto thee, O thou
preserver of men?
why hast thou
set me as a mark
against thee, so
that I am a burden
to myself?*

Job 7:20

WE have neither wisdom nor strength to preserve ourselves; we are daily liable to fall; and unless God preserve us we certainly shall. Our hearts are so deceitful, our corruptions are so strong, and Satan is so vigilant, that we need look to God as our PRESERVER every hour, and call upon Him to uphold us every moment. He can preserve, He doth preserve; but only in the way of obedience. Except we are watchful, prayerful, and walking humbly with Him, we have no security; we may fall into the grossest sins, and commit the greatest crimes. O believer, never think thyself safe, but as thou art leaning on Jesus, calling upon thy heavenly Father, and cultivating communion with the Holy Ghost! Indeed thou art in danger; Satan, the world, and thy corruptions-are all leagued against thee; nothing but omnipotent grace can keep thee. Cease from man, trust not thy own heart; but keep close to thy good Shepherd. He is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory, with exceeding joy.

*Every foe must fly before Him,
Earth and hell shall feel His power;
Heaven and earth with joy adore Him.
Hail the long expected hour:
Hallelujah!
Jesus has almighty power.*

THAT is, they were tried; and the design of their enemies by these trials was, to draw or drive them from the Lord. Their trials were of the most cruel kind, but they found that as their day, so was their strength. Brethren, we shall be tempted; Satan is not dead, no, nor yet asleep; the world is not reconciled to godliness; nor are we free from indwelling sin. It is not our sin to be tempted—this is our trial; but it is our sin if we yield. God has promised strength, wisdom, and grace; and we should seek these, that we may be able to withstand, and so overcome every trial. We may expect to be tempted daily, for Satan goeth about; and if at any moment we are off our guard, that is the time he is most likely to beset us. Let us keep close to Jesus the great Shepherd of the sheep; let us keep our eye on our Father's house; and let us aim in all things at God's glory, and temptation shall not harm us. "Blessed be the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him." If the enemy come in like a flood, we may still sing—

*They were stoned,
they were sawn
asunder; were
tempted, were
slain with the
sword: they
wandered about
in sheepskins and
goatskins; being
destitute, afflicted,
tormented;
Hebrews 11:37*

*His oath, His covenant and blood,
Support me in the sinking flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
Jesus is all my hope and stay:
On Christ the solid Rock I stand;—
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*And he said unto
them, What would
ye that I should
do for you?*

Mark 10:36

SO spake Jesus to the sons of Zebedee, and so He speaks to us. Beloved, have you your petition ready this morning? Jesus is at the pardon office; He is on His throne of grace; He is in a loving temper; He is ready to bless. He says, "Ask, what I shall give thee?" O Jesus! give me sanctifying grace. Subdue my corruptions. Purify my heart. Make me a vessel of honour, meet for Thy use. Why should sin be allowed to work so powerfully? Why should Satan be permitted to have so much power over me? Why should the

world attract and lead me astray? Lord, I would that Thou shouldest make me holy, and make me useful; fill me with Thy Holy Spirit; write Thy word on my heart, and enable me to write out Thy precepts in my life. O Saviour! I would that Thou shouldest make me like Thyself; as meek, as humble, as diligent, as disinterested, as useful to God and man. May I be holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. Oh, make me shine, to the honour and glory of Thy free and sovereign grace.

*Holy Ghost, no more delay;
Come, and in Thy temple stay;
Now Thine inward witness bear,
Strong, and permanent, and clear
Source of life, Thyself impart,
Rise eternal in my heart!*

THIS was Israel's sin, and has it not often been ours? Our God is the Holy One, and will do what is most for His glory; He is the Holy One of Israel, and will therefore consult His people's welfare. We must not limit His wisdom, for it is infinite; we must not limit His power, for it is omnipotent; we must not limit His mercy, for it is as high as heaven and deep as hell; we must not limit Him to time, for He will display His sovereignty. He will not be tied to walk by our rules; or be bound to keep our time; but He will perform His word, honour our faith, and reward them that diligently seek Him. However tried, beware of limiting the Holy One of Israel; say not "It is too difficult, or it is too far gone;" this was the fault of Martha and Mary, but Jesus convinced them they were wrong. Rather say with Jonathan, "It may be that the Lord will work for us; for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few" Jonathan honoured the Lord by trusting Him, and the Lord honoured Jonathan by giving him a victory over the enemies of Israel. Exercise unlimited confidence in God, for He will fulfil every promise that He has made.

*Yea, they turned
back and tempted
God, and limited
the Holy One of
Israel.*

Psalm 78:41

*Wide as the world is His command,
Vast as eternity His love;
Firm as a rock His truth shall stand,
When rolling years shall cease to move.*

5
November

Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.

2 Corinthians 6:13

CONTRACTION is a great evil, enlargement is a great blessing. We need to be enlarged in our knowledge—love—hope—liberality—faith—and every grace. Our God disapproves of contraction. The Apostles set a different example. Provision is made in the covenant to gratify enlarged desires. The promises warrant enlarged expectations. Jesus bids us ask largely. The gospel calls for enlargement in prayer—benevolence—pity—and compassion—and in our efforts for God's glory. Let us beware

of narrow views or feelings, for the heart of God is large; the love of Christ is large; the provision of mercy is large; the gospel commission is large; and the mansions of glory are large. We are not straitened in God, nor in His gospel, but we are straitened in our own bowels. O Jesus, enlarge our narrow hearts; expand our contracted souls! Fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope, by the power of the Holy Ghost. May we be full of goodness, able also to admonish one another. Oh, to be filled with the Holy Ghost and with power!

*With holy fear, and reverent love,
I long to lie beneath Thy throne;
I long in Thee to live and move,
And stay myself on Thee alone:
Teach me to lean upon Thy breast,
To find in Thee the promised rest.*

IT would have been a great mercy if God had made us His servants, after we had proved His enemies; but He has adopted us as His sons, and taken us to the bosom of His love. He is now our Father, and wishes us to call Him so; we are His children, and He wishes us to walk and act as such. We are not mere servants, therefore we should not be servile; we are sons, therefore we should love, obey, and delight in God as our Father. "Beloved, *now* are we the sons of God." We are delivered from bondage, introduced into favour, have the promise of eternal life, and should rejoice with joy unspeakable, and full of glory. It was free grace which adopted us; the Holy Spirit, by the word, begat us to a lively hope; and the gospel proclaims our privileges, and invites us to enjoy them. Let us today think, "I am a son of God. My Father is holy, His children are holy, His word is holy, He loves holiness, and commands me to be holy; I will therefore lift up my heart to Him; seek grace from Him; and in all things aim to glorify Him."

*Wherefore thou
art no more a
servant, but a
son; and if a
son, then an heir
of God through
Christ.*

Galatians 4:7

*Pronounce me, gracious God! Thy son,
Own me an heir divine:
I'll pity princes on the throne,
When I can call Thee mine:
Sceptres and crowns unenvied rise,
And lose their lustre in mine eyes.*

*And the LORD
said unto Moses,
Wherefore criest
thou unto me?
speak unto the
children of Israel,
that they go
forward:*

Exodus 14:15

BELOVED, there is no standing still in religion; we are either going forward or going back. Our Captain's command is, "GO FORWARD." This is our direction. Go forward in the Lord's way, in the Lord's work; to the Lord's kingdom. The command contains great encouragement. Go forward, remembering the Lord's wisdom; trusting in the Lord's power; and believing in the Lord's love. Go forward in union with the Lord's people; with zeal for His glory; until summoned into your Master's

presence. Go forward, notwithstanding difficulties, fears, and discouragements. Go forward, because God has bidden you; He has promised to go with you; He will crown your journey's end. Let us imitate ardent and holy Paul, who said, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which I am also apprehended of Christ Jesus." Let us look for, and hasten to the coming of the day of God. There is nothing behind us worth a thought, if compared with what is set before us by the gospel.

*Much in sorrow, oft in woe,
Onward, Christian, onward go;
Shrink not, fear not, dare not yield,
Never quit the battle-field:
Forward press and win the prize,
Then to endless glory rise.*

THE Lord's family are generally poor; men may look at them as having nothing valuable, important, or calculated to make them happy; but in reality they possess all things, because God is theirs. Our God has said, "I am their inheritance," and we say, "Thou art my portion, O Lord." His eternity is the date of our happiness—His unchangeableness, the rock of our rest—His omnipotence, our constant guard—His faithfulness, our daily security—His mercies, our overflowing store—His omniscience, our careful overseer—His wisdom, our judicious counsellor—His justice, our stern avenger—His omnipresence, our sweet company—His holiness, the fountain from which we receive sanctifying grace—His all-sufficiency, the lot of our inheritance—and His infinity, the extent of our glorious portion. This is the blessedness of the people of the Lord; they have God for their Lord, and all His perfections engaged to make them blessed. O love the Lord! Live upon the Lord! Glorify God in the day of visitation! Make Him your portion and everlasting all!

*As sorrowful, yet
always rejoicing;
as poor, yet
making many
rich; as having
nothing, and yet
possessing all
things.*

2 Corinthians 6:10

*To us the privilege is given
To be the sons and heirs of heaven;
Sons of the God who reigns on high,
And heirs of joys beyond the sky:
Oh, may our conduct ever prove
Our filial piety and love.*

*O God, thou hast
taught me from
my youth: and
hitherto have
I declared thy
wondrous works.*

Psalm 71:17

THE Psalmist was called early, and he ascribes it to divine teaching. None but God can teach us experimentally; and the lessons He teaches are always useful and important. He teaches all His scholars to know themselves—their depravity, poverty, and slavery. He teaches them His law—its purity, claims and penalty. He teaches them His gospel—its fulness, freeness, and suitability. He teaches them to know Himself: as a reconciled God, as their Father and faithful Friend. His teaching is

accompanied with power and authority. Are we taught of God? We may know divine teaching by its effects; it always produces humility, they sit at His feet; dependence upon Him' abhorrence of sin; love to God as a teacher; obedience to the lessons taught; thirst for further attainments; and brings us daily to Jesus. Let us earnestly seek divine teaching; it preserves from dangers, sorrows, and snares; and if suitably improved, it brings great glory to God, and honour to the cause of religion. Our God says, "I WILL TEACH THEE." Lord, teach me, and make me entirely Thine!

*Oh, let my heart be wholly Thine,
Thy property alone;
No longer let me think it mine,
Or call myself my own.*

SIN requires a sacrifice, and the sacrifice must be in proportion to the offence, and the dignity of the offended; such a sacrifice could not be found, but God condescended to provide one, which was no less a person than His only-begotten Son. This Lamb was provided to expiate and remove sin; to honour the divine government, and reconcile us to God. Let us daily direct our attention to the Lamb of God, who verily was fore-ordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for us. He is set forth to be the propitiation through faith in His blood, and to be the daily object of our faith, desire, and affection. Provided by God, He presented to God an infinite atonement; and we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of our sins. The Lamb is to be presented daily to God by us, in our prayers and praises; and all our expectations are to be founded upon what He is, what He has done, and what He is doing now before the throne of God. Take off your attention from all other subjects, and “**BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD.**”

*And looking
upon Jesus as he
walked, he saith,
Behold the Lamb
of God!*

John 1:36

*Cast thy guilty soul on Him,
Find Him mighty to redeem;
At His feet thy burden lay,
Look thy doubts and fears away;
Now by faith the Son embrace,
Plead His promise, trust His grace.*

11
November

*And what I say
unto you I say
unto all, Watch.*

Mark 13:37

THE hour of death is uncertain, and the second coming of Jesus is equally so; therefore we are commanded to be always ready, and to be on the WATCH. His coming is the grand object of our hope, and should be our daily desire and prayer. It will be awfully grand. We are deeply interested in it. It is certain, necessary, and will be sudden. We know not the day—month—or year. God has purposely concealed it, in wisdom, in mercy, and for our good. He commands us to AWAKE, and keep awake. To be at our

post, and employed in our calling. In order to our watching we must be daily believing Jesus will come; thinking and praying to be found ready. We should watch the signs of the times; the workings of our own hearts; and over our daily conduct. We should walk as we wish death or Jesus to find us; and transact every business as though Jesus was at the door. Would you, beloved, wish to be found idle—contentious—at enmity—or murmuring—or indulging in any sin? If not, watch against these things; put off the old man, and put on the new.

*Behold, the awful day comes on,
When Jesus on His righteous throne
Shall in the clouds appear:
With solemn pomp shall bow the sky,
And in the twinkling of an eye,
Arraign us at His bar.*

THIS is a very encouraging view of the Most High God. He is the helper of His people, and therefore it is that they are more than conquerors. Beloved, let us remember this, when called to perform self-denying duties, or to pass through great and sore troubles. We can do nothing right, apart from God; but we can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us. He will help us in every distress, bring us out of every trouble, lead us through the world with honour, and land us safe on the shores of the heavenly Canaan; all this is promised to every one that trusts in Him, waits for Him, walks with Him, and aims habitually to glorify Him. What sweet encouragement is this; we have an OMNIPOTENT HELPER, God in the person of His Son is OUR DELIVERER: let us come up out of the wilderness leaning on our Beloved. Let us not grieve His love, or dishonour His grace. Let us keep a clear conscience, maintain a holy walk, exercise simple faith on our covenant God, and then we may boldly say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I will not fear what man can do unto me."

*So that we may
boldly say, The
Lord is my helper,
and I will not fear
what man shall do
unto me.*

Hebrews 13:6

*To look to Jesus as He rose,
Confirms my faith, disarms my foes;
Exalted on His glorious throne,
I see Him make my cause His own;
Then all my anxious cares subside,
For Jesus lives, and will provide.*

13
November

*To speak evil of
no man, to be
no brawlers, but
gentle, shewing
all meekness
unto all men.*

Titus 3:2

SPEAK of no man from an unholy motive, or with a design to injure him: this is decidedly wrong. We are commanded by our beloved Saviour, to love our enemies; to do good to them that hate us and despitefully use us; to pray for them and seek their salvation. If we speak evil of them we dishonour God, bring guilt upon our consciences, grieve the Spirit, and spoil our peace of mind. If we can indulge in detraction without feeling guilty and distressed, our consciences must be blinded, and our hearts hardened through the

deceitfulness of sin. Our tongues are not our own, they are bought with a price, and should be employed in the service of their proper owner. Never indulge yourselves in thinking evil of another; or in feelings of jealousy, envy, revenge, bitterness, anger, or malice; for these are earthly, sensual, and devilish. How unlovely it is to hear one professor speaking evil of another; the hearer speaketh evil of the minister; the rich speaking contemptuously of the poor, the mistress of servants; much more ministers of ministers. Speak not evil one of another, brethren.

*Whene'er the angry passions rise,
And tempt our thoughts and tongues to strife;
To Jesus let us turn our eyes,
Bright pattern of the Christian life!
How mild! how ready to forgive!
Be these the rules by which we live!*

WE are very apt to dwell upon our miseries, and forget our mercies. If we are injured by man, how seldom we forget it; but if we are favoured by God, how little attention we pay to it. Let us this morning consider how great things the Lord hath done for us. He gave His Son to be our ransom. He has given His Spirit to be our guide, and His word to be our directory. He called us by grace, when we were posting to perdition; wrought a change in our hearts, when we were enmity against Him; and pardoned our sins, when we expected to suffer His fiercest displeasure. He has given us faith to trust Him; promises to plead with Him; and proofs of His faithful regard, without number. He hath supplied us through all our journey, corrected our mistakes, conquered our foes, and no good thing hath He withheld from us. Let us consider these things, and praise Him for the past, and trust Him for the future. He that is our God, is the God of Salvation; He hath done great things for us, and He will do greater things, that we may glorify Him forever. My soul, consider thy obligations, and give glory to thy God.

Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

1 Samuel 12:24

*Oh, may I ne'er forget
The mercy of my God;
Nor ever want a tongue to spread
His loudest praise abroad.*

15
November

*For the people
shall dwell in Zion
at Jerusalem: thou
shalt weep no
more: he will be
very gracious unto
thee at the voice of
thy cry; when he
shall hear it, he will
answer thee.*

Isaiah 30:19

WE are often very miserable, always very unworthy; but the Lord is very merciful, and He will be very gracious. He will glorify His grace before angels, men, and devils, in His exceeding kindness toward us; therefore if a sense of our deep depravity and entire unworthiness discourage us, let us appeal to the graciousness of our God, and rely on that. "He will be very gracious unto us at the voice of our cry; when He shall hear it, He will answer." He has said that when, forsaking our evil courses, we return unto Him, He will prove Himself gracious. "Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am." Yea, He will prove Himself very gracious, for He says, "Before they call I will answer; and while they are yet speaking I will hear." Oh, the infinite grace of a gracious God! Lord, keep it uppermost in our minds, and before our eyes continually; let it be our encouragement under all the discoveries of depravity we make, and our comfort under all the trials we endure. Let us endeavour to give our God credit for being "VERY GRACIOUS."

*What from Christ my soul shall sever,
Bound by everlasting bands?
Once in Him, in Him forever,
Thus the word of promise stands:
None shall pluck me
From the strength of Israel's hands.*

THERE is no permanent rest for the believer on earth; here briars and thorns will be with him; and a voice is daily sounding in his ears, "ARISE YE, AND DEPART." Here you are not to loll at ease, or to idle on your journey; here you are not to expect to find satisfaction, for it is an enemy's land; and you are only passing through it to your heavenly home. If your march is quick and your conduct scriptural, be not surprised if the dogs bark at you; they know you not, nor did they know your Master. He was pursued, annoyed, and at last put to death by them; and in agony of soul He cried out, "Dogs have compassed me; the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me; they have pierced my hands and my feet." Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but set your affections on things above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Use the world, but do not abuse it; pass through it, but never seek a home in it; remember it is peopled by the enemies of your God.

Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction.

Micah 2:10

*When snares and dangers line my way,
Jesus is all my strength and stay;
Cheerful I'll walk the desert through,
Nor fear what earth or hell can do:
Jesus will ease my troubled breast,
And shortly bring my soul to rest.*

*Now then we are
ambassadors for
Christ, as though
God did beseech
you by us: we pray
you in Christ's
stead, be ye
reconciled to God.*

2 Corinthians 5:20

IS there anything but love between God and your souls? There ought not to be. God hates nothing but sin. He is offended with nothing but sin. This we profess to hate and forsake. We were once enemies, but Jesus died to reconcile us to God. We are now professedly friends, but do we act towards God, and speak of God, as though we were His friends? Are we offended at anything in God, or at anything done by God? Why should we be? His nature is love. His ways are all infinitely wise. His tender mercy is over all His works. He desires that we should be on the best terms with Him. How wonderful! He offers a pardon for all our sins, grace to sanctify our natures, and heaven to receive our souls! HE BESEECHES US TO BE RECONCILED. As though His tender love could not rest, as though He could not be happy, or content, unless we are friends with Him. Beloved, are you living or walking at a distance from God? Is there any shyness between God and your soul? God beseeches you by me, and I pray you in Christ's stead, "Be ye reconciled to God."

*Sprinkled now with blood the throne,
Why beneath thy burdens groan?
See the curse on Jesus laid;
Justice owns the ransom paid:
Bow the knee, and kiss the Son.
COME AND WELCOME, SINNER, COME!*

OUR hearts by nature are like the dry, dead, and barren earth; there would be neither life, beauty, nor fruit, but for the grace of God. And even after regeneration, we are as much dependent upon God, as the earth in the east is dependent upon the dew. If there be no dew, there will be no fruit, and if there be no grace, there will be no real religion. But our God has said, "I WILL BE AS THE DEW UNTO ISRAEL." What the dew is to the earth, God will be unto His people. Does the dew cool and refresh the earth? So will the Lord cool and refresh our souls with the sense of His love and the tokens of His favour. Does the dew soften and break the clods of the valley? So will our God soften and dissolve our hard and impenitent hearts. Does the dew prepare the ground for the seed, and cause the same to vegetate and grow? So will our God prepare our hearts to receive the word, and cause it to grow and bring forth fruit. Does the dew fall insensibly, and in the evening, when most needed? So will our God come unto us, when we most need His quickening and fructifying operations.

I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

Hosea 14:5

*Come, Holy Ghost, as heavenly dew,
My parched soul revive;
The former mercies now renew,
Quicken and bid me live:
Thy fertilizing power impart,
And sanctify my barren heart.*

*Then answered
Peter, and said
unto Jesus, Lord,
it is good for
us to be here: if
thou wilt, let us
make here three
tabernacles; one
for thee, and one
for Moses, and one
for Elias.*

Matthew 17:4

SO said Peter when on the mount with Jesus, and so we have said when enjoying His presence and His love. It is good to live and walk in communion with God. It is good to be numbered with God's people, and to occupy a place in His church. It is good to be in the present world, because we have an opportunity of bearing witness for Jesus, and against its course; we have talents to use, and opportunities for usefulness, whereby we can glorify God. Is Jesus honoured by our patient suffering? Then, when on the bed of affliction, we should say, "Lord, it is good to be here." Is our God glorified by our industry, forbearance, and testimony to the power and grace of Jesus? Then, when in our business, or in company with those whom we are trying to benefit, we may exclaim, "Lord, it is good to be here!" Yes, Christian, it is good to be anywhere, and anything, so that thy Jesus may be glorified, and the end of thy creation, redemption, and sanctification, obtained. Oh, to aim always to honour God, and then we may everywhere say, "LORD, IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE!"

*Great Comforter, descend
In gentle breathings down;
Preserve me to the end,
That no man take my crown:
My guardian still vouchsafe to be,
Nor suffer me to go from Thee.*

THEN our sufferings must be short, for they are bounded by time, and are confined to the present world. Consoling consideration this. Then our opportunities to glorify our God below, must be short; therefore we ought to seize them and improve them with all our might. Then the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the contradiction of sinners against us will soon be ended; let us therefore be patient, and prayerful, and diligent; for our redemption draweth nigh. The time is short; then we shall soon see our

But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

1 Corinthians 7:29

Jesus, enjoy the company of our sanctified brethren, and be forever with the Lord. The time is short, but eternity is long; let us therefore be laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt; and let us be daily preparing for our last remove. The time is short, it flies away, our dying day will soon be here; it remaineth therefore, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; and they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy as though they possessed not.

*Oh, may my soul maintain her ground,
From faith to faith go on!
At the last day in Christ be found,
And form the circles that surround
His everlasting throne.*

21
November

*Peace I leave with
you, my peace I
give unto you:
not as the world
giveth, give I unto
you. Let not your
heart be troubled,
neither let it be
afraid.*

John 14:27

PEACE is an invaluable blessing, it is the gift of Jesus. None but believers know the sweetness of the peace He bestows. He made it by shedding His blood. He proclaims it in the everlasting gospel. He bestows it upon us when we believe, and it is enjoyed in the heart under the influence of the Holy Spirit. It is peace with God. A peaceful conscience. The beginning of heaven in the soul. He gives it often when in the midst of trouble; and it makes every burden light, every trouble less, and the sinner happy in

every situation. O Jesus! give us Thy peace this morning! Let it reign and rule in our hearts this day. Believer, look only to Jesus for peace, for "HE IS OUR PEACE." Believe His word, receive His atonement, trust in His perfect work, aim to show forth His praise, and peace which passeth all understanding shall fill your mind. Let it be your daily prayer, that you may enjoy this peace in death; for then you will die happy, honourably, and safely. Seek it as a gift of grace, and you shall enjoy it to the honour of God.

*Close to my Saviour's bloody tree,
My soul untired shall ever cleave;
Both scourged and crucified for me,
With Christ resolved to die and live;
My prayer, my grand ambition this,
Living and dying to be His.*

SIN procures correction, and love sends it. Every child is chastened, because every child sins. But though we are corrected for sin, yet not according to the desert of sin. Our Father chastens us in measure, not in wrath, but in love; not to destroy, but to save us. There is no wrath in His heart, for He has sworn that He will not be wroth with us; yet He will visit our sins with the rod, and our iniquities with stripes. He is reconciled to our persons, but not to our follies; therefore He says, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore and repent." Let us not despise His chastening, nor faint when we are rebuked of Him; for it is the common lot of all His children, and if it drives us to Him, and humbles us at His feet, it is evidently sent in love. It is a painful blessing; a mercy sent to purify and cleanse us. If we sin and are not chastened, our sonship is questionable; for what son is he whom his father chasteneth not? But if we are chastened, God dealeth with us as with sons; and our sufferings are the fulfilment of His promise.

*For I am with thee,
saith the LORD, to
save thee: though I
make a full end of
all nations whither I
have scattered thee,
yet will I not make
a full end of thee:
but I will correct
thee in measure,
and will not leave
thee altogether
unpunished.
Jeremiah 30:11*

*Though ten thousand ills beset thee,
From without, and from within,
Jesus saith, He'll ne'er forget thee,
But will save from hell and sin:
He is faithful
To perform His precious word.*

*I am the LORD
thy God, which
brought thee out
of the land of
Egypt: open thy
mouth wide, and
I will fill it.*

Psalm 81:10

THE word of God affords all possible encouragement to earnest, fervent prayer; men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Believers should ask all they want of God as their heavenly Father; they should ask of Him because He has bidden them, and expect to receive because He is faithful. Are our wants many this morning? Our God bids us open our mouths wide, and promises to fill them. We should ask largely, for God considers Himself honoured when we ask for much, and expect much. He

rejoices over us to do us good. He looks upon us as His dear children, and pledges Himself to give all that we want, or can use to His glory. Let us then ask for a supply of every want; let us continue to plead His largest promises; and let us continue to plead in the name of Jesus until we receive. Our God heareth prayer: and if we, being evil, know how to give good things unto our children, much more will our heavenly Father give good things unto them that ask Him. Let us therefore come boldly unto a throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace.

*Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and power are such,
None can ever ask too much:
He Himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not say thee nay.*

THE presence of Jesus is the happiness of His people; when He is present manifesting His love, we are filled with joy and peace; but when He hides His face we are troubled. Nor is it any wonder, for then generally, Satan comes in with his temptations; our corruptions rise and trouble us; and for a time everything seems to be against us. But if Jesus hath once visited, He will come again; and He will manifest Himself unto us as He doth not unto the world. In every season of desertion and darkness, let us plead this precious promise given us by our adorable Lord; He sympathizes with us, and says, "Ye now therefore have sorrow; but I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." Precious Lord Jesus, let us this day enjoy Thy presence and Thy love; come and visit us, or rather, come and take up Thy abode with us, to leave us no more forever. Our souls thirst for Thee; we long to enjoy Thy love, as we have done in days that are gone by. Oh, manifest Thyself unto us this day, and unite us closer than ever unto Thyself!

*And ye now
therefore have
sorrow: but I will
see you again, and
your heart shall
rejoice, and your
joy no man taketh
from you.*

John 16:22

*Then let us sit beneath His cross,
And gladly catch the healing stream;
All things for Him account but dross,
And give up all our hearts to Him;
Of nothing think or speak beside;
My Lord, my love, is crucified.*

*So shall I have
wherewith to
answer him that
reproacheth me:
for I trust in thy
word.*

Psalms 119:42

IT is unsafe and improper to trust our feelings or fancies; to listen to suggestions, or judge by appearances; the Christian's guide is God's word, and this should be the object of his trust. If we cannot take God's word and depend upon it, what can we trust? It is true; on all necessary points plain; it has been tried and always found faithful. We should believe it, rely on it, plead it, expect its fulfilment, and comfort ourselves with it; especially when surrounded with difficulties, when in darkness or

filled with forebodings, because God delays and our prayers are not answered. Trusting in God's faithful word will bring peace to the mind, experience to the soul, and deliverance in every time of trouble: if we trust God's word we may be confident, for our supply is certain. Trusting a naked promise is difficult, but it is attainable, and truly desirable. The promise is God's bond, and is intended to set our minds at rest; if we trust it calmly and implicitly, we shall enjoy peace, quietness, and confidence. Trusting God's word, we need fear no foe, or dread any trouble; all is safe, and safe forever.

*In Thee, O Lord, I put my trust;
Mighty, and merciful, and just,
Thy faithful word I prove:
Thou canst, Thou wilt my helper be;
My confidence is all in Thee,
The faithful God of love.*

BY nature we are children of wrath; but union to Jesus exalts us to the highest pitch of honour and happiness. All our mercies flow through Jesus; we must ever look to Him as the medium of access to God, and of union with God. If we are one with Jesus, we are heirs of God; to us He has willed all the riches of grace, and all the riches of glory. The testament is made and sealed, and all is secured to us by the oath of God, and the blood of our dear Saviour. Oh, what an honour! To be the heirs of God! To possess and enjoy throughout eternity all that God can impart! Unutterable grace! We have enough secured to us while on earth; and we shall be put in full possession at the resurrection. Let us then ascertain beyond a doubt, that we are the sons of God; that we have received the spirit of adoption; that we are united to Jesus; and daily walk with God. Let us live expecting the day when we shall be put in possession, and preparing for that glorious event. Let us walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, with all lowliness and meekness, watching unto prayer.

*Wherefore thou
art no more a
servant, but a son;
and if a son, then
an heir of God
through Christ.*

Galatians 4:7

*Let earth no more my heart divide
With Christ may I be crucified;
To Thee with my whole soul aspire;
Dead to the world and all its toys,
To idle pomp, and fading joys,
Be Thou alone my one desire!*

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

BELOVED, are you in the fold of Jesus? Are you numbered with His sheep? Are you feeding and resting among them? Jesus presents Himself to us this morning, in a very lovely character; He says, "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD." There is no other shepherd so good or so great as He. He has the tenderest affection for His flock. He affords them His powerful protection. He finds them plenty and suitable provision. He gave His life to redeem them. He sends His Spirit to sanctify them. He is preparing a place in heaven

to receive them. He will eternally dwell among them and bless them. Oh, how great is His goodness! He is indeed abundant in goodness and truth. He says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one." What glorious security! What honour is conferred on the flock of Jesus! GOOD SHEPHERD, keep us near Thyself. Never let us wander, no, not for a moment; but may we be always delighted with Thy love.

*The least, the feeblest of the sheep,
To Him the Father gave;
Kind in His heart the charge to keep,
And strong His arm to save.*

THE day referred to is the day when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven in flaming fire, when the dead shall be raised, and the judgment commence. Oh, what a day will that be! Then every covering shall be removed; and every secret exposed. It will be a revealing day—a convincing day—a confirming day—a condemning day—a justifying day. Then our motives will all be discovered, and our intentions laid bare. Hypocrisy will be condemned, and deception punished. O beloved, let us live as having that day before us; let us act as though persuaded that then all will be discovered. Are we sincere?—the day will declare it. Are we aiming at God’s glory, or self-exaltation?—the day will declare it. Are we conducting our business on Christian, or worldly principles?—the day will declare it. Are we honest and humble?—the day will declare it. Is our profession from principle, from faith in, and love to Jesus?—the day will declare it. Oh that that day may declare that we are humble, holy, watchful, diligent disciples of the Lord Jesus!

Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.

1 Corinthians 3:13

*Before me place in dread array
The pomp of that tremendous day,
When Thou with clouds shalt come
To judge the nations at Thy bar;
And tell me, Lord, shall I be there,
To meet the joyful doom?*

I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.

Isaiah 63:7

WHAT subject so suited as this to engage the thoughts, fill the memory, and flow from the lips of the Lord's people? Let us mention the provision made for all His poor, for all their wants; the promises given to all His people, comprehending all their desires; the prayers answered in all times of trial, granting relief and defence. Let us mention the loving-kindness of the Lord to those who are seeking Him, it will encourage them; to those who are complaining, it may silence them; to those who are tempted,

it will support them; to those who have backslidden, it will convince, and perhaps restore them. Let us speak of His kindness to ourselves, to check murmuring, produce gratitude, and raise hope. Let us mention the loving-kindness of the Lord, at the Lord's throne, in pleading and intercession; and prayer and expostulation; in praise and thanksgiving. Let us often speak one to another, and let this be our daily subject, "THE LOVING-KINDNESS OF THE LORD." This will comfort, strengthen, and sanctify our minds; it will bring us peace.

*We'll speak of all He did, and said,
And suffer'd for us here below;
The path He mark'd for us to tread,
And what He's doing for us now;
Discarding every worldly theme,
Our conversation fill'd with Him.*

TH**ERE** is no rest for the Christian but at the feet of Jesus; when we live near to Him, and exercise our faith upon Him, we are at rest. Conscience is silent, or commends us. The law has nothing to say against us. The world has but little influence over us. Satan is weak, and cannot overcome us. But if we wander, we become weak, we lose our courage; and darkness, perplexity, and trouble, frequently fill our minds. But we **MAY** return, for Jesus is still inviting us; we **MUST** return, or we cannot enjoy peace; let us therefore return unto our rest this morning. O Jesus! we come to Thee! Receive Thy wandering sheep, restore unto us the joy of Thy salvation, and let us find rest at Thy cross. Oh, to rest on Thy faithful word, with Thy faithful people! To rest from slavish fear, worldly care, and distressing anxiety; to rest in Thy boundless love, satisfied with the dispensations of Thy special providence. Return, return, my soul, from all thy wanderings, and find thy rest in Jesus; thy faithful Friend and Saviour. Sweet assurance, "He will receive us graciously."

Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.

Psalm 116:7

*Indulge me, Lord, in that repose,
Which only he who loves Thee knows:
Lodged in Thine arms, I fear no more
The tempest's howl, the billow's roar:
Those storms must shake th' Almighty's seat,
Which violate the saints' retreat.*

1
December

*And I heard
as it were the
voice of a great
multitude, and as
the voice of many
waters, and as the
voice of mighty
thunderings,
saying, Alleluia:
for the Lord
God omnipotent
reigneth.
Revelation 19:6*

OUR God is the author of all good, the only object of religious worship and fear, the infinite, all-controlling Being. He can do all things, and do all things with ease—swiftness—certainty—and precision. He is on the throne,—His reign is merciful—just—glorious. He reigns universally over every empire—kingdom—state—parish—person—thing. Everything that takes place is either appointed or permitted by Him. Everything is overruled; for nothing escapes His notice—frustrates

His purpose—or disorganises His plan. All things are tributary, and bring honour to His name. Does the Lord God Omnipotent reign?—then let us fear to offend Him; aim to please Him well in all things; trust in and rely on Him; call upon and prove Him; live in the daily remembrance of His reign; this will conquer fear—prevent sins—strengthen faith—nourish all the graces of the Spirit—and inspirit us in our obedience. If the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, be sure He will take care of His children. He will manage all their affairs. He will secure their best interests.

*Behold the King of Zion rise
To endless glory in the skies!
Hail, Fount of blessings!—placed in Thee,
Our life, our strength, our all, we see:
While in thy God thy joys endure,
In Thee our blessings rest secure.*

WHAT day? The day we begin to seek the Lord. The day we decide to be on the Lord's side. The day we publicly and honestly profess Him. The day we heartily engage in His work. The day we return from backsliding, and repent of our sin before Him. The day we identify ourselves with His people in heart and soul. What does the Lord promise? To bless us; He will bless our temporal mercies; He will bless our trials; He will bless our labours; He will bless our families; He will bless our souls; He will bless us with light—liberty—strength—peace—contentment—and success. Beloved, let us be decided for the Lord, and always walk in His ways. Expect His blessing, for He has given you His word, and confirmed it with a solemn oath. Be diligent in the use of all means. Constantly look to Jesus as the only medium through which all blessings flow. Plead this precious promise before thy God this morning, and many times today; yea, and every day; so shall thy peace be like a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea. He will bless thee, and thou shalt be a blessing.

Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you.

Haggai 2:19

*Then let no care perplex me now;
My only wish and care be Thou,
Be Thou my sole delight;
Bid every sigh of rising thought,
And every pant of breath go out
For Jesus day and night.*

*... Hear me, O
Judah, and ye
inhabitants of
Jerusalem;
Believe in the
LORD your
God, so shall ye
be established;
believe his
prophets, so shall
ye prosper.*

2 Chronicles 20:20

THE proper object of faith is God in Christ, not God as the God of nature. In Christ He is gracious unto us, ever with us; ready to help us; and takes pleasure in us. He is our covenant God, all sufficient, and ever propitious. We should believe in His word, which is true and faithful; in His presence, for He will never turn away from us; in His power, for nothing is too hard for Him; in His character, which He will never allow to be dishonoured; and in His faithfulness, which is like the great mountains, and abideth forever.

We should believe in God, though men rise up against us; though Satan worry and distress us; though doubts and fears arise within us. We should believe in God, for strength to perform duty; deliverance out of every difficulty, and for courage in every conflict. Believing in God will produce contentment, zeal, and humility. Let us have faith from God; it is a gift which He is willing to bestow, and let us have faith in God, it is an exercise which He requires and approves. If the Son of Man were to come would He find faith in our hearts? O Saviour!—

*Let us trust Thee evermore;
Every moment on Thee call,
For new life, new will, new power;
Let us trust Thee, Lord, for all!
May we nothing know beside
Jesus, and Him crucified!*

OUR own weakness would dismay us, but God's strength is offered to us; in His light we see, and in His strength we work. We have duties to perform, difficulties to encounter, and foes to overcome; let us therefore go in the strength of the Lord. It is promised to us and may be received by us; we must ask it of God, we must expect it in faith, and go forth believing that He is faithful who hath promised. Never let us attempt any thing in our own strength; if we do, we shall be sure to fail; let us first take up God's promise, rely on His veracity, and so go forth to duty, conflict, and danger. Then the battle is not ours, but the Lord's; then we are sure of success, succour, and victory. The Lord will then be our strength and song; our refuge and certain salvation. His strength is made perfect in weakness, and His grace is glorified in the unworthy. Let us not fear, let us not loiter, let us not despond, but let us go in the strength of the Lord, and we shall be more than conquerors. He giveth courage to the faint, and to those who have no might He increaseth strength.

I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.

Psalm 71:16

*I know the God in whom I trust,
The arm on which I lean;
He will my Saviour ever be,
Who has my Saviour been:
Strong in His strength my foes I face,
Assured of victory through His grace.*

*Create in me a
clean heart, O
God; and renew a
right spirit within
me.*

Psalms 51:10

SUCH a prayer implies a conviction of sin, a sense of pollution, a desire for holiness, a knowledge of weakness, grief for inconstancy, and the possession of true wisdom. It is the prayer of every Christian; let it be our prayer this day; let us lift up our hearts and voices to our God, and cry, "Remove guilt and pollution, produce purity and peace in our hearts. Cleanse us by Thy word, the blood of Jesus, and the influence of the Holy Spirit." Purity of heart can only be produced by God; it enters into the very essence of religion;

we cannot be godly except we are holy. If we love sin, if we can indulge in sin, or if a sense of having sinned does not pain us, and cause us to adopt this prayer, our religion is spurious, we are destitute of the power of godliness. No real Christian can live in sin. He is called to holiness. He is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Holiness is his element and health. His God says, "Be holy, for I am holy:" and he cries, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." Let us be holy in all manner of conversation, looking for and hasting to the coming of Jesus.

Supreme High Priest, the pilgrim's light,

My heart for Thee prepare;

Thine image stamp, and deeply write

Thy superscription there.

Ah, let my forehead, bear Thy seal,

My heart the inward witness feel.

LOT was a godly man, justified before God by faith, and justified before man by his good works. But he was a weak man. He chose to dwell in Sodom because it was a wealthy place; he aimed at a fortune, but he was vexed and grieved daily, by seeing and hearing of the unrighteous deeds of his neighbours. His children married into the world, and were ruined; and he himself, though delivered by a gracious and faithful God, suffered severely. His sons and their wives perished in Sodom; his own wife was made an example of on the plain; he was hurried away without a solitary servant, or any property of importance; and had to take up his dwelling in a cave. See the folly of being led by appearances; let not the heart follow the eye. See also the certainty of being chastened for sin—just Lot could not escape; the faithfulness of divine love towards its wayward children; and the importance of being distinct from the world. The Christian in the world is like Lot in Sodom, and if he chooses his place from the same motives, the Lord may deal with him after the same rule.

*And delivered just
Lot, vexed with
the filthy
conversation of
the wicked:*

2 Peter 2:7

*Oh! to be brought to Jesus' feet,
Though sorrows fix me there,
Is still a privilege; and sweet
The energies of prayer,
Though sighs and tears its language be,
If Christ be nigh and smile on me.*

*Cast not away
therefore your
confidence,
which hath great
recompence of
reward.*

Hebrews 10:35

EVERY believer is confident that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the sent of God; that He is the only Saviour, and the eternal God. He is confident that heaven is promised to all true believers, and is certain to all holy disciples. He gives credit to God's word, which reveals the same, is fully satisfied of its truth, and finds courage and boldness to profess the same. His confidence being produced by the Holy Spirit, and grounded on the divine word, will lead him to commit his all to the divine blessing; to surrender

all to the divine will; to part with all in Christ's quarrel; and to rest on the word and veracity of the Lord Jesus. His confidence will often be assailed and sharply tried; but it must be maintained, for we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end. It has great recompense of reward, in the present life a hundred-fold, for all it parts with for Christ; and in the world to come life everlasting. Beloved, let us hold fast our confidence and rejoicing of hope firm unto the end.

*Protect me in the dangerous hour,
And from the wily tempter's power,
Oh, set my spirit free!
And if temptation should assail,
May mighty grace o'er all prevail,
And lead my heart to Thee.*

GOD'S salvation is a deliverance from the worst of evils, of freest grace, for the best of purposes. He saves the poor and needy, the guilty and the distressed, who call upon Him, and believe in Him. And we who have obtained mercy, should with Hannah rejoice in God's salvation, as those who have received an invaluable favour; as those who are laid under, and are ready to acknowledge their infinite obligations. Salvation is the proper source of our joy and rejoicing; and while some rejoice in property, some in power, and some in earthly prospects, let us rejoice in the salvation of our God. It is a cause for rejoicing in sickness and health, in poverty and plenty, in life and in death. Although the fig tree should not blossom, neither should fruit be on the vines; though the labour of the olive should fail, and the fields should yield no meat; though the flock should be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls: yet we may rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of our salvation: for not one thing shall fail of all that He hath spoken. Delightful truth, "SALVATION IS OF THE LORD!"

*And Hannah
prayed, and said,
My heart rejoiceth
in the LORD, mine
horn is exalted
in the LORD: my
mouth is enlarged
over mine enemies;
because I rejoice in
thy salvation.*

1 Samuel 2:1

*Join, heaven and earth, to bless
The Lord our righteousness;
In Him I will rejoice,
With cheerful heart and voice:
In Him complete I shine
His life and death are mine.*

*And walk in love,
as Christ also
hath loved us,
and hath given
himself for us
an offering
and a sacrifice
to God for a
sweetsmelling
savour.*

Ephesians 5:2

RELIGION is love; the love of God shed abroad in the heart, transforming our nature into love. The blessing is bestowed to be exhibited; we are to let our light shine, and walk in love. Under the influence of love to God, for His mercy towards us; and love to man for God's sake. By the rule of love, doing unto others as we would they should do unto us. Seeking their spiritual and eternal welfare. Letting it be clearly seen, that we indulge no envy, jealousy, malice, or ill-will in our hearts against any;

but that we wish them well, and desire to promote their best interests in any way we can. Love should run through the whole of our actions, and be the ruling motive in our souls. God acts towards us from love. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of love; and love is the brightest and surest evidence of regeneration. Let us not be satisfied to feel that we love, but let us manifest it; let us "WALK IN LOVE;" this is the way to be happy, useful and honourable. Bitterness, wrath, censoriousness, and selfishness, prove that we are under sin; but love is of God; and he that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

*May I from every act abstain,
That hurts or gives my brother pain:
Nay, every secret wish suppress,
That would abridge his happiness;
And this may I Thy follower prove,
Great Prince of peace, great God of love!*

BELOVED, when Jesus was praying for His disciples, He prayed for us; His prayer extended to all who believe, however fearful, weak, and timid. He prayed that we may be one with Himself; one with His church, as members of the same body, children of the same family, heirs of the same inheritance, and parts of the same spiritual temple. He prayed that we may be so one as the Father is one with Him, and as He is one with the Father; that we may have the same love influencing us; the same object always

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

John 17:20

in view; and may exhibit the same virtues. What glorious privileges our Saviour here prays that we may enjoy! What honours He seeks for us! What unspeakable blessedness! Think of being one with God; one with God as Jesus is; one with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To be of one mind, one will, and, as it were, of one soul. Gracious, gracious Lord, hasten on the time when this all-comprehending prayer shall be fully answered in our experience! Let us, beloved, daily pray for this blessing; nothing can be greater, sweeter, or more important.

*Thy revealing Spirit give,
Whom the world cannot receive:
Fill me with Thy Father's love;
Never from my soul remove;
Dwell in me, and I shall be
Thine through all eternity.*

11
December

*Why dost thou
strive against
him? for he
giveth not
account of any
of his matters.*

Job 33:13

A BELIEVER strive against his God! Yes, it is sometimes the case; he may strive against some of the doctrines of His word; or, against some of the dispensations of His providence; or, against some of the commands He has issued. But why dost thou strive against Him? His wisdom is infinite. His love is unchangeable. His ways are all righteous. His methods may be mysterious, and His dispensations trying; but His designs are all gracious and good. It is your duty to submit and be still. It is your privilege to believe

and trust. It is rebellion and treason to strive against Him, for He giveth not account of any of His matters. It is the glory of God to conceal a thing. He is not accountable to any. He will not be questioned by the curious, or called to an account by the proud. He demands our acquiescence on the ground of His perfections, promises, and word. He will make all clear and plain to us by and by, and then we shall know as we are known, and be perfectly satisfied. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God." "Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord."

*Oh! let me live of Thee possess 'd,
In weakness, weariness, and pain!
The anguish of my labouring breast,
The daily cross I still sustain,
For Him that languish 'd on the tree,
But lived, before He died for me.*

THE church is the body of Christ. Jesus and His people are one. They are His elect whom He hath chosen; His seed which He hath begotten; His portion which He hath received; His delight and glory, in which He constantly rejoices. He saves them by substitution; He took their place, their obligations, and their sins. He saves them by communication; giving them grace and His Holy Spirit, with every spiritual blessing. He saves them by instruction; for they are all taught of God. He saves them by separation; bringing them out of, and delivering them from this present evil world. He saves them by visitations; He grants them life and favour, and His visitations preserve their spirits. He saves them by translation; first out of the kingdom of Satan, into His kingdom of grace; and then out of the present world, into His kingdom of glory. He saves them to display His perfections; confound His foes; exalt His name; satisfy His love; and from sympathy with them. All who are saved form part of His body. Salvation is entirely of God. What happiness to be saved thus!

*For the husband
is the head of
the wife, even as
Christ is the head
of the church: and
he is the saviour
of the body.*

Ephesians 5:23

*Joyful truth, He bore transgression
In His body on the cross;
Through His blood there's full remission;
All for Him we count but loss:
Jesus for the sinner bleeds,
Nothing more the sinner needs.*

*In Gibeon the
LORD appeared
to Solomon in a
dream by night:
and God said,
Ask what I shall
give thee.*

1 Kings 3:5

WE are not straitened in our God; He has boundless resources, and is constantly calling upon us to ask and receive. What do we want this morning? Is it not more holiness? We want our understandings enlightened, our wills brought into perfect conformity to the will of God, and our affections fixed on holy and heavenly things. Let us agree to ask these things of our God. He will give freely, cheerfully, and plentifully. Let us ask as Solomon did, WISDOM; even that wisdom which cometh from

above, which is pure, peaceable, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits. This wisdom will guide our hearts and direct our ways; it will lead us safely to a city of habitations; it will lead us to do God's will with pleasure, promptness, and delight. It will make us wise to escape from Satan's snares, to avoid temptation, and to do good unto all men. How important is this wisdom! How necessary for us! Well, Jesus stands before us this morning, saying, "ASK WHAT I SHALL GIVE THEE:" in Him dwelleth all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and every one that asketh receiveth.

*O sovereign Love, to Thee I cry;
Give me Thyself, or else I die;
Save me from death, from hell set free,—
Death, hell, are but the want of Thee:
My life, my crown, my heaven Thou art!
Oh, may I find Thee in my heart!*

ALL Christians have faith, but some of us have but little faith. He who gave us what we have can increase it; and He will if we apply to Him, plead with Him, and wait upon Him. We need more faith, to enable us to escape the many dangers that are in our path; to do and suffer the Lord's will with patience; to hold fast the faithful word which we have been taught; to grow in grace and holiness; to exercise forgiving love towards those who have grieved, offended, or injured us; and to honour God, by believing His promise—trusting His providence—expecting His interference—being active in His service—and leaving our concerns in His hands, to be arranged, directed, and brought to pass. We are encouraged to pray for more faith, by the nature of the request, and the design with which we ask it—by the promises which God has given—by the precepts of His holy gospel—by the examples of faith set before us in the word—by the well-known character of our God—and by the blessed results which must follow from having such a prayer answered.

*Looking unto
Jesus the author
and finisher of our
faith; who for the
joy that was set
before him endured
the cross, despising
the shame, and is
set down at the
right hand of the
throne of God.
Hebrews 12:2*

*Author of faith, I seek Thy face,
The work of faith in me fulfil;
Confirm and strengthen me in grace,
To do and suffer all Thy will:
From hell, the world, and sin secure,
And make me in my goings sure.*

*Wherefore the
rather, brethren,
give diligence to
make your calling
and election sure:
for if ye do these
things, ye shall
never fall:*

2 Peter 1:10

PUT your religion beyond a doubt; let there be no reason to question whether you are sincere or not. Calling separates us from sin, Satan, and the world; to holiness, Christ, and the church. Election is the root of calling; it is God's choice of us from others—in Christ—by grace—to holiness—for His glory. We know our election of God, by our being led to choose Christ, holiness, and heaven; to choose them freely—heartily—and habitually. If we thus choose them, we shall use every means to obtain them. We know

that we are called of God, by our calling upon God secretly—heartily—constantly—for holiness—salvation—and fellowship with Himself. When we thus call on God we carefully avoid all evil, and follow after everything that is good. Let us give all diligence to know our election, for it is worth all the pains we can take, or the time we spend. Let us follow on to know the Lord—give up ourselves entirely to God—exercise ourselves unto godliness—seek the witness, earnest, and sealing of the Spirit, and cleave unto God with full purpose of heart.

*Nothing is worth a thought beneath,
But how I may escape the death
That never, never dies!
How make mine own election sure,
And, when I fail on earth, secure
A mansion in the skies!*

THE way to the kingdom is rough and rugged, our strength is often small, and our fears are very many. But if we are justified by grace, sanctified by the Spirit of truth, and pursue a consistent course, there is no doubt of our safe arrival at our Father's house; for "the righteous shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall wax stronger and stronger." The true believer shall hold on, for the promise of God secures him; the fullness of Christ supplies him; the Spirit of grace influences him; the new nature urges him; occasional love-tokens encourage him; and attachment to the Lord and His people, prevents him forsaking the right ways of the Most High. Beloved, let us be concerned to have a blameless conversation; let us live near to and walk with Jesus, then our graces will flourish; we shall become rooted in Christ; our daily conquests will give us courage; and our God will give as He hath promised, even grace and glory. It is not for us to be timid; it is not for the righteous to despond, FOR HE SHALL HOLD ON HIS WAY. "They go from strength to strength; every one of them in Zion appeareth before God."

The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

Job 17:9

*They may on the main of temptation be tossed,
Their troubles may swell like the sea;
But none of the ransom'd shall ever be lost,
The righteous shall hold on his way.*

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
Colossians 3:16

THE word which Jesus preached, or the word which His servants wrote, the whole word of God, is the word of Jesus. Believer, look at your Bible as containing the word of your best Friend—loving Saviour—and final Judge. Let it find a home in your memories—affections—and hearts. Let it keep house, ruling—feeding—and directing your souls. Let it dwell in you plentifully, and know how to apply the different portions to different persons, and different cases. Let it dwell in you richly, that you may have that to plead

in prayer which God will notice—approve—and accept; to form—guide—and preserve your judgments; to curb—bound—and regulate your desires; to raise—confirm—and direct your expectations : to silence—enlighten—and purify conscience; to enable you to resist and overcome Satan; that you may be able to reprove sin, and speak a word in season to the weary. Let the word of Christ have the best room in your souls; let it be your daily meditation—food—and directory. “LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY IN ALL WISDOM.”

*Still let Thy wisdom be my guide,
Nor take Thy light from me away;
Still with me let Thy grace abide,
That I from Thee may never stray:
Let Thy word richly in me dwell,
Inspiring me to do Thy will.*

THE cross of Christ is the Christian's glory; and few things would give him more pain, than to be considered its enemy. It embraces the whole doctrine of salvation by grace; and is viewed by the Christian, as the foundation of his hope, and the object of his faith; as the end of the law, and the antidote of misery; as the centre of truth, and subject of the church's song; as mercy's sceptre, and the Saviour's throne; as the mirror, in which Jehovah displays all the perfections of His nature; and the key that opens the gates of the celestial paradise; as the glory of eternal wisdom, and the mystery of incarnate love; as the destruction of death, and the gate to everlasting life; as the object of the angels' wonder, and the cause of the devil's everlasting confusion. Beloved, let us fix our eyes and hearts upon this glorious, this surprising object; and never, never let us, by our conduct or conversation, bring a disgrace upon it; but let us endeavour to advance its triumphs, spread its glories, and bring sinners to admire, love, and trust in it. "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of my Lord Jesus Christ; by which the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

*(For many walk,
of whom I have
told you often,
and now tell you
even weeping,
that they are the
enemies of the
cross of Christ:*

Philippians 3:18

*Oh, may my single aim be now,
To live on Him that died,
And nought on earth desire to know
But Jesus crucified.*

*If ye love
me, keep my
commandments.*

John 14:15

HERE is the Christian's grand RULE of action, the commandments of his dear Saviour. Jesus commands us because He loves us; because He desires our present welfare; because He will prove the sincerity of our profession; and because He approves of the obedience of faith. He commands us to imitate Himself; He is our great pattern and example; and we should endeavour to imitate Him in His Spirit, and design, and actions. He commands us to believe Him, profess Him, obey Him, and continue in His love. Here we have the Christian's grand MOTIVE and spring of action—LOVE. Spiritual love is always loyal to the King of Zion; jealous for the glory of the Lord of Hosts; and determined in the cause of the Prince of peace. The obedience of love is easy—heartily—and thorough. Love is the strongest incentive to obedience; it conquers fear—furnishes with zeal—equips with courage—devises the means—surmounts difficulties—and triumphs over opposition. Let us inquire from what does our obedience spring? By what is it regulated? Is our motive and rule, holy love?

*Love is the fountain whence
All true obedience flows;
The Christian serves the God he loves,
And loves the God he knows:
May love o'er every power preside,
And every thought and action guide.*

THE mercies of David are SUITED to a sinner's wants; they comprise all he needs for time, for body and soul; and all he will need through eternity. The mercies of David are COVENANT mercies; the Father has engaged to bestow them through the doing and dying of Jesus; the Son has secured their bestowment by His vicarious sufferings and death; and the Holy Spirit will put the Lord's people in possession of them. They all flow from free grace, are revealed in the promises, and are stored up in the fullness of Christ. The mercies of David are SURE mercies; they are unconditionally promised to all comers; are received by simple faith; and are bestowed by Jesus as the appointed trustee and administrator of the covenant of grace. They are sure, for God has sworn, and will not change His mind, or remove His covenant of reconciliation. The mercies of David are GIVEN mercies; no desert is requisite to establish a claim; no hard conditions are laid down to entitle; no price is fixed, or money demanded; but it is, "COME AND RECEIVE FREELY."

And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

Acts 13:34

*Thy favours, Lord, surprise our souls;
Wilt Thou indulge Thy creatures thus?
The stream of full salvation rolls,
To strengthen, cheer, and comfort us;
How rich the grace! how kind the word!
All praise and glory to the Lord!*

*O keep my soul,
and deliver me:
let me not be
ashamed; for I
put my trust in
thee.*

Psalms 25:20

WHAT a mercy to have a God to go to, a throne of grace set before us, and the precious name of Jesus to plead. How encouraging the examples set before us in God's holy word. Let us imitate them who spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. We are going into the world; the business of the day is before us; our hearts are false and fickle; let our prayer be, "OH, KEEP MY SOUL". Keep me from sin, let me not indulge it in my heart, or commit it in my life; keep me from Satan, suffer him not to lead me astray

from Thee; keep me from men, let them not prevail against me. Keep me in Thy way—in Thy truth—in Thy church. Keep me by Thy word—Thy spirit—Thy presence—or Thy rod. "DELIVER ME:" from guilt and condemnation; from fear and shame. Keep me at Thy footstool, and deliver me from my own wandering heart. Let me be clothed in the robe of righteousness—cleansed in the fountain of my Saviour's blood—accepted in His glorious person and perfect work—and be crowned with loving kindness and tender mercy. "Keep me as the apple of the eye."

*Ah, will not He who ransom'd man,
A Saviour's work fulfil?
Almighty is His power—He can:
Boundless His love—He will.
Saviour Divine! deliver me,
Oh, keep my soul still near to Thee!*

WAITING for the Lord, supposes that we want Him to do something for us; bestow something on us; or fill some relation to us. It implies that we have sought Him, that He has promised, but that He delays to answer our request. It proves that no substitute can be found. This promise SUGGESTS that there may be fears, lest He should not come; lest after all we should be disappointed. This supposes, that there may be temptations to distrust the love, faithfulness, and goodness of God; to think they shall be ashamed of having sought, believed, or expected that the Lord would appear. But this precious promise SECURES the waiting soul from shame, disappointment, and confusion; it ASSURES us that the Lord will appear, answer, and bless in His own time, and in His own way. Are you tempted?—wait for the Lord. Are you afflicted?—wait upon God. Are you sorely tried?—wait patiently for the Lord; He will not suffer you to be ashamed. Abraham waited, and received the promise. Joseph waited, and was raised to honour. David waited, and had all his desire.

And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Isaiah 49:23

*Affliction is a stormy deep,
Where wave resounds to wave;
Though o'er my head the billows roll,
I know the Lord can save:
I'll wait, and bow beneath the rod;
My hope, my confidence is God.*

*His soul shall
dwell at ease;
and his seed shall
inherit the earth.*

Psalm 25:13

THE man that fears God must have faith in His word; love to His character; a desire to please Him in all things; a fear to offend Him in anything; a realization of His omniscience; and be looking forward to His appearing. Beloved, is this our character? It is said of such, "HIS SOUL SHALL DWELL AT EASE;" free from slavish fears—from soul-distressing cares and anxieties—in a state of contentment and solid peace. And well he may; for he has God for his portion—the eternal covenant as his stay—the precious

promises as his security—the glorious atonement for his plea—a complete salvation for his shield—providence as his friend—Christ as his constant Advocate, Captain, and Man-of-War—daily fellowship with God as his relief—and heaven as his final home. His soul shall lodge, or dwell in goodness: so some read it. The goodness of God is the storehouse of every blessing, and will supply his every want—silence all his fears—contradict all his unbelieving doubts—and exalt him to peace and honour. Beloved, let us not be anxious about anything, but casting all our cares upon God, let us dwell at ease.

*Once the world was all my treasure;
Then the world my heart possess'd;
Now I taste sublimer pleasure,
Since the Lord has made me blest;
I can witness,
Jesus gives His people rest.*

SATAN is the Christian's unwearied foe, he is the enemy of all righteousness, and aims at our destruction. He is especially the enemy of our faith—comfort—prosperity—and usefulness. He is our enemy before God, and he gets access to our hearts; he excites to sin, accuses of sin, and terrifies for sin. We are called upon to resist him, stedfastly believing God's word—faithfulness—and love. Stedfastly believing what Christ is to us, as Satan's grand opponent. Is Satan a deadly serpent?—Jesus is the brazen serpent which heals. Is Satan a roaring lion?—Jesus is the lion of the tribe of Judah who prevails. Is Satan an adversary?—Jesus is a Friend. Is Satan a wolf?—Jesus is the good Shepherd. Is Satan a tempter?—Jesus is a Deliverer. Is Satan a deceiver and a liar?—Jesus is the truth. Is Satan an accuser?—Jesus is an Advocate. Is Satan the prince of darkness?—Jesus is the light of life. Is Satan a murderer?—Jesus is the resurrection. Is Satan god of this world?—Jesus is GOD OVER ALL. Resist the devil in the faith of this. Jesus is all you need.

*Whom resist
stedfast in the
faith, knowing
that the same
afflictions are
accomplished in
your brethren that
are in the world.*

1 Peter 5:9

*All power is to our Jesus given;
O'er earth's rebellious sons He reigns;
He mildly rules the hosts of heaven,
And holds the powers of hell in chains.
Jesus, the woman's conquering seed,
Shall bruise for us the serpent's head.*

*Then Moses
said unto Aaron,
This is it that the
LORD spake,
saying, I will be
sanctified in them
that come nigh
me, and before all
the people I will
be glorified. And
Aaron held his
peace.
Leviticus 10:3*

THIS is the great end Jehovah has in view in all He performs, and all He permits. He created and He preserves the world, that He might be glorified. He redeemed His people by the blood of His Son, and He will glorify His saints with Himself, to the same end. He will be glorified in His sovereignty, doing as He will—in His supremacy, commanding as He pleases—in His wisdom, disposing of His creatures to secure His design—in His grace, saving an innumerable company of the lost and wretched,

to sound His praise forever—in His goodness, supplying the wants of all His creatures, though in rebellion against Him—in His justice, punishing the daring impenitent offender. Beloved, it is our duty to aim at the glory of our God in all things. Does Jehovah command?—then we should observe His commands and obey them. Does He graciously promise, and in wisdom and mercy provide?—then we should trust, rely, and depend on Him. Does He work in providence and grace?—then we should acknowledge His hand, submit to His wisdom, bow at His throne, fear to sin against Him, or grieve His love.

*Lord, turn the stream of nature's tide;
Let all our actions tend
To Thee their Source; Thy love the guide
Thy glory be the end:
In all we think, or say, or do,
Thy glory may we still pursue.*

WHAT honour? Of being redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, out of every nation, country, people, and tongue. Of being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever. Of being acknowledged as the sons of God; “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is”. Of being closely allied to Jesus; He is not ashamed to call them brethren. Of being heirs of God; “If children then HEIRS, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ”. Of being delivered from slavery to serve God in liberty; “that being delivered out of the hands of our enemies we might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life”. Of being appointed to sit in judgment with Christ; Know ye not that we shall judge angels? “THIS HONOUR HAVE ALL HIS SAINTS.” Are we saints? Do we walk as becometh saints? Are we living under the influence of these great privileges? Let us admire, adore, and obey.

*To execute upon
them the judgment
written: this
honour have all
his saints. Praise
ye the LORD.*

Psalms 149:9

*Pause, my soul, adore and wonder;
Ask, “Oh, why such love to me?
Grace hath put me in the number
Of the Saviour’s family;
Hallelujah!
Thanks, eternal thanks to Thee.”*

*But I would have
you without
carefulness. He
that is unmarried
careth for the
things that belong
to the Lord, how
he may please the
Lord:*

1 Corinthians 7:32

ANXIETY, or carefulness, is very injurious; it divides the heart, distracts the mind, chokes the word, leads to distrust, and destroys our peace. It is inconsistent with our profession; we have resigned all into the hands of the Lord, and should leave all to His blessing. We should do everything as for the Lord, and consider our families, our property, and our business, as the Lord's; so should we be holy and enjoy peace. Anxiety, or inordinate care, dishonours God; it reflects upon His sufficiency to supply all—upon His

omniscience to discover all—upon His authority and ability to manage all—upon His mercy, bounty, and liberality, as if He would leave us to want—upon His veracity, fidelity, and immutability, as though His word may be forfeited or His promise broken. Carefulness injures our own souls—it is opposed to contentment and resignation—it nourishes impatience and unbelief—it hinders our usefulness, and hardens our hearts—it cuts off supplies, and procures the rod and the frown. We should therefore aim to be without CAREFULNESS, for the Lord careth for us.

*How sweet to have our portion there,
Where sorrow never comes nor care
And nothing will remove!
We then may hear without a sigh,
The world's destruction to be nigh—
Our treasure is above.*

IT is not enough for us to be doing, we should be doing good. We are redeemed and created for this purpose. Let us ACT as before God, for the good of man; let us COMMUNICATE advice, encouragement, or relief, in the fear of God, and for His glory. What is done well, is done in a good spirit, even the spirit of love—humility—and prayer; is done from a good motive, even the love of Christ; is done by a good rule, the commandment of the everlasting God: is done to a good end, the glory of Him who hath called and commanded us. But we are prone to get weary of doing, especially if we are hasty—or meet with disappointments—or look at creatures—or consult our own case. But let us not lose heart in the work, neither let us give it over; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. This is sowing time, but reaping time will come; let us therefore go on in divine strength—with holy fortitude—with fixed determination—and resigning ourselves daily to God. We shall reap in DUE SEASON if we faint not; for God is orderly—faithful—bounteous—gracious; He will not forget our work and labour of love; but will reward even a cup of cold water, given to a disciple in His name.

*And let us not
be weary in well
doing: for in due
season we shall
reap, if we faint
not.*

Galatians 6:9

*Put thou thy trust in God,
In duty's path go on;
Fix on His word thy steadfast eye,
So shall thy work be done.*

*And we know that
all things work
together for good
to them that love
God, to them who
are the called
according to his
purpose.*

Romans 8:28

ALL the Lord's people love God. They do not love Him as they desire, yet they cleave to Him and follow on to know Him. He is their God, and has called them according to His own purpose and grace, which was given them in Jesus Christ before the world began, and it becomes the Christian to view everything as having its place in God's economy; and its work to do in accomplishing God's purposes. Angels, men, and devils, but perform His pleasure. All things are connected by the infinite wisdom

and good pleasure of the Most High. He superintends every movement of every one of His creatures; and directs them to answer His purpose and end. He overrules everything for our good; we never lose anything worth keeping by any of His dispensations. We may gain by all that occurs; we may gain wisdom—holiness—matter for prayer or praise—work for faith, patience, or hope. However, our best interests are secured; everything is working for the good of the church; and though it be rough, it is a right way to our heavenly Father's house.

*All things on earth, and all in heaven,
On God's eternal will depend;
And all for greater good were given,
And all shall in His glory end:
This be my care! and this alone;
Father, in me Thy will be done.*

IF the Lord is with us, all will be well; but He has promised to be with us always, even unto the end. Anyone but our God would have left us long ago; but He is longsuffering, full of compassion, and of great mercy. He will be our God to all eternity, and will conduct us through life with safety. He will be with us in every trouble, to support us; in every trial, to comfort us; in every difficulty, to provide for us; in every danger, to deliver us; and under all circumstances, to bless us. He will be with us as our heavenly Father—as our firm and faithful Friend—as our God; and we shall be with Him by-and-by, as His children, dependants, and jewels, to be glorified with Him forever. Beloved, let us rejoice in this, that God will never leave us, death may rob us, friends may leave us, troubles may come upon us; but our God will not forsake His people for His great name's sake, because it hath pleased the Lord to make them His people. Having loved His own, He will love them unto the end.

*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
Hebrews 13:5*

*Since He has said, "I'll ne'er depart,"
I'll bind His promise to my heart,
Rejoicing in His care:
This shall support while here I live,
And when in glory I arrive,
I'll praise Him for it there.*

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17

WHERE shall we find such a friend? He that redeems from slavery, and delivers from bondage, is such a friend—but Jesus does this. He that restores to the favour of the judge who condemned, or the Lord who delivered over to bondage, is such a friend—but Jesus does this. He that admits to intimacy with himself, out of pure love, notwithstanding disparity of condition, is such a friend—but Jesus does this. He who counsels in trouble, and gives the best advice in perplexity, is such a friend—but

Jesus does this. He who rescues from foes and renders their attempts to injure us abortive, is such a friend—but Jesus does this. He who takes in the rejected and homeless, who clothes the naked and feeds the hungry is such a friend—but Jesus does this. He who exposes himself to pain, injury, insult, and death, to do us good, is such a friend—but Jesus has done this. He who expends all his property for our welfare, is such a friend—but Jesus did this. He who kindly reproves our faults in prosperity, and visits, comforts, and relieves in adversity, is such a friend—but Jesus does this. He who loves us through life, in death, and forever, is such a friend—but Jesus doth so. HE IS THE FRIEND WHO LOVETH AT ALL TIMES; changing scenes change not His affection. His friendship flows from purest love, and is founded in a perfect knowledge of our persons—wants—dispositions—and propensities; His friendship is maintained by infinite

patience—boundless pity—and the prospect of our being glorified with Him forever. He knows our frame, consults our welfare, and is determined to do us good. He will not allow us to lose by any of His dispensations; but will increase our spiritual wealth by all means. The friendship of Jesus secures all good, and prevents all evil; He will never fail us, nor forsake us. He commenced His friendship with a view to extend it through eternity; and it is the same at the close of the year as it was in the beginning. O Jesus! let us love Thee with pure affection—walk with Thee in sweetest friendship—and prove ourselves Thy friends in every place! Be thou our Friend—Counsellor—Brother—Saviour—Lord—and God—in life, death, and forever. Amen.

*One there is, above all others,
Well deserves the name of Friend;
His is love beyond a brother's,
Costly, free, and knows no end:
They who once His kindness prove,
Find it everlasting love!*

*Which, of all friends, to save us,
Could or would have shed his blood?
But our Jesus died to have us
Reconciled in Him to God!
This was boundless love indeed—
Jesus is a friend in need.*

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.