

FOR HIS GLORY

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We cannot be too careful of our conduct if we aspire to be used of the Lord. Though the Lord is jealous of all His servants, He is especially jealous of those whom *He honors in service*. "Be you clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord." That which He might have passed over in one of His common servants, He will not wink at in those whom He largely blesses. Therefore, dear friends, let us remember that *re-joicing* servants of God must be *holy* servants of God. They shall not give thanks for the purity of their people unless they, themselves, have set a holy example. This renders all work for Christ a very solemn thing. May we always think it so, and never go to it in a trifling spirit, but with many cries to the Holy One of Israel that He would *make* and *keep* us clean and bright as vessels fit for the Master's use!—**C.H.S., 1887**



DOES GOD LOVE YOU?

By Daniel E. Parks

"The way of the wicked is an abomination to Jehovah, but He loves him who follows righteousness."

Proverb 15:9

Does God love you?

Some may think this is a moot point, for people claiming to speak for God declare that God loves everyone and hates no one. The Holy Scriptures, God's Word, declare otherwise. God expressly identifies both whom He loves and whom He hates. And people claiming to speak for God but deliberately lying about Him are among those whom He hates. (More on this later.)

Therefore, I again ask you, **"Does God love you?"**

It is certain that God loves some. Jesus Christ declared, "God so loved the world ..." (John 3:16). It is also certain that God does not love everyone, and that He hates some, for He Himself declares, "Jacob I have loved; but Esau I have hated" (Malachi 1:2f / Romans 9:13). It therefore is with good reason that I ask...

"Does God love you?" Are you in the world God loved? Or are you instead among those who are not loved by God?

Perhaps you will ask, "How can I know that God loves me?"

Let me show you from God's Word whom He loves and whom He hates. Then you may know whether or not He loves you.

I. God hates wicked, evil, and iniquitous people (Psalm 5:4f): "4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You. 5 The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity." Some say, "God hates *sin*, but He loves the *sinner*." But note well that God hates *workers* of sin, not merely their *works* to the exclusion of their *persons*. And God's Word is very specific regarding the people whom He hates.

1. *God hates liars* (Psalm 5:6): "You shall destroy those who speak falsehood" – for God abominates "a lying tongue" (Proverbs 6:16f), "and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone" (Revelation 21:8).

2. *God hates the bloodthirsty and deceitful* (Psalm 5:6): "Jehovah abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man." Yes, God not only *hates* such a person, but even *abhors* him. Yes, God not

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REFLECTIONS

Gems gleaned by Jim Robinette
www.missionafricaik.net

GOD'S SERVANTS SPEAK

My soul longs to feel more of a pilgrim and stranger here, below, that nothing may divert me from pressing through the lonely desert till I arrive at my Father's house.—**David Brainerd, 1718-1747**

Whenever I can say, "Your will be done, teach me to do Your will, O God, for You are my God," it is like throwing ballast out of an air balloon—my soul ascends immediately, and light and happiness shine around me!—**Henry Martyn, 1781-1812**

The motto of every missionary, whether preacher, printer, or schoolmaster, ought to be, "*Devoted for life.*"—**Adoniram Judson, 1788-1850**

—Adapted from *World Shapers—A Treasury of Quotes from Great Missionaries* Compiled by Hampton & Pluedd-mann, Harold Shaw Publishers, Wheaton, IL

Pray for Jim & Kappy Robinette.
MISSION AFRICA

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BEWARE OF THE CHRIST OF ARMINIANISM!

By Steven Houck

The Bible warns us that in the last days in which we live there will be many false Christs—those who claim to be Christ but who are imposters. Jesus said, “Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matt 24:4-5). We who profess to be Christians must take heed. We must be very careful that we are not deceived. Our calling is to trust, love, and follow the true Christ and Him only. *We may have nothing to do with the false Christs who are so numerous in our day.*

We know about the Christ of the cults and other religions. He is a good man, a prophet, the first creation of God, a great spirit, a divine idea, or even a god himself. But he is not the true and eternal God. He receives his existence from another who is greater than he. He is not the Christ of the Bible. We are not deceived by this Christ. He is a *false Christ*.

We know about the Christ of Roman Catholicism. They profess that he is true God. He suffered and died for the forgiveness of sin. He arose again, ascended into heaven, and is coming again. But he is not a complete Savior. The Christ of the Roman Catholics cannot save sinners *without their own good works and the intercession of priests*. He is not the Christ of the Bible. We are not deceived by this Christ. He, too, is a *false Christ*.

There is, however, another false Christ who is much more dangerous than the Christ of the cults and the Christ of Roman Catholicism. He has deceived people for many years, and he continues to deceive millions. This Christ is so dangerous that if it were not *impossible*, he would deceive the very elect (Matt 24:24). He is the Christ of Arminianism.

This false Christ is extremely dangerous because in many ways he *appears* to be the true Christ. They say he is true God, equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. They say that he died on the cross to save sinners. They even say that he saves by his grace alone, without the work of man. This Christ will have nothing to do with the Christ of the cults, and the Christ of Roman Catholicism. But watch out! Be warned! The Christ of *Arminianism* is not the Christ of the Bible. Do not be fooled!

ONE—*The Christ of Arminianism* loves every individual person in the world, and sincerely desires their salvation. *The Christ of the Bible* earnestly loves and desires the salvation of only those whom God has unconditionally chosen to salvation. (Psa 5:5; 7:11; 11:5; Matt 11:27; John 17:9-10; Acts 2:47; 13:48; Rom 9:10-13, 21-24; Eph 1:3-4).

TWO—*The Christ of Arminianism* offers salvation to every sinner, and does all in his power to bring them to salvation. His offer and work are often frustrated, for many refuse to come! *The Christ of the Bible* effectually calls to Himself only the elect, and sovereignly brings them to salvation. Not one of them will be lost. (Isa 55:11; John 5:21; 6:37-40; 10:25-30; 17:2; Phil 2:13).

THREE—*The Christ of Arminianism* cannot regenerate and save a sinner who does not choose Christ with his own “free will.” All men have a “free will” by which they can either accept or reject Christ. That “free will” may not be violated by their Christ. *The Christ of the Bible* sovereignly regenerates the elect sinner apart from his choice, for without regeneration the spiritually dead sinner cannot choose Christ! Faith is not man’s contribution to salvation, but the *gift* of Christ which He sovereignly imparts in regeneration. (John 3:3; 6:44 & 65; 15:16; Acts 11:18; Rom 9:16; Eph. 2:1; 2:8-10; Phil 1:29; Heb 12:2).

FOUR—*The Christ of Arminianism* died on the cross for every individual person, and thereby made it possible for every person to be saved. His death, apart from the choice of man, was not able to actually save *anyone*, for many for whom he died are lost. *The Christ of the Bible* died for only God’s elect people, and thereby actually obtained salvation for all those for whom He died. His death was a substitutionary satisfaction which actually took away the guilt of His chosen people. (Luke 19:10; John 10:14-15 & 26; Acts 20:28; Rom 5:10; Eph. 5:25; Heb 9:12; 1 Peter 3:18).

FIVE—*The Christ of Arminianism* loses many whom he has “saved” because they do not continue in faith. Even if he does give them “eternal security,” as some say, that security is not based upon his will or work, but the choice which the sinner made when he accepted their Christ. *The Christ of the Bible* preserves His chosen people so that they *cannot* lose their salvation but preserves them by the sovereign electing will of God, the power of His death, and the mighty working of His Spirit. (John 5:24; 10:26-29; Rom 8:29-30; 8:35-39; 1 Peter 1:2-5; Jude 24-25).

As you can see, although the Christ of Arminianism and the Christ of the Bible may, at first seem to be the same, they are very different. One is a *false Christ*. The other is the true Christ. One is weak and helpless. *He bows before the sovereign “free will” of man*. The other is the reigning Lord who wills what He pleases, and sovereignly accomplishes all that He wills.

If you believe and serve the Christ of Arminianism, you must recognize the fact that you do not serve the Christ of the Bible. You have been deceived! Study the Scriptures, and learn of the true Christ. Pray for divine grace to repent and trust the true Christ as your sovereign Lord and Savior.—Rev. Steven Houck is a late pastor of Peace Protestant Reformed church, P.O. Box 5634, Lansing, IL 60438.

DOES GOD LOVE YOU?

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only *abhors* him, but even *abominates* him, for God abominates “hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil” (Proverbs 6:16-18).

3. *God hates lovers of violence* (Psalm 11:5-7): “5 ... the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. 6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals; fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup. 7 For Jehovah is righteous.” God will send such people to “the lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14f; 21:8).

4. *God specifically abominates seven sorts of people* (Proverbs 6:16-19): “16 These six things Jehovah hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”

In essence, God hates liars, murderers, terrorists, thugs, rioters, rapists, pedophiles, brawlers, persecutors, the proud – the same sorts of wicked people hated by civil and polite people.

Remember this every time you hear a person claiming to be from God saying to those whom God expressly hates, “Smile, God loves you!” or “God loves everyone and hates no one!” Such a person is foremost among liars, and is certainly “a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”

Remember this also: God forgives even the worst sinners if they repent of their sins and turn to Him for salvation. Indeed, every one of God’s people was once among them. But after coming to Jesus Christ for salvation, they are considered by God as never having been among them. God never imputes their sins to them (Psalm 32:1f / Romans 4:7f), and forgives and forgets all their sins (Micah 7:18f; Hebrews 8:12; also Numbers 23:21).

II. God does not love those who love the world (1 John 2:15-17): “15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” (Cp. James 4:4.)

Some may now say, “We read in John 3:16 that ‘God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.’ But here in 1 John 2:15-17 we read that God does not love those who love the world. How can it be that God loved the world, but He does not love us if we love the world?”

The answer is quite simple: There is more than one world!

The world that God *loved* (note the tense) is that to which He gave His only-begotten Son Jesus Christ. Since God *gave* His Son to this world, it *received* God’s Son. Since this world *received* God’s Son, it will *believe* in Him. All who believe in Jesus Christ receive eternal life, and never perish. Are you in this world?

The world that God *does not love* is that which is characterized by “lust” and “pride,” and is “passing away.” If one is lusting for earthly things, and proud of what he is and has done, God’s love is not in him, and he will perish. Do not love that world!

III. God loves followers of righteousness (Proverb 15:9): “The way of the wicked is an abomination to Jehovah, but He loves him who follows righteousness.”

Who is “him who follows righteousness”?

1. *They who follow righteousness seek Jehovah* – for we are expressly told that they do so (Isaiah 51:1): “you who follow after righteousness” are “you who seek Jehovah.” To seek Jehovah is to *search* for Him. Accordingly, Jehovah promises those who desire His blessings that “you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13). Therefore:

Seek Jehovah *whole-heartedly*, “with all your heart,” like a man searches for hidden treasure in the place where he knows it is to be found. Do not expect to find Jehovah if you only half-heartedly search for Him.

Seek Jehovah *diligently*, never ceasing to do so until you have found Him, for “God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). Do not expect to find Jehovah if you seek Him only occasionally, perhaps one day a week.

Seek Jehovah *confidently*, knowing that you will find Him if you do so, for He promises that “you will seek Me *and find Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.” Even a blind man in the darkness may have the hope that he will find Jehovah, even if he has to grope for Him (Acts 17:27).

And seek Jehovah *now*, for you are exhorted, “Seek Jehovah while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to Jehovah, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:6f).

2. *They who follow righteousness follow Jesus Christ* – for He is to the righteous “Jehovah Our Righteousness” and He exhorts them to “Follow Me.”

Jehovah named Jesus Christ *Jehovah Our Righteousness* (Jeremiah 23:5f): “‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says Jehovah, ‘that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; ... now this is His name by which He will be called: *Jehovah-Tsidkenu / The LORD Our Righteousness*.’” Jehovah promised to send One, and the name of this One Jehovah sent is *Jehovah*, and this one named *Jehovah* sent from Jehovah is the righteousness of His people.

This fact is denied by those who deny the deity of Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. But in so doing they also deny the deity of Jehovah (John 5:23).

They who follow righteousness do not deny this fact. They confess that “of God we are in Christ Jesus, who became for us righteousness from God” (1 Corinthians 1:30 adapted). They know that they have become “the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). They glory in “the

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righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:1). They confess of Jesus Christ, “Surely in Jehovah I have righteousness” (Isaiah 45:24). They say to Jesus Christ, “I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only” (Psalm 71:16).

And they will boast of no righteousness other than that of Jesus Christ, “Jehovah Our Righteousness.” They will not boast of any righteousness through keeping the Law of Moses or the Ten Commandments, for no mortal is capable of doing so (Romans 3:20; 9:31; Galatians 3:10f; 5:4; James 2:10f). They will not boast of any righteousness through their own merits, for they confess that “all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).

And they will follow their Righteousness when He says to them, “Follow Me” (as in Matthew 16:24). In following Jesus Christ, they become what our present text calls “him who follows righteousness.” And they are assured that “Jehovah loves Him who follows righteousness.”

Does God love you?

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

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**TELL OUT THE STORY THAT CHRIST DIED
FOR THE UNGODLY!—CHR**

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

By Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Beloved, this perseverance of the saints is perseverance in *holiness*—“They shall not depart from Me.” If the grace of God has really changed you, you are radically and lastingly changed. If you have come to Christ, He has not placed in you a mere cup of the water of life, but as He has said—“The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into *everlasting life*.”

The work that is done in regeneration is not a temporary work, by which a man is for a time reformed. It is an *everlasting* work by which the man is born for heaven. There is a life implanted at the new birth which cannot die—for it is a living and incorruptible seed which lives and abides forever. Grace will go on working in a man until it leads him to glory!

If any disagree with what I have said, I cannot help it. But I would beg them not to differ from the text. For the Scripture cannot be broken. Read it—“I will put My fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from Me” (Isa 32:40). There it stands—“They shall not depart from Me.” But if you ask, “By what instrumentality does God maintain this fear in the hearts of His people?” I answer, it is the work of the Spirit of God—and the Holy Spirit usually works by *means*. The fear of God is kept alive in our hearts by the hearing of the word. For faith comes by hearing, and holy fear comes through faith. Be diligent, then, in hearing the word!

That fear is kept alive in our hearts by reading the Scriptures. For as we feed on the word, it breathes within us that fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom. This fear of God is maintained in us by the belief of revealed truth, and meditation thereon. Study the doctrines of grace, and be instructed in the analogy of the faith. Know the gospel well and thoroughly—and this will bring fuel to the fire of the fear of God in your hearts.

Be much in private prayer. For that stirs up the fire, and makes it burn more brilliantly. Seek to live near to God, to abide in Him. For as you abide in Him, and His words abide in you, you shall bring forth much fruit and so shall you be His disciples.

I find this precious doctrine of the perseverance of the saints to be a very fruitful one. One Thursday night, not long ago, I preached this doctrine with all my might, and many were comforted by it. But, better still, many were set thinking, and were led to turn their faces Christ-ward. Some preach a doctrine which has a very wide door, but it is all door, and when you get in, there is nothing to be had! You are no safer than you were outside! Sheep are not in a hurry to enter where there is no pasture. Some have thought my doctrine narrow, though I am sure it is not. But if a door should seem strait, yet, if there is something worth the having when you get in, many will seek admission. There are such wonderful blessings provided in the covenant of grace that those who are wise are anxious to obtain them.

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PRAY FOR YOUR CHAPLAIN/PASTOR!

By Charles H. Spurgeon

I have heard of a man who had made complaints against his minister, and his minister wisely said to him, “Well don’t talk to me in the street. Come to my house, and let us hear it all.”

He went and the minister said, “My brother, I hope that what you have to say to me may be greatly blessed to me. No doubt I have my imperfections as well as another man, and I hope I shall never be above being told of them; but in order that what you have to say to me may be blessed to me, let us kneel down and pray together.”

So our quarrelsome friend prayed first, and the minister prayed next, both briefly. When they rose from their knees, he said, “Now, my brother, I think we are both in a good state of mind. Tell me what it is that you have to find fault with.”

The man blushed, and stammered, and stuttered, and said he did not think there was anything at all except in himself. “I have forgotten to pray for you, sir,” he said, “and of course, I cannot expect that God will feed my soul through you, when I neglect to mention you at the throne of grace.”

Ah, well, brothers, if you will exercise yourselves much in supplication for your brethren, you will forgive their tempers! You will overlook their rashness, you will not think of their harsh words, but knowing that you also may be tempted, and are men of like passions with them; you can cover their faults, and bear with their infirmities.—(Adapted from Sermon #404, Volume 7—INTERCESSORY PRAYER—by the grace of God, to read, print, download all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and 574 Spanish translations, all free of charge, visit: www.spurgeongems.org)

A SHORT NOTE TO ARMINIANS!

From C. H. Spurgeon

That is a grand old Calvinistic Psalm, “*His mercy endures forever.*” What Arminian can sing that? Well, he *will sing* it, I dare say; but if he is a thorough-going Arminian, he really cannot enjoy it or believe it. *You can fall from grace, can you?* Then, how does His mercy endure forever? *Christ bought with His blood some who will be lost in hell, did He?* Then, how did His mercy endure forever? There are some who resist the offers of divine grace, and all that the Spirit of God can do for them, yet *disappoint the Spirit and defeat God?* How, then, does His mercy endure forever? No, no, this is no hymn for you—this is the Calvinist’s hymn! This is the hymn which they and I will sing as long as life shall last, and going through the dark valley of the shadow of death we will make the shades resound with the joyous strain—“*For His mercy shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure!*”

THE SAINTS

(Continued from page 4)

“Oh,” says one, “if salvation is an *everlasting* thing; if this regeneration means a change of nature such as can never be undone, let me have it! If salvation is a mere plated article which will wear out, I do not want it. But if it is pure silver all through, let me have it! Does the gift of divine grace make us partakers of the divine nature and cause us to escape the corruption which is in the world through lust? Then let us have it!” I pray that some here may desire salvation because it secures a life of holiness.

The sweet meat which tempted me to Christ was this—I believed that salvation was an insurance of character. In what better way can a young man cleanse his life than by putting himself into the holy hands of the Lord Jesus, to be kept from falling? I said—If I give myself to Christ, He will save me from my sins. Therefore I went to Him and He keeps me. Oh, how musical these words, “They shall not depart from Me!”

To use an old figure—be sure that you take a ticket all the way through. Many people have only believed in God to save them for a time—as long as they are faithful, or as long as they are earnest. beloved, believe in God to keep you faithful and earnest all your life—take a ticket all the way through! Get a salvation which covers all risks. There is no other ticket issued from the authorized office but a through-ticket. Other tickets are forgeries! He that cannot keep you forever cannot keep you a day! If the power of regeneration will not last through life, it will not last an hour!

I can never give up my belief in what the Lord has said, “And I will make an *everlasting covenant* with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from Me.”—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #2108, Volume 35—*Perseverance in Holiness*.—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

**Heavenly Father, for Your
Son’s sake,
GRANT US GRACE
TO BE HOLY.**

**Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to
God the Father!
Not Moses. Not Mary. Not Mohammed.
Not a future Messiah.
Jesus Christ is the ONLY way!**

“HE IS MY BROTHER!”

As told by Pastor Daniel E. Parks
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Bill and George Tuck were brothers in Rainelle, West Virginia. They served in their country’s army during World War II. Bill was critically wounded during a battle in Europe, losing part of a lung and some ribs, and suffering associated wounds. In God’s providence, George found Bill while looking for wounded troops to be sent to hospital. George was told to leave Bill, because it was assumed that Bill could not recover from his wounds. George said, “No, he is my brother!” George lovingly tended to Bill—as a brother would surely do. Bill was sent to a hospital in which he remained two-three years, but finally recovered, and lived many years afterward in good health.

By God’s grace and during the gospel ministry of my earthly father a few years later, the Lord Jesus Christ found Bill Tuck. Bill’s spiritual condition at that time was worse than his physical condition when George earlier found him: Bill was dead in trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1-3). Someone may have said to Jesus, “Leave Bill alone, for he is too far gone to be recovered.” Jesus may have replied, “No, he is my brother!” Jesus lovingly tended to Bill—as a brother would surely do. Consequently, Bill fully recovered from his spiritual infirmities, and lived forever afterward in good spiritual health.

O what a brother is Jesus Christ to His Father’s children! God’s divine Son assumed their humanity, and was “made like His brethren” in order to save them (Heb 2:17). And “He is not ashamed to call them brethren” (v 11). He is to them “a friend who loves at all times, and a brother born for adversity” (Prov 17:17 adapted).

How blessed is the sinner of whom Jesus says, “He is my brother!” And how blessed is the saint who looks to Jesus, and confesses, “He is my brother!”

SPURGEON ONLY PREACHED IT! HE DIDN’T HAVE TO PROVE IT!

By C. H. Spurgeon

I say again, beloved, if the fruits upon a Christian are caused by the root, how can the fruit, in any degree, be the cause of the root? If the good works of any man are given him by grace, how can they, by any pretense whatever, be argued as the reason why God gives him grace? The fact is, we are by nature utterly lost and ruined, and there is not a saint in heaven who would not have been damned—and who did not *deserve* to be damned in the common doom of sinners! The reason why God has made a distinction is a secret to Himself; He had a right to make that distinction if He pleased, and He has done it. He has chosen some unto eternal life, to the praise of His glorious grace; He has left others to be punished for their sins, to the praise of His glorious justice, and in one, as in the other, He has acted quite rightly, for He has a right to do as He wills with His own creatures! Seeing they all deserved to be punished, He has a right to punish them all! So too, as He has reconciled justice with mercy or mated it with judgment; He has a right to forgive and pardon some, and to leave the others to be unwashed, unforgiven and unsaved—willfully to follow the error of their ways, to reject Christ, despise His gospel, and ruin their own souls. He that does not agree with that agrees not with Scripture! I have not to prove it—I have only to preach it! He that quarrels with that, quarrels with God—let him fight his quarrel out himself!—(Adapted from Sermon #360, Volume 7—ADOPTION—by the grace of God, to read, print, download all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and 574 Spanish translations, all free of charge, visit: www.spurgeongems.org)

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and 574 SPANISH TRANSLATIONS VISIT <http://www.spurgeongems.org>**

NOTABLE QUOTES OF CHARLES H. SPURGEON

“We think we believe in the whole, and yet when it comes to the detail, and we have to deal with this promise and with that as a matter of fact in everyday life, we have to light a candle and sweep the house to find our faith. What folly this is!” —1887, Sermon #1980

“The Lord takes more trouble with a sinner than it cost Him to make a world—He could complete the globe in six days, but it often takes many years to bring a sinner to repentance, and to perfect his salvation. The abounding of divine wisdom, prudence, long-suffering and patience are needed to work salvation.” —1887, Sermon #1981

BROTHER MAHAN TELLS US WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT HELL

By Henry T. Mahan

HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY

Zebulon Baptist Church, 6088 Zebulon Highway, Pikeville, KY 41501
Pastor Tom Harding

Now then; what do I know about hell? This is an unpleasant subject. I would much rather talk about heaven than talk about hell. I'd rather think about people preparing to go to glory than preparing to hear Christ say: *"Depart from me; I never knew you."* I don't enjoy preaching on hell; I enjoy preaching about heaven. I'm longing for the day when we shall be with the Lord, and we shall enjoy the uninterrupted fellowship and communion with our Redeemer. And I tremble to think of anybody related to me, or friends of mine, or someone reading this, or in my audience or congregation ever perishing in the pits of hell. But, it's a reality.

Our Lord said there's a place called hell. *"There's a place where the worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched."* Our Lord said: *"The rich man died (the unbelieving man died) and in hell, he lifted up his eyes."* Now, the average preacher never gets beyond talking about the fires of hell. And I will be honest with you, and without fear I'll say unto you, I don't know a great deal about fire in hell. I don't think really that's the problem, I really don't. I know the rich man said: *"I'm tormented in this flame"*; whether it is figurative or literal language, it really doesn't matter because there are some things that make up hell that are worse than a physical pain; that's right!

There are several things about hell that our Lord pointed out in this passage of Scripture in **Luke 16**. Now, you get your Bible and look at it.

First of all: He said, hell is a place of memory! The rich man cried: *"Father Abraham; send Lazarus that he may dip his finger in water and cool my tongue; I am tormented in this flame."* Abraham replied, *"Son, remember."* Do you know that there is nothing as tormenting as memory: "Oh, if I had only done this; if I had only done that!" That Sunday or that Tuesday or that day when that preacher was preaching about salvation and eternal life, and knowing the Lord, and being delivered from sin, if I had only listened to him, that's all I would have had to do. The Scripture says: *"He that believes on the Son has life,"* "if I had just listened to him."

I believe in hell that people are going to remember every sermon they ever heard (every truthful sermon). I believe they will remember every prayer that was ever prayed, every song they ever heard sung; they will remember these things. That's what Abraham said: *"Son; remember, remember."* Then hell is not only a place of memory, it's a place of truth realized too late! You know, hindsight's a good thing, but it is not very profitable; it's not profitable at all.

Now in hell this rich man said: *"Father Abraham, I've got five brothers on the earth. Send Lazarus back to preach to them, to preach to them."* Preach what to them? Preach the gospel! Wait a minute now! Do you mean you believe the gospel? There's nobody in hell who doubts the inspired Word of God; they know it. There's nobody in hell who doubts that Jesus Christ is the only way to glory. They know that now. There's nobody in hell who doubts at all that the church can't save; they now know it can't save. They know these little easy decisions; belief and walking an aisle, and shaking a preacher's hand won't put sin away. They know it now, now that they are in hell, you see; its truth realized too late.

Secondly: And then another thing; hell is unfulfilled lust!

Now, a man who has a terrible appetite for drinking and drunkenness; he can find some relief. He can get a bottle and knock himself out. And the man with a horrible appetite for drugs; he can give himself a shot or some type of drugs, and take the easy road. And a man with a terrible appetite for lying can lie. A man that likes to swear and curse can swear and curse.

People of this earth, all human flesh can find some outlet, but there's no outlet in hell. The Scripture says: *"He that's filthy; let him be filthy still. He that's unrighteous; let him be unrighteous still."* But, he has no outlets for all of these fleshly lusts; they will still be there. Now the believer has a problem with the flesh, but one day he will be done with that; this flesh will be annihilated, cast aside. But, the unbeliever is going to keep his flesh; he's going to keep his flesh. It's going to be cast into hell.

Thirdly: Then hell is separation from God!

That's the worst part of hell. It's not the fire. It's not what we call physical suffering. It's to be separated from all love. God is love. There is no love apart from God. There's selfishness and personal and vainglory, but there's no real love. God is love. To be in hell is to be separated from God, and never have in any degree any love or light, *"God is light."* That's the reason hell's darkness, outer darkness, unparalleled darkness, unimaginable darkness because God's not there.

In hell there's no joy. Nobody laughs in hell. Hell is separation from God, and hell is eternal. He said: *"Between us and you there's a great gulf fixed. Nobody can come from you to us or from us to you."*

That's what I know about hell. I know it's a memory. I know its truth realized too late. I know its unfulfilled lusts. I know it's separation from God, and I know it's eternal!

Study of Ephesians 5:2**HOW CHRIST HAS LOVED US—PART 7**

If we really have the love of God in us, it will show. We will do as our verse commands, which is to walk in love. We will demonstrate our love in our everyday lives. The one who really loves will have love permeating all areas of his life. It will affect all of his relationships and all of his ways.

Let us now turn to the teaching in our passage in order to learn more about the love we are to have as we see the perfect example of loving in what Christ did for His people.

The first thing we should consider in this verse is the amazing depth of Christ's love. We see this spelled out in the verse in three ways:

The depths of Christ's love is first of all seen by considering the objects of His love. In other words, the more you look at those for whom Christ died, the more amazing His loves appears. And who is it that Christ died for? Our verse says "as Christ also has loved US."

Perhaps if our verse had said, "as Christ loved His Father in heaven," we could have understood it better. For God the Father is so worthy of love. But the measure of Christ's love is seen in that He loved US. The more you think about who US is, the more you will be amazed at the love of Christ. In fact, the reason why so many in our country who have on repeated occasions heard the gospel, but see nothing wonderful about it are demonstrating that they have never understood their own sinfulness. Until a person realizes that he or she is a sinner who has greatly offended God, he will never begin to understand the depths of the love of Christ. The person who thinks he is basically good and has lived a good life, also thinks that it is only natural if God loves him. Why shouldn't God love him?

But that is to look at ourselves from man's perspective rather than God's! What does God see when he looks at us? They have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes." When God looks into the soul of the natural man, He sees enmity, hatred, and one whose soul contains that which is ugly, vile, and foul in His sight.

Have you even wondered why the apostle Paul was so constantly amazed and excited about the love of God for him? It is not hard to discover if you read his letters. Paul never ceased to be amazed with the love of God in Christ for him because he saw himself as being so unworthy of that love. He tells us in Romans 7:18, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells." In writing to Timothy, he describes himself as the "chief of sinners." And perhaps what amazed him most of all is what he tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:9, "For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." Because Paul understood how unworthy he was of any love from God, the fact that God loved him was to him a constant source of wonder, love, and praise.

The other way in which the depth of the love of Christ is brought out in our verse is by considering what Jesus gave as proof of His love. Our verse says "as Christ has loved us, and GIVEN HIMSELF for us." Jesus gave Himself. Many people have the mistaken notion that God the Father sent the Lord Jesus, and that Jesus went to the cross simply as an act of obedience to the Father. Yes, Jesus did go to the cross as an act of obedience to the Father; but He also went to the cross willingly because of His own great love for His people. This is what He Himself said, and is recorded for us in John 10:15: "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep." And just three verses later we read, "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." No one compelled Jesus to die on the cross. He did it because HE wanted to. He did it because of His love for His people.—PF

PURITAN QUOTES

"A man may be theologically knowing and spiritually ignorant."—Stephen Charnock, 1628-1680

"Nothing is more contrary to a heavenly hope than an earthly heart."—William Gurnall, 1617-1679

"It is the happiness of heaven to have God be all in all."—Jeremiah Burroughs, 1559-1646

"It is a destructive addition to add anything to Christ."—Richard Sibbes, 1577-1635

"What renders God amiable to Himself should render Him lovely to His creatures," (Isa 42:21).—Stephen Charnock, 1628-1680

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO MINISTERS OF GOD

By Charles H. Spurgeon

“And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shines in its strength.”
Revelation 1:16.

Instrumentality is honorably placed, for we see the stars in the right hand of Him who is the First and the Last. God's ministers are stars, but not stars up yonder in the sky—they are stars held in the right hand of their great Lord! Oh, what a position is this! God's true servants are in the highest place! His right hand made them; none can make stars but the Maker of all things. It is God who makes ministers of Christ, and gives them light with which to shine! Because of this, they are honorable in His esteem, and He places them in His right hand. Whatever some may think of faithful preachers, the Lord makes them the men of His right hand. They may be despised by those who oppose the Word of God, but they need not be ashamed, for while the right hand of God is their position, they are more honorable than the princes and kings of the earth! Dear servants of God who are serving your Lord in great obscurity, twinkling feebly, and thinking that no one notices you, receiving no honor from men—never mind, for if the Lord God has given you light, you are precious in His esteem, and He sets you not only at His right hand, but *in* it! You are where seraphim might wish to be!

See, also, how *true instrumentality is graciously sustained*. The chosen servants of the Lord are under special protection, for they shine in Christ's right hand. This is where the ministers of Christ need to be, for they stand in the front of the battle, and are in double danger. Their office has its temptations, and even their success has its perils! If you win souls for God, the devil will have a grudge against you; if you preach the Word of God with power, all the hosts of evil will sharpen their arrows, and point their shafts at you. The stars of the churches have need to be in Christ's hand, for all the fiends of hell will puff at them. If they could make a star fall, how greatly would they rejoice! Glory be to Him who keeps them all! “For that He is strong in power; not one fails.”

Our Lord Jesus holds the seven stars in His right hand. Does not this teach us the entire dependence of each one of us upon Him? Other stars may shine in their own natural spheres, but Christ's stars can only shine as He, by the constant outgoing of His strength holds them up, holds them out, and holds them fast! They would cease to be stars if they were not in the Lord's hand. O my friends who are working for the Lord in church, or Mission Hall, or Sunday school—place no reliance upon yourselves! Do not let your confidence lean upon your own natural abilities, or acquired knowledge, or garnered experience! Let your dependence be only upon that right hand which holds you up! The hand of the glorified Savior is worth depending upon! Behold an arm that never can be paralyzed; a hand that can never grow weary! Rely not on yourself in any measure or degree, but only upon that right hand of power and skill which will hold you up even to the end!

See, then, beloved, the special security of true instrumentality, for who can extinguish a star whose sphere is the right hand of God? I see the devil puffing against these stars until his cheeks are fit to burst, but he does not even make them flicker—what can harm those whom Jesus keeps? You know how some fine preachers have gone out in darkness, smoldering like candlewicks, filling the whole chamber of the church with a nauseous smell—and if professed ministers become unholy or untruthful, their end is sad for themselves, and mischievous for all who are around them. May God save His church from the smoking flax of dying ministries! Blessed are they who, trusting in God, shine and shine on in His keeping. “Yes, they shall be held up.” Did He not ordain for them a lamp which shall never be extinguished? Has He not put them where they must be safe?

The Word of God is in itself adapted to the divine end, for it is sharp and two-edged. And when it is spoken by the Lord, its adaptation is seen. The gospel is very sharp when the Spirit of God lays it home. No doctrine of men has such piercing power. Take care, O preacher, that you do not blunt the Word of God, or try to cover over its edge, for that would be treason to the Lord who made it to be sharp and cutting! There is much about the true gospel which offends, and it should be our desire never to tamper with it, or to tone it down lest we become enemies to the Lord's truth. Truth which is meant to offend human pride must be stated in its own way, even though seen to produce anger and annoy self-righteousness. Doctrine which is cutting and killing must not be concealed or softened down. “He that has My word, let him speak my word faithfully, says the Lord.”

People are disturbed and troubled by the real gospel—under a false gospel they can sleep into destruction. Bring out the sword—it is made to wound—let it exercise its salutary sharpness! The gospel has two edges, so that none may play with it. When they think to run their fingers along the back of it, they will find themselves cut to the bone! Whether we regard its threats or its promises, it cuts at *sin*; whether we move it up or down, it makes great gashes in that which ought to be wounded and killed. Let us, therefore, know that the power of the church does not lie anywhere but in the word as Jesus, Himself, speaks it. Let us keep to His own pure, unadulterated word—and let us pray Him to send it forth with power out of His own mouth into the hearts and consciences of men!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1976, Volume 33—*Lessons from the Christ of Patmos*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

Letters to Mike Gendron of Proclaiming the Gospel:

ptg@pro-gospel.org ~ www.pro-gospel.org ~ PO Box 940871, Plano, TX 75904

W. D., Syracuse, NY, writes: As a subscriber to the PTG newsletter for years, I have seen so many unregenerate people labeling you as a hater of Catholics. However, it is the false doctrine you and I hate. I picture the false doctrine as a coat these people have put on. So as you attack the false doctrine, they mistakenly perceive you are attacking them. The picture I see is a person trapped in a miry pit. A rope is lowered to the person to pull him to safety, but he concludes the rope is to *hang* him. Consequently, instead of being perceived as a person who truly cares about his welfare, you become his enemy. The real enemy is deception and blindness to the truth of God! The mastermind of deception has caused this to fall on them. Because you stand on the Word of God, which is the truth, you are right.

Dr. M., Brandon, WI, writes: Thank you very much for sending your PTG newsletter to our doctors' office. We laid it out front [in the waiting room] where many people have read it, and then requested copies for their loved ones and friends.

brother Mike responds: Dr. M., we commend you for not being ashamed of the gospel, and for your desire to share the truth of God's word with your patients. We also know of other doctors and business owners who put our gospel tracts on display for their customers to pick up. Literature evangelism is such an effective way to point unbelievers to the sufficiency of the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. O., Massillon, OH, writes: I recently attended a Roman Catholic funeral for my aunt. She was buried with a rosary and the Mass Cards [indulgences to get her out of "purgatory"] were plentiful. It was tragic. My 88-year old dad has since forbidden me to send him gospel tracts while other family members simply ignore me. That being said, I just read the following quote from Loraine Boettner. It struck me as very profound and has given me a good deal of peace. I'd like to share it with you all. "Those who are finally lost shall then be seen as they really are, enemies of God, enemies of all righteousness, and lovers of sin with no desire for salvation or the presence of the Lord. We may add further that since God is perfectly just, none shall be sent to hell except those who deserve to go there; and when we see their real characters we shall be fully satisfied with the disposition that God has made." May God continue to richly bless you and your ministry.

L.C., Camas, WA, writes: My heart is constantly being broken because I cannot find a church in which to worship the Lord. So many are either ecumenical, seeker-friendly, have watered down doctrine, or do not preach the gospel. Why are most churches silent about deception in the end times?! I am lonely because when I do speak up, the pastors distance themselves from me, and I get the feeling they want me to disappear. Keep up your lonely work of being the watchman on the tower or the "weeping prophet."

M. U., Sugarloaf, PA, writes: We first met at Countryside Bible Church where you blessed us with your love of the Word of God. After attending a Bible church in PA for over a year, my husband made an appointment with the pastor to discuss questions about Rick Warren. The pastor became almost hostile in his defense of Rick Warren and his personality changed so fast that my husband was stunned. The pastor pointed to his bookshelves of classic commentaries and said, "Rick Warren has done more for the advancement of this church than any of these books." My husband tried to reason with him using the Scriptures, but the pastor refused to budge, so we had to part ways. This pastor has now enrolled his boys in a Catholic school. We were horrified to find this out, but he said, "They get a better education there, and it also has a great football team!" I just wanted to thank you for your encouraging article on discernment. The need for discernment is of paramount importance during these last days.

PRAY THAT GOD THE FATHER WILL USE BROTHER GENDRON TO DRAW MILLIONS OF HIS ELECT OUT OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH TO A SAVING KNOWLEDGE OF HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST!

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SPOUSES, OUR FAMILIES, AND
ESPECIALLY OUR CHILDREN.

CHRIST, THE DIVIDER!

By C. H. Spurgeon

What divides the true Christian from the unbeliever? Some think it is that the Christian takes the sacrament, the other not. *That* is no division—there are men who have gone to hell with sacramental bread in their mouths! Others may imagine that Baptism makes the difference, and indeed it is the *outward* token—the Baptismal pool is the means by which we *show to the world* that we are buried in Christ's grave—in *type* that we are dead to the world, and buried in Christ. We rise up from it in testimony that we desire to live in newness of life by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

He who is baptized does in that way cross the Rubicon—he draws the sword and throws away the scabbard—he is the baptized one, and has a sign that can never be eradicated from him! He is dedicated through that Baptism to Christ, but it is but an *outward sign*—for many have there been who have been baptized with water—who not having the Baptism of the Holy Spirit—have afterwards been baptized in the fiery sufferings of eternal torment!

But neither sacraments or Baptism makes a person a true believer! The one division, the one great division between those who are God's people, and those who are not, is Christ! A person in Christ is a Christian! A person out of Christ is dead in trespasses and sins. "He that believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is saved; he that believes not is lost." Christ is the **ONLY** divider between His people and the world!

On which side, then, are you today? Come, let the question go individually to you. Young man, on which side are you? Are you Christ's friend and servant, or are you His enemy? Old man, you with the gray head, yonder, you have but a little while to live—on which side are you? Are you my Master's blood-bought one, or are you still a lost sheep? And yon matron, you who are busied, perhaps even now your thoughts are upon your children—think not of them for a moment—on which side are you? Have you believed? Have you been born-again? Or are you still in the gall of bitterness, and the bonds of iniquity? You that stand yonder, let the question penetrate your thick rank now; where are you? Can you take the name of Christ upon your lips, and say, "Jesus, I am Yours, and You are mine. Your blood and righteousness are my hope and trust"? If not, my hearer, you are among the spiritually dead, and you shall soon be among the damned unless divine grace prevents, changes, and renews you!

Please remember, brothers and sisters, that as Christ is the great Divider *now*, so will He be in the Day of Judgment. Do you ever think of that? He shall divide them—the one from the other—as the shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. It is the Shepherd's person that divides the sheep from the goats. He stands between them, and in that last day of days for which all other days were made, Christ shall be the great Divider. There will be the righteous clad in white, in songs triumphant, glorified with Him; and there the lost, the unbelieving, the fearful, the abominable. What divides them from yon bright host? Nothing but the person of the Son of Man, on whom they look—and weep, and mourn, and wail because of Him!

That is the impenetrable barrier that shall shut out the damned from eternal bliss. The gate which may let you in now, will be the fiery gate which shall shut you out hereafter! Christ is the Door of heaven—oh, dreadful day when that Door shall be shut—when that Door shall stand before you and prevent you entering into the happiness which you shall then long for, when you cannot enter into it.

Oh, on which side shall I be when all these transitory things are done away with—when the dead have risen from their graves; when the great congregation shall stand upon the land and upon the sea; when every valley, and every mountain, and every river, and every sea shall be crowded with multitudes standing in thick array? Oh, when He shall say, "Separate My people, thrust in the sickle, for the harvest of the world is ripe," my soul, where shall you be? Shall you be found among the lost?

Shall the dread trumpet send you down to hell while a voice that pierces your ears shall call after you, "Depart from Me, depart from Me, you workers of iniquity, into everlasting fire in hell prepared for the devil and his angels"? Oh, grant that I may not be there, but among Your people may I stand! So may it be. May we be on the right hand of the Judge to all eternity, and remember that forever and ever Christ will be the Divider. He shall stand between the lost and the saved; He shall forever interpose between the damned and the glorified!

Again I put it to you, give me your ears for just one moment while I speak. What do you say, sirs—shall this congregation be torn in two? The hour is coming when our wills and wishes shall have no forge. God will divide the righteous from the wicked then, and Christ shall be the dread division! I say, are we prepared to be eternally separated? Husband, are you prepared to renounce today your wife forever? Are you prepared when the clammy sweat gathers on her brow to give her the last kiss, and say, "Adieu, adieu, I shall never meet with you again"?

Child, son, daughter, are you ready to go home and sit down at the table of your mother, and before you eat, say, "Mother, I now forswear to you once and for all—I am determined to be lost, and as you are on the side of Christ, and I will never love Him—I will part with you forever"? Surely the ties of kinship make us long to meet in another world—but do we wish to meet in hell? Do you wish, all of you, to meet there—a grim company to lie in the midst of the flames? Will you abide in the devouring fire, and dwell in everlasting torment?

No, your wishes are that you may meet in heaven! But you *cannot* unless you meet in Christ! You cannot meet in Paradise unless you meet in Him! Oh that *now* the grace of God were poured upon you, that you might come to Jesus!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Version 1.0, Ages Software—Sermon #341, Volume 6—*The High Priest Standing Between the Dead and the Living*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

**For HIS glory
Prison Ministry
Emmett and Ann O'Donnell
P.O. Box 291301
Kerrville, TX 78029-1301**

Our prayer for you:

¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—

¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

(Eph 3:17-19 NKJV)



PRAY FOR GRACE TO PRAY FOR YOUR ENEMIES...

In This Issue...

...and, Lord willing, every issue, our only purpose is to honor Jesus Christ.

NOW HEAR THIS!

By C. H. Spurgeon

***“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”
Jeremiah 29:11.***

Am I addressing someone who is in great distress under conviction of sin? You despair because the Lord is bringing your sin to remembrance, but indeed, there is no cause—the Lord is sending you into captivity for a purpose! You are being shut up by the law of God that you may be set at liberty by Christ! You are being stripped that you may be clothed! You are being emptied that you may be filled! If you could see the end from the beginning, you would rejoice that you are made to know the burden of sin, for so shall you be driven to the cross to find rest from your load! By this way the Lord is working out for you “a future and a hope.” When clean divorced from *self*, you shall be wedded to Jesus and endowed with His salvation!

I am probably also addressing many a child of God who is vexed in daily conflict with his inward corruption. Alas, we find the old man yet alive within us! The old nature in the Christian is no better than the old man in the sinner—it is the same carnal mind which is enmity against God—and is not reconciled, neither, indeed, can be! The new nature has a hard struggle to hold its own against this embodied death. We are, as it were, chained to a rotting carcass, and we cry, “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me?” Now, do not despair because of this experience! It is better to mourn over imperfection than to be puffed up with the idle notion that there is no sin in you to be watched and conquered. You have been carried away into captivity and you are sighing and crying because of indwelling sin—but the Lord’s thoughts towards you are thoughts of peace and not of evil—and He will “give you an expected end.” You will come to true holiness by this painful process, and so shall you glorify God!

I may also be addressing some child of God in very deep trouble. Everything goes wrong with you at home, in business, and perhaps in the church, too. Very well, you will never have to raise that question, “How is it that I am not *chastened?*” That will never trouble *you!* Chastening for the present is not joyous, but nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness in them which are exercised. Therefore gladly endure it. God’s thoughts are towards you, for He is refining you—believe, also, that His thoughts are peaceable and that He designs your highest good. Brethren, may His Spirit make you feel that the thoughts of the Lord are peace!—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1965, Volume 33—GOD’S THOUGHTS OF PEACE AND OUR EXPECTED END—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.