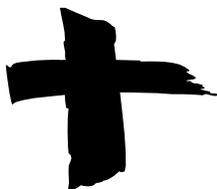


FOR HIS GLORY

Volume 17, Issue 2

February, 2014

I see it is alleged as a very grave charge against me that I speak as if I were familiar with God. If it is so, I make bold to say that I speak only as I feel! Blessed be my heavenly Father's name, I know I am His child and with whom should a child be familiar, but with his father? O you strangers to the Living God, be it known that if this is vile, I purpose to be viler, still, as He shall help me to walk more closely with Him! We feel a deep reverence for our Father in Heaven which bows us to the very dust, but for all that we can say, "truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ." No stranger can understand the nearness of the Believer's soul to God in Christ Jesus—and because the world cannot understand it, it finds it convenient to sneer—but what of that?—CHS



GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE SINNER!

By C. H. Spurgeon

"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under law, but under grace."

In this assembly I fear there are *not a few who are strangers to the holy jealousy which keeps a watch over the heart, and a guard upon the lips lest they should sin.* I wish we were all so on the alert—that we all kept our garments scrupulously white.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, cultivate a holy jealousy! Be very watchful, and let this text animate you—"Sin shall not have dominion over you." In this assembly, too, there are some who are consciously *very weak.* You feel your depraved nature to be vigorous, and you are afraid that the Divine Grace within you is insufficient for the trials that beset you. My dear Brethren, let this encourage you; though you may be very weak, if you are a child of God, sin shall no more get dominion over the weak than over the strong!

Though the life within you may be but a spark, it shall not be quenched! Though it is but as a bruised reed, it shall not be broken.

The text is for the weak as well as the strong—"Sin shall not have dominion over you." In this company there may be those who are just now *fighting with some great sin.*

We noticed last Monday night the prayer of a dear Brother evidently coming out of the bitterness of his soul, when he said, "O God, help me, or I shall fall! Help me, or I shall fall!" Ah, Brothers and Sisters, we all know what it is to get to the pinch, when it is hand-to-hand work with some inbred corruption! You who do not have strong passions may be very thankful, for they who have a lusty manhood are often drifted by terrible winds, and have a hard fight to keep clear of the rocks of sin. But oh, you warring Christians, you Believers who are fighting—here is consolation for you! Put this bottle of cool water to your lips, and be refreshed! "Sin shall not have dominion over you." You shall conquer yet! Fight on!

(See *Great* on page 6)

SOME WORDS ON PRAYER FROM THE "PRINCE OF PRAYER"

By C. H. Spurgeon

[Brother Spurgeon is known as the "Prince of Preachers" and no doubt he was. But in my experience in modernizing all of his 63 volumes of sermons, I have to say, without a doubt, he had to be, also, the "**Prince of Prayer.**"—EOD]

Beloved, how wonderful it is when you can pray and cannot stop—when your heart pours forth devotion as the roses shed their perfume, or the sun gives its light! I love to feel my soul on the wing like the birds in spring, which are always singing and flitting from bough to bough, full of life and vigor. Oh to have the soul mounting on eagle's wings, and no longer groping in the earth like a mole!

To be instant, constant, eager at prayer—this is health, vigor, and delight! To feel the heart in prayer like the chariots of Amminadib outstripping the wind—this is a joy worth

(See *Is Your Heart?* on page 9)

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SPEAKING OF YOUR CHILDREN'S CONVERSIONS...

BY CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

*"As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."
Isaiah 66:8.*

Do any of you desire your children's Conversions? You shall have them saved when you agonize for them; many a parent who has been privileged to see his son walking in the Truth of God will tell you that before the blessing came, he had spent many hours in prayer, and in earnest pleading with God; and *then* it was that the Lord visited his child and renewed his soul!

I have heard of a young man who had grown up and left the parental roof, and through evil influences had been enticed into holding skeptical views; his father and mother were both earnest Christians, and it almost broke their hearts to see their son so opposed to the Redeemer.

On one occasion they induced him to go with them to hear a celebrated minister; he accompanied them simply to please them, and for no higher motive. The sermon happened to be upon the glories of Heaven; it was a very extraordinary sermon, and was calculated to make every Christian in the audience leap for joy.

The young man was much gratified with the eloquence of the preacher, but nothing more; he gave him credit for superior oratorical ability, and was interested in the sermon, but felt none of its power. He chanced to look at his father and mother during the discourse, and was surprised to see them weeping; he could not imagine why they, being Christian people, should sit and weep under a sermon which was most jubilant in its strain.

When he reached home, he said, "Father, we have had a capital sermon, but I could not understand what could make you sit there and cry, and my mother, too." His father said, "My dear Son, I certainly had no reason to weep concerning *myself*, nor your mother, but I could not help thinking all through the sermon about you, for alas, I have no hope that you will be a partaker in the bright joys which await the Righteous; it breaks my heart to think that you will be shut out of Heaven." His mother said, "The very same thoughts crossed my mind, and the more the preacher spoke of the joys of the saved, the more I sorrowed for my dear boy that he should never know what they were."

That touched the young man's heart, led him to seek his father's God, and before long he was at the same Communion Table, rejoicing in the God and Savior whom his parents worshipped! The travail comes before the bringing forth; the earnest anxiety, the deep emotion within precede our being made the instruments of the Salvation of others.

I think I have established the fact: now for a minute or two let me show you *the reasons for it*. Why is it that there must be this anxiety before desirable results are gained? For answer, it might suffice us to say that God has so appointed it. It is the order of Nature; the child is not born into the world without the

sorrows of the mother, nor is the bread which sustains life procured from the earth without toil. "In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread," was a part of the primeval curse.

Now, as it is in the natural, so is it in the *spiritual*. There shall not come the blessing we seek without first of all the earnest yearning for it! Why, it is even so in ordinary business; we say, "No sweat no sweet." "No pains no gains." "No mill no meal." If there is no labor, there shall be no profit! He who would be rich must toil for it; he who would acquire fame, must spend and be spent to win it. It is always so; there must always be the travail, and then the desire comes. God has so appointed it—let us accept the Decree.

But better still, He has ordained this for our good. If souls were given us without any effort, anxiety, or prayer, it would be our loss to have it so because the anxieties which throb within a compassionate spirit exercise His Graces! They produce grateful love to God; they try our faith in the Power of God to save others; they drive us to the Mercy Seat; they strengthen our patience and perseverance, and every Grace within the man is educated and increased by his travail for souls.

As labor is now a blessing, so also is soul-travail. Men are fashioned more fully into the likeness of Christ, and the whole Church is by the same emotion, quickened into energy; the fire of our own spiritual life is fanned by that same breath which our prayers invite to come from the four winds to breathe upon the slain.

Besides, dear Friends, the zeal that God excites within us is often the means of fulfilling the purpose which we desire; after all, God does not give Conversions to eloquence, but to *heart!* The Power in the hand of God's Spirit for Conversions is heart coming into contact with heart; truth from the heart goes to the heart. This is God's battle-ax and weapons of war in His Crusade; He is pleased to use the yearnings, longings, and sympathies of Christians as the means of compelling the careless to *think*, forcing the hardened to *feel*, and driving the unbelieving to *consider*.

I have little confidence in elaborate speech and polished sentences as the means of reaching men's hearts, but I have great faith in that simple-minded Christian woman who must have souls converted or she will weep her eyes out over them; and in that humble Christian who prays day and night in secret, and then avails himself of every opportunity to address a loving word to sinners. The emotion we feel, and the affection we bear are the most powerful implements of soul-winning; God the Holy Spirit usually breaks hard hearts by tender hearts.

Besides, the travail qualifies for the proper taking care of
(See *CHILDREN'S CONVERSIONS* on page 3)

CHILDREN'S CONVERSIONS...

(Continued from page 2)

the offspring. God does not commit His New-Born children to people who do not care to see Conversions! If He ever allows them to fall into such hands, they suffer very serious loss. Who is so fit to encourage a New-Born Believer as the man who first anguished before the Lord for his Conversion? Those you have wept over and prayed for you will be sure to encourage and assist you!

The Church that never travailed, should God send her a hundred converts, would be unfit to train them; she would not know what to do with little children, and would leave them to much suffering. Let us thank God, Brothers and Sisters, if He has given us any degree of the earnest anxiety and sympathy which mark soul-winning men and women! And let us ask to have more—for, in proportion as we have it, we shall be qualified to be the instruments in the hand of the Spirit, of nursing and cherishing God's sons and daughters.—(Adapted from Sermon #1009, Volume 17—TRAVAILING FOR SOULS—By the Grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and more than 500 Spanish translations, visit: www.spurgeongems.org).

AND SPEAKING OF REVIVALS...

If you want to get up a revival, as the term is, you can do it, just as you can grow tasteless strawberries in winter by artificial heat. There are ways and means of doing that kind of thing, but the genuine work of God needs no such planning and scheming; it is altogether spontaneous! If you see a snowflake next February in your garden, you will feel persuaded that spring is on the way. The artificial flower-maker could put as many snowflakes there as you please, but that would be no index of coming spring. So you may get up an apparent zeal which will be no proof of God's Blessing; but when fervor comes of itself, without human direction or control, then is it of the Lord! When men's hearts heave and break like the mold of the garden under the influence of the reviving life which lay buried there, then in very deed a Blessing is on the way! Travail is no mockery, but a real agony of the whole nature. May such be seen in this, our Church, and throughout the whole Israel of God!—(Adapted from Sermon #1009, Volume 17—TRAVAILING FOR SOULS—By the Grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and more than 500 Spanish translations, visit: www.spurgeongems.org).

**Have you prayed for your pastor/chaplain
today? Do you pray for him
every day?**

LET'S STOP INFERRING AND SIMPLY THROW AWAY ALL DENOMINATIONAL BAGGAGE AND READ/LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD!

In 1857 the Kentucky Baptist pastor J. S. Coleman held a debate in Calhoun, Kentucky, with Dr. Kaskey, a Cumberland Presbyterian champion, on the doctrine of Baptism. In his speech, Dr. Kaskey, argued that since households were baptized by the Apostles, it is reasonable to infer that infants were in these households, therefore *infant* Baptism is Scriptural.

Dr. Coleman, in his reply, spoke as follows: "I am surprised at Brother Kaskey's limited information concerning Lydia's house. He has inferred that Lydia had children under the age of accountability, and therefore these children were baptized. I am surprised, Sir, that you do not know that Lydia was a widow, and a traveling cloth-merchant, and that she never had but one child, and that was a daughter who had married a red-headed, one-eyed shoemaker and had moved off to Damascus and had not been at home for years, and that her household at that time consisted of herself and servants, who assisted her in her business. I am surprised, Sir, that you did not know this."

Kaskey, in his confusion, spoke out and said, "Dr. Coleman, how do you know what you just said?" In a lion-like voice the reply came, "I *inferred* it, Sir, just as you inferred that there were infants in the household."

[J. S. Coleman, (1827-1904), was a great Baptist preacher and church planter in the Green River valley area of Kentucky. He edited several Baptist papers, served as moderator of local associations 29 times, and moderator of the Kentucky General Association 16 times. He was a strong defender of historic Baptist doctrine and as a result of the above debate a young Methodist lawyer in Calhoun became a Baptist. This man was named Pope Yeaman and he became a great preacher and leader among Missouri Baptists. The above information is taken from the 1900 book, "*Pillars of Orthodoxy.*"]

Please remember to pray daily for our Brothers and Sisters in prisons. Pray for their spouses and children. Please remember their spouses and children. Pray Father will send men grounded in the Reformed faith to our jails and prisons to serve as His chaplains. Ask our Lord to *use* His Elect in prisons to bring many to a saving knowledge of His Son, Jesus Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill them so with His Divine Grace that all who come into contact with them will know they have "been with Jesus."

Spurgeon Reminds Us Repentance Is the Work of the Holy Spirit

Genuine spiritual mourning for sin is *the work of the Spirit of God*. Repentance is too choice a flower to grow in *nature's* garden.

Pearls grow naturally in oysters, but penitence never shows itself in sinners except Divine Grace works it in them. If you have one particle of real hatred for sin, God must have given it to you, for human nature's thorns never produced a single fig!

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh."

True repentance *has a distinct reference to the Savior*. When we repent of sin, we must have one eye upon sin and another upon the Cross. It will be better, still, if we fix *both* eyes upon Christ and see our transgressions in the light of His love.

True sorrow for sin is *eminently practical*. No man may say he hates sin if he *lives in it*. Repentance makes us see the evil of sin, not merely as a theory, but experimentally—as a burnt child dreads fire.

We should be as much afraid of sin as a man who has lately been stopped and robbed is afraid of the thief upon the highway. And we should shun it—shun it in everything—not in great things, only, but in little things, as men shun little vipers as well as great snakes.

True mourning for sin will make us very jealous over our tongue, lest it should say a wrong word; we shall be very watchful over our daily actions, lest in anything we offend.

And each night we shall close the day with painful confessions of shortcoming and each morning awake with anxious prayers that this day God would hold us up that we may not sin against Him.

Sincere repentance is *continuous*. Believers repent until their dying day. This dripping well is not intermittent. Every other sorrow yields to time, but this dear sorrow grows with our growth, and it is so sweet a bitter, that we thank God we are permitted to enjoy and to suffer it until we enter our eternal rest.

**"No man may say
he hates sin
if he
lives in it."**

PRAY DAILY FOR OUR TROOPS OVERSEAS.

ASK OUR LORD TO USE BROTHER MIKE GENDRON'S *PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL* TO BRING MANY OUT OF BONDAGE TO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

LOG ON TO
<http://www.spurgeongems.org/>
AND DOWNLOAD/READ
ALL 63 VOLUMES OF
C. H. SPURGEON SERMONS
IN MODERN ENGLISH.

REMEMBER
ROMANS
8:28.

PRAY FOR SPOUSES
AND
CHILDREN OF
PEOPLE IN PRISON.

HAVE YOU PRAYED FOR YOUR
FAMILY TODAY?

Just pray about it...Would you be willing to die for
Jesus Christ? Would you be willing to part
with all your worldly possessions for Him?
Just pray about it.

Jesus Christ is the **ONLY**
way to God the Father!
Not Mary. Not Mohammed.
Not a future Messiah.
JESUS CHRIST
is the **ONLY** way!
(John 14:6).

PRAY FOR
GRACE
TO BE HOLY.

John
3:18
[That's
right—
3:18!]

Letters to Mike Gendron Of Proclaiming the Gospel:

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

Mrs. Y. H., Leominster, MA, writes—I was a Catholic for 82 years. I am now 86 and know the Truth. I grew from what I heard on 3 of your videos. Now I am using your newsletters to try to save my family and friends. I'm the only one in my family that has left the RCC. I pray that their eyes will be opened and they will see the light.

Robert C., Internet, write—Mike, You should know Catholics are not taking your slander and abuse sitting down. They are hitting back with both fists. In *Catholic Answer* forums, some apologists take your misleading articles and statements and point out your distortions and outright lies. They are very helpful since you are so skilled with your deceit and lies. You are a true enemy of Christ and his one church.

M. G., Albuquerque, NM, writes—On my way to worship this morning, I passed by a Catholic Church as people were exiting from the sacrifice of the mass. I noticed the priest speaking to the people so I got out to speak to him. I asked him if he had a few minutes because I wanted to share some good news. After sharing the Gospel, I called him to repent and believe the Gospel. I reminded him that there is only one Mediator and that Jesus abolished the priesthood when He offered up Himself once for all sin (Hebrews 10). This man was provoked to hostility, and began to rebuke me for saying such a thing; he said that I was heading for condemnation, and needed to repent, and that if I didn't understand the Hebrew, and I did not know what I was talking about. At one point, I told him his path was the path to destruction. He grabbed my arm and shoved me and became more irate. The Lord was my shield the whole time, and I offered him your Greatest News tract and he rejected it with a despising look. A few onlookers watched in sort of shock. I continue to pray for boldness for all who name the Name of Christ.

Jane Gendron, Mike's wife, writes to M. G.—Hi, your email made me smile because of the camaraderie we share with you. Your story is like so many we experience! We praise God for your willingness to be a humble servant in delivering the Lord's only message of Salvation. Regardless of the priest's response, you were successful because you delivered the Gospel. Your letter is an encouragement to all of us.

Kate L., Internet, writes—I have spent quite some time in reading almost every article and forum entry you have on your site and I am totally unconvinced. You haven't shaken my Catholic faith at all. So I guess I'd let you know if that's your goal, you're not trying hard enough. Thanks for reaffirming me in all I believe.

Brother Mike Answers—Our goal or purpose is to glorify and serve our Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming His message of reconciliation and redemption. It is not our responsibility to convince *anyone* to believe the Gospel. Conversion is God's work alone. The Father draws (John 6:44), The Holy Spirit brings conviction (John 16:8-11) and the Son's finished sacrifice is

proclaimed for the complete forgiveness of sins (Col. 2:13-14). If God is not drawing you to the Incarnate Word, the serpent is leading you astray from a simple and pure devotion to Christ (2 Cor 11:3).

J. S., Lake Superior, MI, writes—My son-in-law at age 17 asked his priest why should he confess his sins to him. He told the priest he was going to pray directly to God. The priest slapped him across the face. He turned and walked away, and never returned to the Catholic Church.

Anonymous, Minneapolis, MN, writes—Keep this garbage to yourself. Shame on you, you would attach this crap to our car window while we are inside our Catholic Church having Sunday service? That's so cowardly, like a snake in the grass.

Mike's Comment—This is a typical response from Catholics who find the Word of God in our Gospel tracts on their windshields. It is ironic that they think whoever put it on their car was a coward and yet they sent the letter anonymously.

S.W., Elmer, NJ, writes—First I would like to praise the Lord for guiding me to your web site. The information I have read has been a real eye opener. I had no idea the level of misinterpretation the Roman Catholic cult had in proclaiming "God's word" to their parishioners. Thank you for the newsletters that have opened my eyes, but at the same time caused them to weep. It is encouraging to hear your Biblical responses to non-biblical criticisms and the way you defend your faith. Your approach to answering skeptics helps us to explain our faith and I thank you for that.

D. & M. K., Spokane, WA, write—Thanks for sharing your information with us here in Spokane. God was glorified through your presentation. We were blessed in Spokane by the Word you shared. My wife and I both said: This is a message the world has to hear! May God continue to bless your Ministry. You are in our prayers.

G. & J. S., Plano, TX, write—How well and direct you answer and defend our Lord with His Word! We would imagine the abuse and scorn heaped upon you is great and that is, indeed, a good sign. You are obviously hitting near the mark, or the enemy would not react so. May you be blessed to go forth, even stronger, in proclaiming the one true Gospel against all opposition so captives may be set free and Jesus the Christ may be glorified!

PRAY FOR GOD'S ELECT IN PRISONS.

**PRAY FOR GRACE
TO BE
OBEDIENT.**



Great Encouragement For the Sinner!

(Continued from page 1)

Possibly there may be some here *lately converted*—some man who was a drunkard. Your chains are broken, but there are some links that are left hanging, and sometimes they will catch hold of a nail, and you will think you are tied up again. Oh, but, my Brothers and Sisters, if you have given your heart to Christ, sin shall not have dominion over you! You shall yet be helped!

Probably there is a man here whose life was very bad before his conversion, and he says to himself, “I have to go and mix up with some of the people I used to sin with, and they laugh at me, and lay all sorts of traps for me. I am afraid I shall yet go back.” O cling to the Cross! Lay hold of the garments of your dear Lord and Master, for if you trust Him, though you are but a child lately born into the family, “Sin shall not have dominion over you.”

Perhaps I address a *backslider* tonight. O my Brother, my Sister—you have gone into sin—you have defiled your garments. Perhaps the Church of God has had to cast you out; but do you now hate your sin? Have you now, again, began to cry unto God for His Mercy? Does the Lord help you to look to the Cross, and rest in the work of Jesus? If so, be of good courage, still, for if you are His child, sin may get a temporary advantage, but it shall never have permanent dominion! You have sinned very terribly—it is an awful thing—God have Mercy upon you for it; you will have to go with broken bones all your life, but you shall still be saved, for sin shall not have dominion over you!

And now, the last sentence is this—if there is anyone here desirous to be saved from the reigning power of sin within his body, however much sin may now domineer over him—if he will come to Christ, my Lord and Master, and put his trust in Him, He will take care to deliver him altogether from sin, beginning the good work in him this very night, and carrying it on till He at last brings him to Heaven, without a spot or a sin, to see the face of God!

And this is for every one of you who will trust Christ! O that you may trust in Him now, and God shall have the Glory while you will have the great Salvation! Amen.—(Adapted from Sermon #901, Volume 15—THE UPPER HAND—by the Grace of God, for all 63 volumes of C. H. Spurgeon sermons in Modern English, and more than 525 Spanish translations, visit: www.spurgeongems.org).

PRAY FOR GRACE TO BE
SEXUALLY PURE.

PRAY FOR GRACE
TO BE OBEDIENT TO OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

About Christopher Love, a 17th Century Christian Martyr; the following letter was written to his wife:

“July 15, 1651 [the day he expected to be executed]

From the Tower of London

My Dearest Beloved,

I am now going to my long home, yet I must write thee a word before I go hence and shall be seen no more. It is to beg thee to be comforted in my gain and not to be troubled in thy loss. Labor to suppress thy inward fears now that thou art under outward sorrows. As thy outward sufferings abound, let thy consolations in Christ also abound. I know that thou art a woman of a sorrowful spirit. My time is short; I have but few words of counsel to give thee, and then I shall leave thee to God who careth for thee and thine.

1. While thou art under desertions, labor rather to strengthen and clear up thy evidences for heaven than question them.
2. Remember a faith of adherence or reliance on the Lord Jesus brings thee to heaven, though thou want the faith of evidence or assurance.
3. Labor to find that (and more also) in God which thou hast lost in the creature.
4. Spend not thy days in heaviness for my death. If there were knowledge of things below or sorrow in heaven, I should grieve to think my beloved should mourn on earth.
5. Lie under a soul-searching ministry. I know thou are not a spongy hearer, sucking in foul water as well as fair. God hath given thee a good understanding, to be able to discern things that differ. As the mouth tastes meat, thy ear trieth words
6. Be conversant in Christian meetings and much in the exercises of mortification, in fasting and prayers, yet have respect to the weakness of thy body and thy present condition.
7. Have a care of thyself and babies. God will take care of thee and them. I can write no more; farewell my dear, farewell, farewell.

My dear, I beg thee to be satisfied. My heart is greatly comforted in God. I can quietly submit to the good pleasure of His will, and I hope thou dost so also. I am delivered by the determinate counsel of God; the will of the Lord be done. Read for thy comfort when I am dead and gone Jeremiah 49:11 and the beginning of 12; Isaiah 9:6-8; Psalm 146:9; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; and Hebrews 12:6-7.”—From A Spectacle Unto God the Life and Death of Christopher Love by Don Kistler Soli Deo Gloria Morgan, Pa 1994.

‘Reflections’ is a Christian Meditation sent by Mission Africa and Action Uganda Ministries and is meant to instruct, encourage and edify.

We are a Gospel Ministry reaching Uganda and other African countries with the Good News of Salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jim and Kappy Robinette with
Action International Ministries
Mission Africa - Action Uganda - www.actionuganda.net

The History and Falsehoods of Romanism

The Origin of False Doctrines

By Professor CAM Noble

The ignorance of the average Protestant concerning the teachings of the Roman Church is astonishing. Many Protestants express surprise at some of the errors that can be pointed out in this unscriptural system. It is also surprising to find how many Roman Catholics are totally ignorant concerning many of the doctrines of their own church.

According to the Church of Rome, all Protestants are heretics and anathema. The Church of Rome claims that it, alone, is the true church and that there is no salvation outside it. This is sometimes denied by Roman Catholics, but is abundantly documented by the statements and decrees of Popes and church councils. Too few of us here in Northern Ireland see Romanism in its true light, despite having been some of the most tragic victims of its tactics for centuries.

“The vast majority of the doctrines and beliefs of Rome have no basis whatever in the Bible.”

As long as there is not a Roman Catholic majority in any country, Rome can carefully disguise her true aims and beliefs. If you want to see Rome as it really is, just step across the border into the Irish Republic or go to Mexico, Spain or any other predominantly Roman Catholic country. Ask the missionaries who have labored and suffered in these lands. Non-Roman Catholics are accursed by the Church of Rome.

The vast majority of the doctrines and beliefs of the Church of Rome have no basis whatever in the Bible. They were added at a later date, contrary to the clear warning of the Bible in Revelation 22:18. Here is a list of the main unscriptural doctrines and the dates on which they were made official. All Roman Catholics are forced to accept them without question—

1. The daily mass, 394 A.D.
2. The doctrine of purgatory (Pope Gregory), 593 A.D.
3. Prayers to the Virgin, Queen of Heaven, 600 A.D.
4. The first Pope (Boniface III), 610 A.D.
5. Kissing the Pope’s foot began in 709 A.D.
6. Temporal power of the Pope declared in 750 A.D.
7. Worship of images, relics and cross, 788 A.D.
8. Holy water, blessed by a priest, 850 A.D.
9. Veneration of St. Joseph, 890 A.D.
10. Canonization of dead saints (Pope John XV), 995 A.D.
11. Lent and Good Friday began in 998 A.D.

12. The mass declared to be a sacrifice of Christ, 1050 A.D.
13. Celibacy of the priesthood and nuns, 1079 A.D.
14. The rosary introduced by Peter the Hermit, 1090 A.D.
15. Selling indulgences began in 1190 A.D.
16. Doctrine of transubstantiation adopted in 1215 A.D.
17. Confession of sins to human priest, 1215 A.D.
18. Adoration of the water (Pope Honorius), 1220 A.D.
19. Interpretation of Bible forbidden to laity, 1229 A.D.
20. Scapular declared a charm against dangers, 1287 A.D.
21. Communion under one kind, 1414 A.D.
22. Seven sacraments declared, 1439 A.D.
23. Superstitions of the Ave Maria (Pope Sextus V), 1508 A.D.
24. Tradition established as infallible authority, 1545 A.D.
25. Apocryphal books added to the Bible, 1546 A.D.
26. Immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary, 1854 A.D.
27. Infallibility of the Popes, 1870 A.D.
28. Mary declared to be the Mother of God, 1931 A.D.
29. Assumption (translation) of the Virgin Mary, 1950 A.D.

This is only a partial list of the false doctrines that the Roman hierarchy has added to the Bible. All of them are without a shred of Divine authority. If space permitted, we could show that three-quarters of these traditions and dogmas accepted by the Roman Catholic Church are of pagan origin. This has even been admitted by prominent Roman Catholics themselves.

Cardinal Newman, one of the authorities most respected by Rome itself, writes on page 359 of his book *The Development of the Christian Religion*: “Temples, incense, candles, votive offerings, holy water, holidays, and seasons of devotions, processions, blessing of fields, sacerdotal vestments, priests, monks and nuns, images [...] etc. [...], are all of pagan origin.”

**PRAY DAILY OUR LORD
WILL RAISE UP
ANOTHER LUTHER TO, BY HIS GRACE,
DRAW MILLIONS TO HIS SON,
JESUS CHRIST,
OUT OF THE
HERETICAL SYSTEM
KNOWN AS
ROMAN CATHOLICISM.**

Jesus Christ on Election

By A. W. Pink

To whom was it God sent the angels to announce the blessed fact of the Savior's birth? Suppose Scripture had been silent upon the point—how differently would we have conceived the matter! Would we not have naturally thought that the first ones to be informed of this glorious event had been the ecclesiastical and religious leaders in Israel?

Surely the angels would deliver the message in the *Temple*. But no, it was neither to the chief priests nor to the rulers they were sent, but unto the lowly shepherds keeping watch over their flocks in the fields.

How entirely different are God's thoughts and ways from man's! And what thus took place at the beginning of this Christian era was indicative of God's way throughout its entire course—see 1 Corinthians 1:26□29.

This same grand Truth was emphasized by Christ Himself in His public ministry. Look at His first message in the Nazareth synagogue. "And there was delivered unto Him the book of the Prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed the Gospel to the poor [i.e. the poor in spirit, and not to wealthy Laodiceans], He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted [not the stout-hearted, but those sorrowing before God over their sins], to preach deliverance to the captives [and not to those who prate about their "free will"], and recovering of sight to the blind [not those who think they *can* see], and to set at liberty them that are bruised [not those who deem themselves whole]: to preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18, 19).

The immediate sequel is, indeed, solemn—"And He began to say unto them, this day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bear Him witness and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth" (vv 21, 22). So far so good—they were pleased at His "gracious words." Yes, but would they tolerate the preaching of *Sovereign Grace*?

"But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the Heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; but unto *none of them* was Elijah sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the Prophet; and *none of them* was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian" (vv 25□27).

Here Christ pressed upon them the truth of God's high Sovereignty, and *that* they could not endure—"And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath; rose up, and thrust Him out of the city" (vv 28, 29), and mark it well that it was the respectable worshippers of the synagogue who thus gave vent to their hatred of this precious Truth of God! Then let not the servant, today, be surprised -if he meets with the same treatment as his Master!

His sermon at Nazareth was by no means the only time when the Lord Jesus proclaimed the Doctrine of Election. In Matthew 11 we hear Him saying, "I thank You, O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because You have *hid* these things from the wise and prudent and have *revealed* them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in Your sight" (vv 25, 26). To the seventy He said, "Notwithstanding, in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are *written in Heaven*" (Luke 10:20).

In John 6 it will be found that Christ, in the hearing of the multitude, hesitated not to speak openly of a company whom the Father had "given to Him" (vv 37, 39). To the Apostles He said, "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit" (John 15:16)—how shocked would the great majority of church-goers be, today, if they heard the Lord say such words unto His own!

THE LORD IS MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION

John Warburton 1776-1857
(A Gospel preacher from England)

Have you any other rock but Christ? I do not ask whether you will rejoice in Jesus when the Holy Spirit enables you. But have you any other refuge? Can you go out into eternity resting upon any other rock but the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you any other Righteousness but His? Can you lean upon, desire, or want any other than Christ's Righteousness? "No," says the soul, "none but Christ! None but Christ!" Bless your poor heart, then! You shall have it as sure as God has worked the desire in your conscience, and brought you to trust alone in Jesus for refuge, for Righteousness, for Salvation by stripping you of all false props and dependencies. Such a soul as this will trust in the Lord, overcome all opposition and be more than a conqueror through Him that has loved him.

Pray daily for Pastor Curt Daniel of Faith Bible Church in Springfield, IL. You can visit his site at

<http://faithbibleonline.net/index.html>

Is Your Heart Healthy?

(Continued from page 1)

worlds! Beloved, this finding in the heart to pray proves that the heart is in communion with God, for what is prayer but the breath of God in man returning from where it came?

Prayer is a telephone by which God speaks in man. His Heaven is far away, but His voice sounds in our soul! Prayer is a phonograph—God speaks into our soul, and then our soul speaks out again what the Lord has spoken! Conversation must always be two-sided. God speaks to us in this Book—we must reply to Him in prayer and praise.

If you do not pray, my Brothers and Sisters, why, then, you have shut the gates of Heaven against yourself, and there is neither coming in nor going out between you and your Lord! Prayer keeps up a heavenly commerce acceptable to God, and enriching to your own souls. Do you find yourself mightily moved to pray? Then the Lord is very near to you! The Beloved has come into His garden to eat His pleasant fruits—take care to feast Him with your love!

Prayer in the heart is the echo of the footsteps of the Bridegroom of our souls who is seeking communion with us. Open wide the doors of your soul, and let Him in, and then detain Him, and hold Him, saying, “Abide with me.” When we find prayer in the heart, we may know that our heart is accepted of God and the prayer, too!

Brothers and Sisters, when a desire comes to you again, and again, and again, take it as a favorable omen regarding your supplication! If the Lord should especially prompt you to any one desire—laying your child, perhaps, more than usual upon your heart, or causing the name of a friend to constantly occur to you so that you find yourself frequently praying for him—take this as a token from the Lord that He would have you turn your thoughts in that direction, and that a blessing is in store for you!

Suppose you find your heart going out towards a special country or city, bearing your mind there, and working to pray with tears and entreaties—grieving because of its sin, and entreating that God would remember and forgive—be sure that this is a prophecy of good to that place, and redouble your petitions! When the gale blows, the navigator spreads his sails to catch the wind!

And when the Spirit, who blows where He wills, comes upon you, influencing you to this or that, be sure to spread all sails! Reckon that the inclination to pray is the foretaste of the coming blessing! As coming events cast their shadows before them, your desire is the shadow of the Mercy which God is sending down to you. He moves you to pray for it because He, Himself, is about to give it!

Thus I have shown that it is well when we find it in our hearts to pray a prayer, for it proves the heart to be, in many respects, in a healthy condition.—Adapted from *The C.H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1412, Vol. 24—*Where True Prayer Is Found*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>

COME! HE WILL RECEIVE YOU!

By C. H. Spurgeon

Brothers and Sisters, if you are not disciples of Jesus Christ, remember, He will receive you! He will receive you though you have been to other masters and learned a great deal under them, all of which you will have to unlearn. It is a very easy thing to take a man and teach him if his mind is clear and clean. But you have learned a great deal that you will have to forget.

O you of 40, 50, or 60, what a world of mischief there is in you that will have to come out! Well, my Master will take you for pupils, though you have been with other masters all this while. And, though you do not even know the rudiments of what He is going to teach, He will take you. My Lord Jesus keeps an A B C school—He begins with the infants. What a mercy it is that He takes such poor, stupid heads as ours, who know nothing except what we ought *not* to know!

Not many great men, not many mighty are chosen, but God has chosen the poor of this world and things that are not, and things that are despised, yes, and weak things and foolish things has God chosen. Come to Him, for if you are incapable, He is not and His capacity will soon overcome your incapacity! You say, “I cannot learn.” Ah, but you do not know how well He can teach, for He can teach so well that even those who *think* they cannot learn are soon instructed in His school!

Stand not back, dear Friend, because you cannot pay the fee, for my Master’s is a *free* school! He takes nothing *from* us, but He gives everything *to* us. The only admission ticket that you need is simply to be willing to be taught, to be conscious that you need teaching and guiding and to submit yourself to His guidance and instruction. Are you willing to do so? “Oh,” you say, “I shall grieve Him till He gives me up.” Well, I have often thought so. I do not wonder that you are troubled with *that* thought—it has often come across *me* when I see what little progress I have made after being so many years in His school.

If I had a *human* master, he would have been out of patience with me long ago. But the Lord Jesus Christ never gives up a scholar—having once commenced to teach, He continues His Divine lessons till they are fully learned—and the more difficult it is for Him to teach, the more honor it will be when He gets all His scholars educated for the skies! He will not allow a defeat in this matter—He will overcome ignorance, sin, hardness of heart, infirmity and incapacity till He shall have instructed us in the lore of Heaven and made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light!

Come, dear Brothers and Sisters, you who are scholars of Christ, let us sit at His feet! Let us follow in His ways more closely than ever! And you, dear Friends, who as yet are not in His school, He says to you, “Who is simple let him turn in here. As for him who needs understanding let him eat of My bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.” May the good Lord incline your hearts to learn of Him, for Christ’s sake. Amen.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1248, Vol. 21—*The Choice of a Leader*—Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

Study of Ephesians 4:28**STOP STEALING, WORK HARD, AND GIVE—Part 1**

We come to another of the specific aspects of Christian living which the Apostle addresses in this section of the Epistle to the Ephesians. So far we have seen him speaking about the sins of lying and anger. In the verse before us today, he takes up stealing. And again, as the Apostle so frequently does, he follows a pattern. First of all, he tells about the sin which the Christian is to put off. Then he tells us the virtue opposite the sin which the Believer should put on. Thirdly, he gives a reason why the virtue should characterize the Christian.

Note these three elements in the verse before us in Ephesians 4:28: First, the sin to be put off: "Let him who stole steal no longer." Secondly the virtue to be put on: "but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good." And thirdly, the reason for the virtue: "that he may have something to give him who has need."

Now, our immediate response to such a verse may be shock. We might ask the question, "Is it really necessary to tell true Believers to stop stealing?" Doesn't the New Testament make clear that anyone who practices a sin like this is not a true Believer at all? For instance, we read in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." How can the Apostle tell us in the Corinthian passage that no thief will inherit the kingdom of God and yet in our passage tell those he considers to be Believers, "Let him who stole steal no longer"?

The answer is in the person's attitude toward the sin. The true Believer may still struggle with a certain sin, but he cannot ever be comfortable with it. If a person just gives in to a sin and is not bothered or grieved by it and is not fighting against it, it is unlikely that he is a true Believer at all.

Take for example a man who was a drunkard before his conversion. Upon his conversion, he may lose all interest in drinking alcohol. He may have a complete and immediate deliverance from it. But for another, there will be an intense battle and struggle with that former way of life. The person may even periodically fall back into that sin. But when it happens, it grieves him to the core of his being. He repents of that sin and seeks with all his heart the Grace not to fall into it again. And in this sense, that Believer can no longer be called a drunkard.

The same may be said about the sin of stealing. It is a horrible sin. It is one which should not ever occur among Believers. And yet, the truth is, it does happen. That is why the Apostle addresses it in Ephesians 4:28. Some of the Ephesians may have been thieves before coming to Christ. And many who come to Christ have been thieves. A mighty transformation has taken place in the heart of every true Believer. Yet instructions like these continue to be needed in the process of growing in Grace.

Let's consider some facts about the sin that the Apostle Paul is addressing here. Stealing has always been prevalent among fallen mankind. It is rampant in the world today. It is engaged in everywhere by people in all walks of life, not just the poor. Stealing is also a sin of the high class and sophisticated. We hear more and more about embezzlement and theft by bril-

liant businessmen who use their genius to scam the stock market.

Just how wide-spread is the sin of stealing is even more obvious when we consider some of the various forms which this sin may take. Stealing occurs when anyone takes anything that does not belong to him. People steal not only money and material things, but they steal people. The man or woman who commits adultery is stealing another person's spouse.

Our country has generally been so prosperous that "little things" are no longer considered important. The attitude among many seems to be, "Well, the company has so much. If I take a little of this or a little of that, it is no big deal." But how much the company has is totally irrelevant. If someone takes something that does not belong to him, no matter how small, it is stealing.

In the same way, stealing can be done by simply failing to be totally honest about his situation. If a person does not report all of his income to the IRS, he is stealing by failing to pay all the taxes he owes.—PF

What Really Makes A Good Christian?

If a man shall, in later life, hold fast to the things of God, he must be soundly converted at first. Very much of his later life depends upon the thoroughness of his beginning. There must at the very first be a deep sense of sin, a consciousness of guilt, a holy horror of evil, or he will never make much of a Christian. I do not say that all or even *any* of those doubts and temptations and Satanic suggestions which some have had to struggle with are necessary to make a true Conversion. But I must confess that I am not at all displeased when I meet with a good deal of battling and struggling in the experience of the newly awakened. It is not pleasant for them, but we hope it will be profitable. Those whose souls are plowed and plowed and plowed again before the seed is sown upon them often yield the best crop.

John Bunyan's, "Grace Abounding," very much accounts for John Bunyan's, "Pilgrim's Progress." If it had not been for his terrible conflicts of soul, he might not have known how to hold fast to his confidence when shut up for 12 years in prison. Nor would he have seen visions of the Celestial City, when all around him was as the Valley of the Shadow of Death! I do not wish to see seeking souls distressed by Satan, but I do press for this—that there shall be an end of self-trust, a total destruction of self-righteousness, a complete giving up of all legal and carnal hopes. If not, the conversion will be a mere show and he who is the subject of it will be like Ephraim—a silly dove without a heart. Unless repentance of sin is real in you, you will never take fast hold of the Truth of God.—CHS

Jesus Christ “The Branch”

Zechariah 6:12

Behold, the Man whose name is the Branch!

Part 1: Introduction

By Daniel E. Parks, Pastor
Redeemer Baptist Church, 74 Cane Carlton, Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, USA, 00840

The term “Branch” is prominently used of Jesus Christ in Old Testament prophecies regarding His first advent to earth. It identifies Him chiefly as a descendant (as a branch in a family tree), and then sets forth what He is and does as that descendant. As such, He is the *Branch of Jesse* (Isaiah 11:1-5), *Branch of David* (Jeremiah 23:5f / 33:14-16), *Branch who is Jehovah’s Servant* (Zechariah 3:1-8), *Branch who builds Jehovah’s house* (Zechariah 6:12f), *Branch of Jehovah* (Isaiah 4:2). (The Hebrew text employs two synonyms translated “Branch” in all the instances above: *nētsar* in Isaiah 11:1; *tsemach* in all others.)

I. Christ the “Branch” is possessor of both the divine and the human natures. He possesses the *divine* nature because His name is *Jehovah Tsidkenu*, “The LORD Our Righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6). And He possesses the *human* nature because Jehovah exhorts us to “Behold, the *Man* whose name is the Branch” (Zechariah 6:12).

II. Christ the “Branch” is a physical descendant of David (Jeremiah 23:5 / 33:15): twice Jehovah declared “that I will raise to *David* a Branch”. This point is of vital importance because of other Messianic prophecies regarding Jesus’ descent from David (e.g., 1 Chronicles 7:11-14 / 2 Samuel 7:12f; Psalm 132:1a, 10f).

III. Christ the “Branch” is anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2): “The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”

IV. Christ the “Branch” is righteous in His character (Jeremiah 23:5): He is a “Branch of *righteousness*” – or a “*righteous* Branch” named “Jehovah Our Righteousness” (v.6).

V. Christ the “Branch” is righteous in His conduct (Isaiah 11:2-5): “His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist”.

VI. Christ the “Branch” is the Righteousness of His people (Jeremiah 23:6): “this is His name by which He will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.”

VII. Christ the “Branch” is the mediatorial Servant of Jehovah (Zechariah 3:8): Jehovah calls Him “My Servant

the Branch” in regard to His work for the salvation of His people.

VIII. Christ the “Branch” is the King of Jehovah’s people (Jeremiah 23:5 / 33:15): He as David’s Branch fulfills the prophecy that “a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”

IX. Christ the “Branch” is the Priest of Jehovah’s people (Zechariah 3:8): He is typified by Joshua the high priest.

X. Christ the “Branch” is the unique King-Priest of Jehovah’s people (Zechariah 6:13) – a “priest on His throne”.

XI. Christ the “Branch” is the Justifier of His people (Zechariah 3:1-8): Like Joshua the high priest, Christ was clothed in the “filthy garments” of His people, which through His high priestly ministry have been exchanged for “rich robes”.

XII. Christ the “Branch” is the Savior and Protector of His people (Jeremiah 23:6 / 33:16): “In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely.”

XIII. Christ the “Branch” is the Builder of Jehovah’s temple (Zechariah 6:12): “From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD”.

XIV. Christ the “Branch” is the recipient of all the glory in Jehovah’s temple (Zechariah 6:13): “yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory”.

XV. Christ the “Branch” is magnificent to and for His people (Isaiah 4:2): “In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped.”

In subsequent messages we will, God willing, expand upon the manners in which Christ as set forth as the “Branch” in the texts cited above.

Daniel E. Parks (March 3, 2013)

**PRAY FOR GRACE TO BE
USED BY OUR LORD.**

**THANK GOD FOR
YOUR SALVATION.**

**PRAY GOD TO USE
THIS PUBLICATION
FOR HIS
HONOR AND GLORY!**

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 the spouses and children of inmates.

In This Issue...

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

“Behold, I have given Him for a Witness to the people, a Leader and Commander to the people.”

Isaiah 55:4.

To whom is the Lord Jesus given as a Witness and a Leader and Commander? Twice we are told that it is to the people—“A witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.” I have known some people sneer at “the common people.” Ah, yes, but it was the common people who gladly heard Christ, and it is for the people that He died! “I,” says God, “have exalted One chosen out of the people.” The Lord Jesus Christ is the Christ of common people! If any of you are so high and mighty that you must go to Heaven fashionably, you will be lost! The unfashionable way to Heaven, by trusting in Jesus Christ, is the *only* way that will take you there. He is the people’s Witness, the people’s Leader, the people’s Commander!

That means, does it not, that He

THE CHRIST OF COMMON PEOPLE!

By Charles H. Spurgeon

is the Leader and Commander of a great host, not merely of a select few? Perhaps you have read about us poor Calvinists—what a wretched, miserable sect we are—how we are always trying to keep salvation to ourselves and how we believe that only a very few will ever be saved! Put all that down among the lies that our enemies tell about us. It is not true and it never was true, for there are no people under Heaven who are more anxious that all men should be saved than are we who believe that, nevertheless, the Lord has a people whom He will save. Our hearts, we trust, are full of love to men, despite all that is said about us. It is my hope that the Lord Jesus Christ will save so many, that at the last, those who are lost will bear no greater proportion to the whole

mass of mankind than do the persons in prison to the multitudes that are outside of it in any well-ordered state!

“There will have to be a great change,” says somebody, “to bring *that* about.” Yes, there will be a great change! There are glorious times yet coming, notwithstanding all that tends to the contrary! There is a day to dawn when the Lord Jesus shall be acknowledged as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and “He shall reign forever and ever”—and the overwhelming multitudes of His redeemed shall prove that He is not the Witness and Leader and Commander to a miserable few, a mere handful—but that He is Witness and Leader and Commander to the people! In all things He shall have the pre-eminence.—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #2534, Volume 43—*The Greatest Gift in Time or Eternity*—read/download the entire sermon free of charge at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>