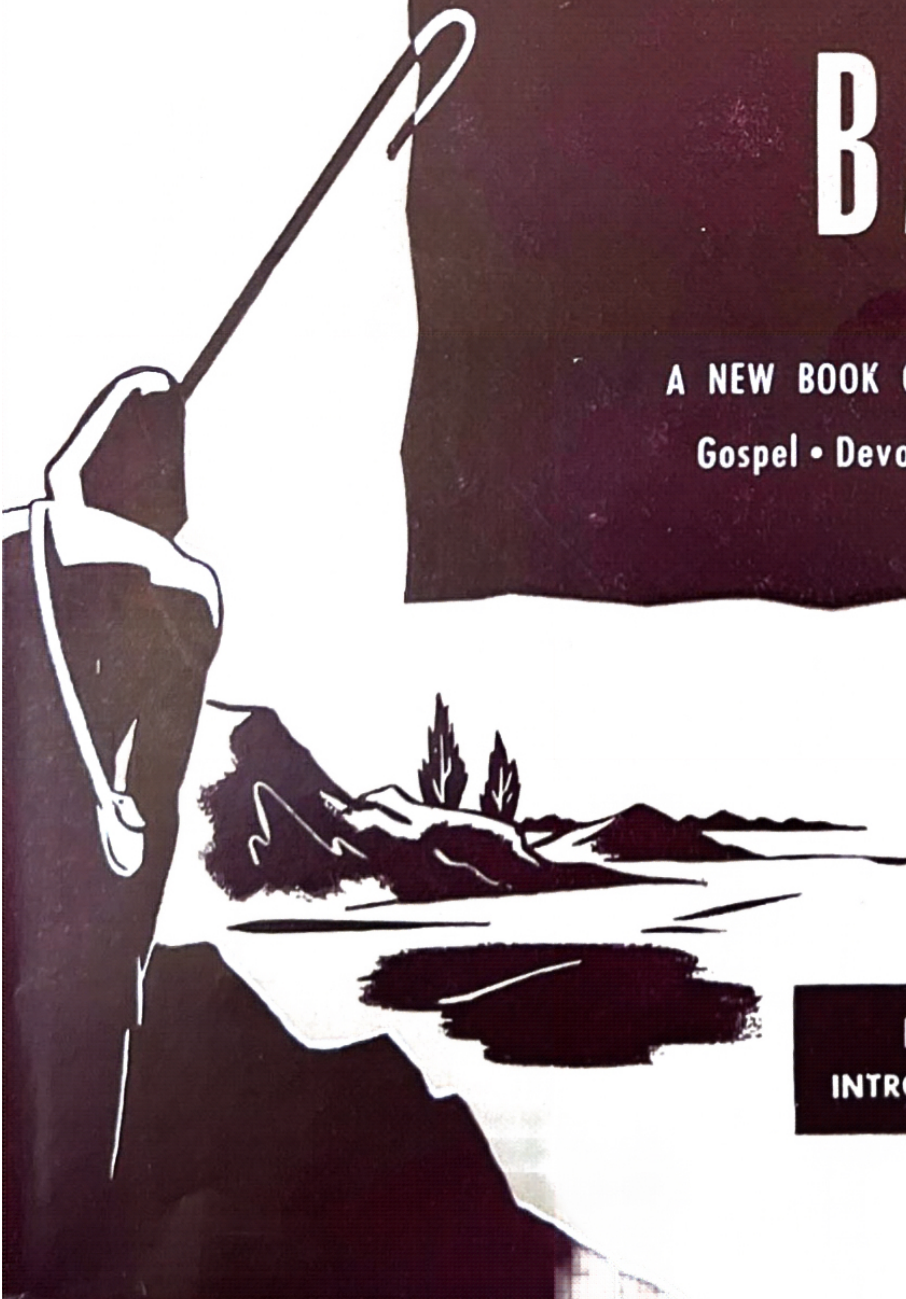


THE SHEPHERD'S BAG

A NEW BOOK OF BIBLE OUTLINES

Gospel • Devotional • Doctrinal



BY JAMES F. SPINK
INTRODUCTION - DR. H. A. IRNSIDE

The Shepherd's Bag

by
James F. Spink

Published by GOOD NEWS PUBLISHERS

411 SOUTH WELLS STREET • CHICAGO 7, ILLINOIS

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GOOD NEWS PUBLISHERS
CHICAGO

Composed and Printed
in the United States of America
by
GOOD NEWS PRESS, INC. • CHICAGO

Preface

This material has been gathered during the past thirty years and many who have seen my notes have suggested that these studies and outlines should be published, in order that preachers and Christian workers may have the benefit of them in their service for the Lord.

We are acceding to this request and publishing this first volume. If this book finds acceptance with the Lord's people, we shall publish the remainder of the studies and outlines. Quite a few of the studies and outlines in this volume are by Dr. Rawlins and Mr. William Mackie of the U. S. A., Mr. W. E. Tocher of Northern Ireland, and Mr. Voke of South Africa.

In looking to the Lord for a title for the book, this Scripture came before me. David "chose five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had" (I Sam. 17:40). Later on in the chapter we read, "David put his hand in his bag and took thence a stone" (verse 49). We trust that many a Christian worker will put his hand in the "Shepherd's Bag" and take out a study or an outline, pray over it, make it his own, and use it for the proclamation of the truth.

May the Head of the Church graciously own and use all that is in accordance with His Holy Word; for His glory, the upbuilding of His people and the salvation of many precious souls.

JAMES F. SPINK

Introduction

There are many who have a measure of gift for gospel ministry who lack homiletical training and find it difficult to arrange subjects in an orderly manner. It is to help such that this volume of Bible Outlines has been prepared by an experienced preacher and teacher of the Word. There are many such books on the market and all have their place, but I feel certain that this collection will be welcomed by many and prove to be a very helpful one in the preparation of discourses. Material will be found here for gospel messages to the unsaved, devotional talks for Christians, as well as more definite Bible teaching along doctrinal lines.

It is, of course, not the purpose of the author to take the place of the Holy Spirit in guiding other ministers of Christ, but rather to offer suggestions to those who need them.

An aged servant of Christ said to me on one occasion, "I have often found that if one gives a pull on the rope, I can pull it a little farther." He was referring, of course, to the opening up of the Scriptures. It is a pleasure to commend this book to my brethren in Christ and I trust it will prove eminently useful.

DR. H. A. IRONSIDE
Moody Church, Chicago

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Part One

GOSPEL OUTLINES

The All Important Question

"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" (John 9:35).

Clever men of the world spend much of their time in solving problems and thrashing out difficult questions. Here is a question so important as to affect us for time and eternity. It is asked by the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. The question.

1. Present—"dost." Do you, not will you in some future day, but now?
2. Personal—"thou." We know the Jews do not; but dost thou?
3. Practical—"believe." Trust wholly and only the Son of God.
4. Pointed—"the Son of God." Art thou linked to the Son of God by faith?

II. It is all important because of what it entails.

1. Salvation (Acts 16:31).
2. Justification (Acts 13:39).
3. Sanctification (Acts 15:7-11). Purifying their hearts by faith.
4. Eternal life (John 6:47).

- III. By whom must this question be answered.
1. By those who are obedient to outward ceremonies.
 2. By those who have their eyes opened to worldly things.
 3. By those who are of age (verse 23).
 4. By those who have already defended Him, and have some degree of faith.
 5. By those who are real seekers after Christ.
- IV. How can we know that we really do believe?
1. Have we ever told Him so, "Lord, I believe."
 2. Have we ever worshipped as a believer.
 3. Has Christ become precious (I Peter 2:7).

The Atonement

I Peter 1:18, 19; I Corinthians 15:3; I Peter 2:24

- I. Redemption or atonement.
1. Not an afterthought consequent upon unforeseen conditions (Acts 15:18; I Pet. 1:20).
 2. The blessed Trinity at one in redemption.
 - a. God so loved He gave (John 3:16).
 - b. Christ gave Himself (Gal. 3:13; Rev. 5:9).
 - c. Holy Spirit convicts and convinces (John 16:8).
 3. It is all of grace (Eph. 2:5; Rom. 5:20; Rom. 11:5, 6).
- II. In what the atonement consisted.
1. Christ's whole life was sacrificial.
 2. In making propitiation (Rom. 3:25,26).
 3. Making reconciliation possible (II Cor. 5:19).
 4. Christ Himself becoming a ransom (I Tim. 2:6).
 5. Redemption through His blood (I Peter 1:18, 19; John 10:16; Isa. 53; Rom. 6:5).
 6. Putting away sin.
- III. Its extent.
1. The death of Christ made propitiatory provision for all (I John 2:2).
 2. Only those who believe know Him as substitute (Acts 13:38, 39; 10:43; 15:14).

3. Those who believe prove their effectual calling and election.
 - a. Faith in Christ (II Thess. 2:13).
 - b. Love to God (I John 4:19).
 - c. Departure from sin (II Tim. 2:12).

"Behold the Man"

"Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man" (John 19:5)!

- I. The priest's view of Christ.
- II. The Roman governor's view.
- III. The crowd's view.
 1. The mob—easily influenced.
 2. The soldiers.
 3. Judas.
 4. John.
 5. Peter.
 6. Mary the mother of our Lord.
- IV. The Scripture's view.
 1. The Son of Man.
 2. The Man of Sorrows.
 3. The Saviour.
 4. Despised and rejected.
 5. Owned of God and glorified.
- V. What is our view?—what is Christ to us?
 1. A great historic character.
 2. A grand good man.
 3. The world's Saviour.
 4. The coming King.
 5. My own Saviour, my Lord and my God.

Be Thou Clean

Matthew 8:1-4

- I. The disease of leprosy.
 1. Constitutional—deeply rooted, slowly spreading.
 2. Hereditary.
 3. Loathesome.
 4. Infectious.
 5. Incurable.
 6. Fatal.
- II. The leper's faith.
 1. He came *humbly, respectfully*.
 2. Came in confidence.
 3. Believed in Christ's ability.
 4. Submissive to Christ; willing.
- III. Christ's Act.
 1. Stretches forth His hand.
 2. Then touches.
 3. Speaks the mighty word "I will."
 4. Works the miracle "Be thou clean."
 5. Immediate cleansing.

Blinded Eyes

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Corinthians 4:4).

- I. The great blinder.
- II. Those whom he blinds.
- III. The means used.
 1. "Things," attractions, occupation.
 2. Hardened consciences.
 3. False hopes.
 4. False religions.
 5. Fear of man.

- IV. The lot of the blinder and blinded.
- V. The treatment for all whose minds have been blinded.
 - 1. A knowledge of their true condition.
 - 2. Acknowledge their blindness.
 - 3. Value the first ray of light.
 - 4. Trust Christ, the great Oculist.

The Brevity of Life

"But this I say, brethren, the time is short . . . (I Corinthians 7:29).

Not time, but *the* time is short.

- I. It utters warning.
 - 1. Too valuable to squander.
 - 2. Too short for indecision and hesitancy.
 - 3. Its brevity calls for specialization.
- II. It makes suggestion.
 - 1. Do not waste it.
 - 2. Make the most of it.
 - 3. Yield unreservedly to highest claim.
- III. It provokes to aspiration.
 - 1. It says to good sense, "Immediate action."
 - 2. While moments tick out it says, "Now."
 - 3. Amidst solemnities it bespeaks joyousness.
- IV. It sounds an alarm.
 - 1. To the believer.
 - 2. To the mere professor.
 - 3. To the backslider.
 - 4. To the worldling.

Christ's Welcome

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37, 38).

- I. The divine preposition—"if."
 - 1. The folly of expecting unconvicted soul to come to Jesus.

2. The least indication of desire to come to Christ should be encouraged.
 3. Be careful to put "IFS" in right place. Compare Mark 9:22 with Mark 1:40.
- II. The divine inclusivism. "Any man"—Every man.
- III. The divinely revealed pre-requisite—"thirst."
1. Be careful it is THE thirst.
 2. Many different thirsts.
 3. The sure and only thirst created by the Holy Spirit.
- IV. The divine invitation—"Let him come."
1. Let him—Be sure you come—immediately.
 2. Let him—Don't hinder him.
 3. Note, he has to "COME" not "GO," not "DO," etc.
- V. The divine source of supply—"unto me."
1. No other name.
 2. No other way.
 3. No other Saviour.
- VI. The divine command is to drink.
- VII. The divine consummation (verse 38).

A Divine Imperative

"Ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

- I. A most wonderful change.
 1. It is more than a change. It is a creation.
 2. One can change opinions or notions. God alone can change the heart.
 3. Reformation, creeds, ordinances outside the question.
 4. It is a birth—a new experience.
 5. Gives new force and power.
- II. The change is most wonderful.
 1. The divine manner of it.
 2. The human way of it.
 3. The grandeur and glory of it.

III. It is most manifest.

1. All natural life is manifest. Vegetable, animals and kingdom of man manifest it.
2. Every twice-born soul has experience.
3. Actions prove it.
 - a. Prayer.
 - b. Love for Bible.
 - c. Love for God's people.
 - d. Love for spiritual things.

IV. It is most imperative.

1. Unborn have no life.
2. No spiritual capacity.
3. No spiritual fellowship.
4. No spiritual inheritance.

V. It is most personal.

1. "Ye."
2. No matter what your social position may be—"YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN."

The Divine Necessity

"And he must needs go through Samaria" (John 4:4).

I. The woman's question.

1. Propriety—"how is it. . ."
2. Ability—"from whence. . ."
3. Superiority—"our father, Jacob. . ."

II. The woman's knowledge.

1. She had clear common sense.
2. She knew the prophets.
3. She knew religion.
4. She knew Christ as a Jew.
5. She knew Him as a prophet.

III. How Christ acts.

1. He makes a request (verses 7, 10).
2. He creates a desire (verse 15).
3. He reveals Himself (verse 26).
4. He convinces of sin (verse 29).
5. He meets a need.

IV. What the woman did.

1. She left her waterpot for she had a springing well within.
2. She confessed her faith.
3. She became a witness.
4. God owned her as a successful worker (verse 39).

Draw Near

Hebrews 10:19-22

1. A wide open entrance.
2. A new and living way.
3. A great High Priest.
4. A throne of grace.
5. Full assurance.

Divine Pardon

"Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners" (Psalm 146:7).

- I. Who are the prisoners? (II Tim. 3:1-6; Gal. 5:19-21).
- II. What are they loosed from? (Psalm 103).
 1. All their iniquities.
 2. All their diseases.
 3. From destruction.
- III. What are they delivered to?
 1. Love, joy, peace (Gal. 5:22, 23).
 2. Everlasting life (John 3:36; John 5:24).
- IV. How are they loosed? (John 1:12; Matt. 11:28-30).
- V. For how long are they loosed? (John 10:27; Rom. 8:35-39).

Doors—Open and Shut

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it"
(Revelation 3:8).

"I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John 10:9).

- I. Christ is the Door.
 - 1. Out of death into life.
 - 2. Out of failure into victory.
 - 3. Out of sorrow into joy.
 - 4. Out of earth into heaven.
- II. Christ is the *only* Door.
 - 1. All other doors are trap doors: popery, ceremonies, works, etc.
 - 2. All teachers of other doors are thieves and robbers.
- III. Christ is the *open* Door.
 - 1. The vilest.
 - 2. The hardest.
 - 3. All classes come.
- VI. Christ is the Door to every blessing, for time and eternity.
 - 1. Pope, bishop, priest, nor any human power.
- V. Christ is the *strong* Door.
 - 1. All who enter are safe.
 - 2. No robbers or thieves can enter.
- IV. Christ is the Door—None can shut.
- VII. This Door will be shut some day.

The Folly of Fools

"The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors" (Proverbs 26:10).

- I. The folly of the foolish youth (Prov. 15:5).
- II. The infidel and his folly (Psalm 14:1).
- III. The self-righteous fool (Prov. 12:15).
- IV. The folly of the backslider (Prov. 26:11).

- V. The foul-mouthed fool (Prov. 19:1; Psalm 74:18).
- VI. The rich fool (Luke 12:20).
- VII. The end and lament of a fool (I Sam. 26:21).

Full Salvation

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (I Cor. 1:30).

- 1. Wisdom.
Salvation from *ignorance* of sin.
- 2. Righteousness.
Salvation from *guilt* of sin.
- 3. Sanctification.
Salvation from *power* of sin.
- 4. Redemption.
Salvation from *presence* of sin.

The Friend of Sinners

Luke 18:9-18; 19:1-10

- I. He who presents his own righteousness denies that of God.
 - 1. The unjustified man; a religious man.
 - 2. Scripture says none are righteous (Rom. 3:20, 23; Isaiah 64:6; Heb. 9:22).
 - 3. Cain, the first religious man, rejected by God with his offering (Gen. 4:3-5).
 - 4. All who put works, merit and self-righteousness first, refuse God's way of salvation (Heb. 9:22).
- II. He who claims God's righteousness exalts God and glorifies Christ.
 - 1. The justified sinner.
 - 2. Hid behind the blood.
- III. The supreme attainment of knowledge is to know Jesus Christ (John 17:3).

- IV. A seeking sinner met by the seeking Saviour (Luke 19: 1-10).
1. He was anxious to see—know.
 2. Our Lord's immediate response. Evidence of supernatural wisdom and knowledge (John 10:3, 14).
 3. Zaccheus inquires, desires (John 6:37; Rom. 10:13).
 4. Zaccheus made haste.
 5. Murmur of crowd. Jesus the guest of a believing sinner—literally, gone to stay overnight with a sinner. Just how it is in this age of night, Christ the abiding guest with all who receive Him.
 6. The effect of entertaining Him.
 - a. Honest conduct.
 - b. Christian liberality.
 - c. Sensitive conscience.
 - d. Restoration. Christians are saved without works in order to do good works.
 7. Our Lord's mission (verse 10).

The Glad, Grand and Glorious Gospel

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Corinthians 5:20, 21).

- I. The great doctrine.
 1. Who it was that was made sin for us—One who knew no sin.
 2. What was done to Him who knew no sin—He was made sin for us.
 3. Who did this mighty thing—"The Lord hath laid on Him...."
 4. What happens to the believer in Him—made the righteousness of God in Him.

- II. The great argument (verse 20).
 - 1. God beseeching you by us.
 - 2. We pray you in Christ's stead.
 - 3. Be ye reconciled.

The Glorious Gospel—Its Acceptability

I Timothy 1:11-17

- I. Universal in its proclamation (I Tim. 1:15).
 - 1. Chief ruler of the Jews accepts it (John 3).
 - 2. Chancellor of Ethiopia accepts it (Acts 8).
 - 3. Centurian of Italian band accepts it (Acts 10).
- II. Unique in its principle (I Tim. 1:15).
 - 1. Profligate woman accepts it (Luke 7).
 - 2. Prodigal son accepts it (Luke 15).
 - 3. Poor publican accepts it (Luke 18).
- III. Unlimited in its power.
 - 1. Maniac in chains accepts it (Mark 5).
 - 2. Malefactor on the cross accepts it (Luke 23).
 - 3. Maltreater of Church accepts it (Acts 9).

The Good and the Right Way

"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way"
(I Samuel 12:23).

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13, 14).

- I. The transgressor's way (Prov. 13:15).
 - 1. Way of darkness (Prov. 4:19).
 - 2. Way to hell (Prov. 7:27).
 - 3. Way of the fool (Prov. 12:15).
 - 4. Way that is broad (Matt. 7:13).
 - 5. Way of the thief (John 10:1).
 - 6. Way of lies (Psalm 119:29).

7. Way that is false (Psalm 104:28).
 8. Way that is wicked (Psalm 146:9).
 9. Way that seemeth right (Prov. 14:12).
- II. The good, right and narrow way (Job 38:19).
1. Way of truth (Psalm 119:30).
 2. Way of God's commandments (Psalm 119:32).
 3. Way of life (Prov. 6:23).
 4. Way of holiness (Isaiah 35:8).
 5. Way to Zion (Jer. 50:5).
 6. Way of salvation (Acts 16:17).
 7. The Way (John 14:6).

The Gospel of Christ—The Power of God

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

- I. A divinely inspired boldness.
 1. Because of what it had accomplished in his own life.
 2. Because of what he had seen it accomplish in the lives of others.
- II. A divinely constituted gospel.
 1. Good news from above.
 2. It is good news concerning Christ, the anointed One, the Messiah; not a human saviour.
- III. A divinely revealed power.
 1. To convince.
 2. To convict.
 3. To convert.
- IV. A divinely attained end.

It brings salvation, not merely reformation.
- V. A divinely appointed prerequisite.

"To every one that believeth."

The Gospel of Christ—The Power of God

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

Paul was not ashamed of this gospel.

- I. The gospel of Christ, what it is.
 1. Ruin by the fall (Rom. 5:12).
 2. Redemption through the blood.
 3. Regeneration by the Holy Ghost.
 4. Reception by faith.
 5. Justification, no condemnation, no separation.
- II. This gospel is God's power unto salvation.
 1. God's power to give new life.
 2. God's power to give new character.
 3. God's power to make all things new.
 4. God's power to fit men for eternal bliss.
- III. All this is to everyone that believeth.
 1. Believe God's truth regarding the fall.
 2. Believe God's truth regarding Christ as Substitute, Saviour and King.
 3. Believe God's truth concerning complete work of Christ.

The Gospel of God and Another Gospel

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel" (Galatians 1:6).

- I. The other gospel.
 1. Its test (Gen. 3:4).
 2. Showing that the devil has a gospel.
 3. It is very ancient.
 4. It is very plausible.
 5. But it is a lying gospel.
- II. What it does.
 1. Comforts the wicked in his sins.
 2. Encourages.
 3. Restrains men from coming to God.

III. What it leads to.

1. Suspicion of God and His character.
2. Unbelief and denial of God.
3. Transgression of God's law.
4. Hatred of God and His presence.

IV. What it ends in.

1. Shameful nakedness.
2. Loss of God.
3. Misery in life.
4. Loss of soul.
5. Eternal destruction.

Gospel of Glory

"The glorious gospel of the blessed God" (I Timothy 1:11, A.V.).
"The gospel of the glory of the blessed God" (I Timothy 1:11, R.V.).
"The glorious good news of the ever blessed God (I Timothy 1:11,
20th Century, No. I).

Paul gloried in the gospel of God's glory.

- I. Because of what it did for him (Acts 22:11; I Tim. 1:13, 15; Gal. 1:12).
- II. Because Christ, the revelation of God's glory is the very essence of the gospel (Rom. 1:16; John 1:14; Col. 2:9; Eph. 1:23; Col. 1:19; Eph. 1:17-19).
 1. Christ crucified.
 2. Christ risen.
 3. Christ ascended.
 4. Christ coming.
- III. Because the gospel reveals God's glorious attributes: righteousness, justice, love, wisdom, power, presence.
- IV. Because of its adaptability to all ages, peoples, conditions, circumstances.

Gospel Worthy of All Acceptation

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15).

- I. The annunciation.
 1. The Saviour is Christ Jesus.
 2. The sinner is any transgressor.
 - a. Sinners of every age.
 - b. Sinners of every nation.
 - c. Sinners of every degree.
 - d. Awakened sinners.
 - e. Penitent sinners.
 - f. Chief of sinners.
- II. The commendation.
 1. Enlightened sinners become special target of Satan.
 - a. Tries to get them to doubt, halt, put off.
 - b. Excuses such as "too bad, too young, too old."
 2. Worthy of all acceptation.

The Great Inquiry

Mark 10:17-23

- I. How it was made (verse 17).
 1. Personally, no go between.
 2. Earnestly, "He came running."
 3. Reverently, "kneeling down."
 4. Sincerely, "What shall I do."
- II. How it was answered.
 1. By a loving recognition (verse 21).
 2. By a test of faith (verse 18).
 3. By a test of character (verse 19).
 4. By a test of willingness to surrender all (verse 21).
 5. By a call of singleness of heart, life and purpose (verse 21).

III. The issue.

1. Sorrowful, grieved, vexed, disappointed—"he went away" (verse 22).
2. He lacked "one thing" (verse 21).
3. He broke down under Christ's test.
 - a. Rich but sorrowful.
 - b. Moral but sorrowful.
 - c. Earnest but sorrowful.
 - d. Reverent but sorrowful.
 - e. Sincere but sorrowful.
 - f. Sorrowful and unsaved.

The Greatest Text

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"
(John 3:16).

- I. God.
- II. The greatest fact, "so loved."
- III. The greatest company, "the world."
- IV. The greatest act, "gave."
- V. The greatest gift, "His only begotten Son."
- VI. The greatest condescension, "whosoever."
- VII. The greatest simplicity, "believeth."
- VIII. The greatest attraction, "in Him."
- IX. The greatest promise, "should not perish."
- X. The greatest difference, "but."
- XI. The greatest certainty, "have."
- XII. The greatest possession, "everlasting life."

Hope and Grace

Ezekiel 37:11-14

- I. A true Confession: "Our bones are dried" (verse 11).
 1. This confession is not overstated.
 2. Dried, divided, dead.
 3. Literally, unable to raise themselves.
 4. Only for the fire, no other hope.
 5. No healing, "we are cut off."

II. A cry of despair.

1. To despair is to wickedly sin while God in mercy prolongs our life, it insults God.
2. The devil tries to get souls to despair.
3. Despair ignores the power of the atoning blood.
4. An insult to God the Holy Spirit.
5. A despairing soul is generally a rebellious soul.
6. Despair launches a man into all guilt.
7. Nothing degrades a man more than despair.
8. Despair ignores all means of grace, rejects God's Word and His mercy.

III. A gracious pronouncement (verse 12).

1. God meets the soul in its deepest need. "I will. . . ."
2. A divine intervention.
3. A divine deliverance (verse 14).
4. A divine life.
5. Ye shall know it (verse 14).

The "I Wills" of Christ

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

II. The sovereign Lord and His great Word.

1. Every saved soul has its own experience.
2. Our Lord like a physician deals with each one individually.
3. It is a matter between "Him" and "me."

II. The sovereign Lord and His great word.

1. "Cast out" from city of refuge.
2. "Cast out" from high estate and heritage.
3. What would happen if one were cast out.

III. The sovereign Lord's "no."

1. Satan may suggest doubts—"in no wise."
2. Treachery of one's own heart—"in no wise."
3. All others may but Jesus never—"in no wise."

- IV. Our sovereign Lord's disposition. Secures fulfillment of text.
- V. Justice demands its fulfillment.
- VI. Its breakdown would overthrow Jehovah's eternal counsels.
- VII. Your response—"Come."

Is Thine Heart Right?

"Is thine heart right . . ." (II Kings 10:15).

- I. Religious man? (Acts 8).
- II. Moralist.
Not enough to be able to say, "I have done nothing . . .
I am not like some . . . etc."
- III. The backslider.
Commenced by backsliding in the heart.
- IV. The worldling.
 - 1. Is thine heart at ease?
 - 2. What about past memories?
 - 3. What about past deep desire and longings?

It Is Finished

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost" (John 19:30).

- 1. All the prophecies relating to the Messiah are fulfilled.
- 2. The obedience and humiliation of the Son of God are now completed.
- 3. The term of Christ's suffering and sorrow was at an end.
- 4. The sacrificial work was about to be completed.
- 5. Hence every obstacle has been removed between God and men.

Jesus and Pilate

Matthew 27:11-31; Luke 23:1-25

- I. The attitude of Pilate.
 - 1. He found no fault in Him (Luke 23:4, 14, 15; John 19:4, 6; Matthew 27:19).

2. Pilate wished to release Him (Luke 23:20, 22).
3. As a mere politician he pleased the crowd (Luke 23:25).
4. Tries to rid himself of responsibility (Matthew 27:24).
5. He was convinced of Jesus' innocence (Luke 23:22).

II. The sin of Pilate.

1. He sinned against his conscience.
2. He abused his authority.
3. He sinned against the truth.
4. He sinned against his own confession.
5. The fear of man ensnared him.

III. Our Lord died in place of Barabbas.

1. Just for unjust (I Peter 3:18).
2. Scriptures full of His substitutionary work.

IV. Points in lesson.

1. Christ without fault.
2. Pilate without excuse.
3. Just for unjust.
4. Pilate uses water to clean his hands; Christ gave His blood to cleanse soul.
5. Not Jesus before Pilate, but vice versa.
6. Something must be done with Christ—no neutral ground (Matt. 27:22).
7. What will *you* do?

Nine Questions and an Invitation

I. About the congregation.

1. What hast thou here?
2. Whom hast thou here? (Isaiah 22:16).

II. To the congregation.

1. Whose art thou?
2. Whither goest thou? (Gen. 30:17).

- III. To the individual.
 - 1. When thou art spoiled what wilt thou do? (Jer. 4:30).
 - 2. How wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan? (Jer. 12:5).
- IV. The question of love.
 - 1. Why wilt thou die? (Ezek. 33:11).
- V. The first question of the conquered heart.
 - 1. What must I do? (Acts 16:30).
- VI. The crucial question.
 - 1. Wilt thou be made whole? (John 5:6).
- VII. The royal invitation—Come (Matt. 11:28).

Only a Door Between

"And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him, and the Lord shut him in" (Genesis 7:16).

- I. God shut Noah in.
 - 1. The door of the ark separated.
 - 2. The door was close shut.
 - 3. The door was fast shut.
 - 4. The door was necessarily shut.
 - 5. The door was graciously shut.
 - 6. The shut door gave Noah sense of safety.
 - 7. Noah was shut in *by* and *with* God.
 - 8. Had the comfort of all his family.
 - 9. In safety, comfort and joy preserved to come out into a new world.
- II. God shut all others out.
 - 1. The door of the ark separated.
 - 2. Those shut out were a people whom Noah had warned and preached to.
 - 3. They had been prayed for.
 - 4. They had associated with those within.
 - 5. They had seen great wonders.
 - 6. They found their delight in worldly things.
 - 7. They disbelieved, scoffed, rejected, neglected.
 - 8. They perished.

Only a Touch

Matt. 9:20-22; Mark 5; Luke 8:43-48

- I. There is no saving health apart from contact with Christ. Everything else had failed (Luke 8:43).
 1. Natural religion.
 2. Education.
 3. Resources of the world.
- II. It is possible to stand in close relation to Christ and not touch Him. Multitudes thronged and pressed Christ, but only one person touched Him with the hand of faith (Luke 8:45, 46).
 1. Possible to live in a Christian land and not touch Him.
 2. Can be born of Christian parents and not touch Him.
 3. Assent to truths of the Bible and not touch Christ.
 4. Profess religion and not touch Christ.
- III. Woman touched Christ.
 1. Under difficulties.
 2. Very secretly.
 3. With a sense of unworthiness.
- IV. Woman received blessing.
 1. Healing from every spiritual disease.
 2. Salvation from every sin.
- V. Christ knew who touched Him (Luke 8:46).
 1. The Lord knows them that are His.

Our Glorious Substitute

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

- I. The sinless substitute.
 1. Not the seed of fallen man.
 2. His nature was free from sin.
 3. He was perfect in every attribute.
 4. Resplendent in all His character.
 5. Not only did He no sin, He knew no sin.

6. He was well acquainted with sin's effects—sorrow, grief, He knew its awful power, but He knew no sin.
7. There was never a mistake, never a failure, never a single breakdown. He was altogether glorious in perfection.

II. He was made sin for us.

1. The amazing statement.
2. By imputation He was made sin.
3. See Him thus in the garden and at Calvary (Mark 14:33).
 - a. "Sore amazed" (Matt. 26:33).
 - b. "Exceeding sorrowful" (Luke 22:44).
 - c. In an agony (Matt. 26:37).
 - d. "Very heavy" (Luke 22:44).
 - e. "Great drops of blood" (Matt. 26:39).
4. Note this was all for us.

III. The divine purpose.

1. Made the righteousness of God, i.e., absolute, solid, divine righteousness.
2. Note test—it is all "in Him."

The Portion of the Ungodly

"Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flames: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it" (Isaiah 47:14).

As truly as these words were fulfilled concerning Babylon, so surely will the judgment of wicked men be executed by the righteous Judge.

- I. The punishment of the wicked. "They shall be as stubble."
 1. Easily inflicted, like a match to stubble.
 2. Memory and conscience will do their work.
 3. Greatly increased knowledge and powers add to their torment.
 4. Their companionship.

- II. Most searching and terrible punishment. **"The fire shall burn them."**
 - 1. In what the punishment consists.
 - 2. The rectitude of the punishment.
- III. Their inability to deliver themselves. **"A great gulf fixed."**
 - 1. No forgiveness after death.
 - 2. No repentance after the grave.
 - 3. The doom is fixed.
- IV. The portion of the lost is comfortless.
 - 1. To think of God, heaven and loved ones there.
 - 2. With an eternity to dwell upon lost opportunities.
 - 3. With no hope of deliverance—what misery.
- V. God's Trumpet call. **"Behold."**
 - 1. Warning.
 - 2. Intreaty.
 - 3. Welcome.

The Prisoner at Bay

Romans 2:1-16; 3:9-10

- I. The place of judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).
 - 1. The great white throne.
 - 2. The appointed judge (Rom. 2:13-16).
 - 3. The prisoner at the bar (Rom. 3:9-20).
 - 4. The two verdicts.
- II. The indictment.
 - 1. The outraged righteousness of God.
 - 2. The Jew and his broken law.
 - 3. The Gentile and his conscience.
- III. The witnesses.
 - 1. The books were opened.
 - 2. The record of memory.
 - 3. The product of sin.

- IV. The verdict (Rom. 3:9-20).
 - 1. Universality of sin.
 - 2. The closed mouth.
 - 3. The final verdict.
 - 4. Hopeless condition of man.
- V. The sentence.
 - 1. Tribulation and anguish.

Profit or Loss

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
(Mark 8:36, 37).

Some men will cleave to the things of earth to the eternal loss of their immortal soul.

- I. The worth of a soul.
 - 1. Its marvelous capabilities.
 - 2. The inestimable price paid for its redemption.
 - 3. Its immortality.
- II. As the soul is of such inestimable worth, how awful the sin of neglecting its salvation.
 - 1. A sin against light and reason.
 - 2. An unpardonable sin against one's self.
 - 3. The greatest sin against Almighty God.
- III. Who then are guilty of so great a crime? (Romans 3:10).
- IV. What is the remedy?
 - 1. "Jesus only" (Matt. 17:8).
 - 2. "No other name given . . ." (Acts 4:12).
 - 3. "The Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6).

Receiver of Sinners

"And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them" (Luke 15:2).

- I. "This man"—Our Lord a real man.
 - 1. This man has often visited our earth apart from His Saviourship (Gen. 32:24, 28, 29; Judges 13:6, 10, 18, 21; Isa. 32:1, 2; 53:3).

2. Brother born for adversity (Prov. 17:17).
3. Friend that sticketh closer than a brother (Prov. 18:24).
4. Amidst a dejected church (Zach. 1:8).
5. In Daniel 12 (Psa. 80:17; I Tim. 2:5; Ezek. 40; Rev. 21).

II. This man receiveth sinners.

1. The only obstacle—unbelief (II Cor. 4:3, 4; Matt. 12:31, 32).
2. As many great sinners are saved and go to heaven as ever go to hell.
3. Illustrate with Abraham, Moses, David, Noah, Paul, Peter, Bunyan, Muller.

III. He eateth with them.

1. Fellowship.
2. Communion.
3. A feast (Rev. 3:20).

Saul as a Skeptic

"And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest" (Acts 9:1).

I. Why was Saul converted?

1. He was an honest infidel.
2. He studied the Scriptures.
3. He yielded to the truth when he found it.

II. How was Saul converted?

1. The character and conduct of Stephen bore testimony.
2. The prayer of Stephen.
3. He met Jesus.
4. He surrendered to Jesus.

III. The result.

1. He became a transformed man. (Saved from and to).
2. He became a mighty power for God.
3. The priceless blessings he received.
4. He obtained a blessed hope.
5. He obtained an inheritance.

Short Beds and Narrow Clothing

"For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it" (Isaiah 28:20).

- I. The beds men make can never afford refreshing rest.
 1. The figure used.
 2. The bed of gold and silver.
 3. The bed of ambition.
 4. The bed of worldly pleasure.
 5. Compared with the clothing of a Christian.
 6. On what are you building for eternal rest?
- II. Narrow coverings.
 1. Intellectual head covering.
 2. Feet protection, walking straight.
 3. Ceremonial trimming.
- III. The only and all-sufficient covering.
 1. "The Lord God made . . ." (Gen. 3:21).
 2. "Behold the fire . . ." (Gen. 22:8).
 3. "When I see the blood" (Ex. 12:13).
 4. "Behold the Lamb . . ." (John 1:29).
 5. "The best robe" (Luke 15:22).

Sin

- I. Entrance of sin.
 1. Into the universe (I John 3:8; Isa. 14:12; Ezek. 28:15).
 2. Into the world (Rom. 5:12).
 3. Into the heart at birth (Psa. 51:5; 58:3).
- II. Essence of sin.
 1. Transgression (passing over a line) (David, Psa. 51:1; Prodigal, Luke 15:29).
 2. Missing the mark (Eph. 2:1).
 3. Iniquity—perverting from true end (Rom. 4:7).
 4. Error—departure from right—going astray (I John 5:17).
 5. Trespass. A falling where one should have stood.
 6. Lawlessness. Spiritual anarchy. Self-will.

7. Unbelief. Insult to truth of God (John 16:9; James 1:15; 4:17; Rom. 14:23; Prov. 24:9; 21:4).

III. Extent of sin.

1. Universal (Prov. 20:9; Gal. 3:22; Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:10-20).
2. None righteous.

IV. Effect of sin.

1. In the world.
 - a. Sorrow.
 - b. Sickness
 - c. Death.
2. In the man.
 - a. Moral ruin.
 - b. Eternal ruin.
 - c. Physical ruin.
3. Hell.

V. End of sin, death (Rom. 6:21, 23; James 1:15; Ezek. 18:4).

VI. What God has done for our sins.

1. Blotted out (Isa. 44:22).
2. Covered (Psa. 85:2; 32:1).
3. Removed (Psa. 103:12).
4. Cast into sea (Micah 7:19).
5. Hid (Hosea 13:12).
6. Cast behind His back (Isa. 38:17).
7. Forgiven, forgotten (Isa. 43:25; Heb. 10:17; Gen. 33:16).

Sin's Wages and God's Gift

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

I. The wages of sin—death (the figure used).

1. What is sin?
2. Death the natural result of sin.
3. The penalty of sin everywhere manifest.

4. All men, in every case, no exemption.
 5. Sin demands its penalty and certainly obtains it.
 6. Sin gets part payment now and full in future.
 7. The consequent grief and misery of sinners awakened.
- II. Only hope for sinners by the miracle of the free gift of God, eternal life.
1. Its nature—the life of God.
 2. How bestowed?
 3. How obtained?
 4. Where obtainable?
 5. By whom obtainable?
 6. The result.
 7. Its consummation.

So Great Salvation

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him" (Hebrews 2:3).

- I. Why salvation is so great.
1. Because of price paid.
 2. Because of soul's inestimable value.
 3. Because of possibilities of a saved soul.
 4. Because none but God could have devised it.
 5. Because it means the defeat of sin, death and hell.
 6. Because joy in heaven as in God's heart.
 7. Because of present and eternal joy of the saved.
- II. No escape from judgments of God if we neglect so great salvation.
1. No escape from sin's power and penalty.
 2. "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23).
 3. The sure law of retribution.
 4. Whatever you sow, you reap (Gal. 6:8).
 5. No escape from eternal woe.

III. God's salvation escape is Christ, from:

1. Damnation of hell.
2. Great tribulation.
3. Judgments of God.
4. Sudden destruction.
5. Ruined life.
6. Wretched past.
7. Sin, death, hell.

Christ is the way to peace, pardon, power, life, joy, heaven.

Son Remember

"But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented" (Luke 16:25).

1. A noted man (verse 19).
2. A wasted life—clothing, food, comfort, luxury.
3. An unfaithful steward—time, talents, influence, substance.
4. A soul unprepared for death—no preparation for greatest event.
5. Death does not end all.
6. As death finds us, so eternity keeps us (Eccl. 11:3).
7. Soul real seat of suffering.
8. Memory never dies.
9. Would turn evangelist too late (verse 27).
10. Rich man in hell because he was an unbeliever.
11. Faith in reality of hell does not save (James 2:19).
12. Now is the accepted time (II Cor. 6:2).

The Voice of the Blood

"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than that of Abel" (Hebrews 12:24).

- I. Unfolding of doctrine of the blood that speaketh.
 1. The passover—the sprinkled blood.
 2. Calvary—the substitutional blood.
 3. Mercy seat—blood speaking for believers.
 4. The blood—the eternal ground of joy.

- II. The blood of Abel and Christ contrasted (Gen. 4:10).
1. Abel's offering speaks of Christ, the Lamb of God.
 2. Abel's blood speaks of three things—so does the blood of Christ.
 - a. Abel's blood cries for vengeance (Gen. 4:15). Christ's blood cries mercy for rebels.
 - b. Abel's blood cries for vengeance on one man. Christ's blood mercy for a vast multitude.
 - c. Abel's blood cries vengeance for Cain's one transgression. Christ's for many transgressions.
 3. Abel's blood speaks for all time to all men (Heb. 11:4).
 - a. It told of a sacrifice for sin and of his sealing his faith with his blood.
 - b. Christ's blood speaketh better things (Heb. 12:24). It tells of sin being put away.
 4. Abel's blood spoke in terrible justice to Cain's conscience (Gen. 4:13, 14). Christ's precious blood speaks peace to the guilty conscience.
 5. Abel's blood cried effectively, continually. So also Christ's.
 6. Abel's blood cries for justice, vengeance, death. Christ's speaks of mercy, pardon, love, forgiveness, peace, life and heaven.

We Preach Christ Crucified

"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God"
(I Cor. 1:23, 24).

- I. A gospel proclaimed.
 1. Christ anointed, sent.
 2. Christ crucified, Saviour.
- II. A gospel rejected.
 1. By the Jews, the religionist, the formalist, the ritualist.
 2. By the Greek, the philosophical, the man of science, etc.

- III. A gospel received.
 - 1. By the called out of the Jews and Greeks.
 - 2. The general call, the particular call.
- IV. A gospel triumphant.
 - 1. Christ proves the power of God in the called one's life for every holy demand.
 - 2. Christ makes wise men out of the world's foolish.
- V. A gospel appeal.

What Think Ye of Christ

*"Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him,
The son of David" (Matt. 22:42).*

- I. Old Testament witnesses (Acts 10:43).
 - 1. The seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15).
 - 2. The offering of Isaac (Gen. 22).
 - 3. The passover lamb (Ex. 12).
 - 4. The brazen serpent (Num. 21).
 - 5. The passion (Ps. 22).
 - 6. The Messiah (Isa. 53).
 - 7. The Messiah cut off (Dan. 9:26).
- II. Enemies of Christ.
 - 1. Pharisees and Sadducees (Luke 15:2).
 - 2. Pilate and his wife (Matt. 27:19, 24).
 - 3. Judah (Matt. 27:4).
 - 4. Centurian (Matt. 27:54).
 - 5. Thief (Luke 23:41).
 - 6. Demons (Mark 5:7).
- III. Friends of Christ.
 - 1. John (John 1:29).
 - 2. Peter (Acts 2:36; 4:12).
 - 3. Thomas (John 20:29).
 - 4. Woman of Samaria (John 4:29).
 - 5. Paul (Phil. 3:8).
 - 6. Angels (Luke 2:14).
 - 7. God, the Father (Matt. 3:17; Luke 9:35).
- IV. What think ye?

The Widow of Nain

Luke 7:11-15

- I. A broken-hearted mother.
 1. Many such today.
 2. Friends of those spiritually dead sorrow over their condition.
 3. Had lost her help and stay.
 4. No fellowship.
 5. The awful future of lost causes sorrow.
- II. A sympathizing friend.
 1. The Lord met the funeral procession.
 2. He took in all at a glance.
 3. His heart went out in sympathy, "weep not."
 4. He stood still, the hush.
- III. An omnipotent Saviour.
 1. He came near.
 2. He touched.
 3. He called the spirit back.
 4. Gave command.
 5. The wonder wrought.

***All Have Sinned***

1. Job (Job 42:6).
2. David (Ps. 51:5)
3. Isaiah (Isa. 6:5).
4. Habakkuk (Hab. 3:16).
5. Peter (Luke 5:8).
6. Paul (I Tim. 1:15).

This Man

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God" (Hebrews 10:12).

1. A glorious person.
2. A glorious work.
3. A glorious result.

Sinners in the Place of Distance

1. Prodigal son (Luke 15).
2. Rich man (Luke 16).
3. Lepers (Luke 17).
4. Publican (Luke 18).

Seven Absolute Certainties

"Pilate saith unto Him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in Him no fault at all" (John 18:38).

1. An absolute difference between right and wrong.
2. A man ought to make a diligent search to find out what truth is.
3. A man ought to obey at once the truth he discovers.
4. Every man needs a Saviour.
5. Christ does save the believer.
6. None but Christ does save.
7. The most satisfactory life is that of a true Christian.

Concerning Doors

1. Sin crouching at the heart's door (Gen. 4:7).
2. Judgment to one; mercy to the other, when God shuts the door (Gen. 7:16).
3. And the door was shut (Matt. 25:10).
4. The right of the Master to shut His own door (Luke 13:25).
5. Mercy's door still open (Rev. 3:20).

"He That Believeth"

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

1. Saved.
2. Believe.
3. Condemned.
4. Baptized.

Three Handwritings

1. On tables of stone; law (Ex. 34:1).
2. On plaster wall; judgment (Dan. 5:5).
3. On the cross; atonement (Matt. 25:37).

Why Will Ye Die?

"As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

(Ezekiel 33:11).

1. Existence without God is death.
2. To live such an existence means irretrievable loss.
3. Never to live unto God means an eternal continuity of such an existence.
4. God does not will such a calamity.
5. How this calamity can be averted.

Salvation

Titus 2:11-13

1. The great fact stated (verse 11).
2. Its present consequence (verse 12).
3. Its future consummation (verse 13).

The Sinner's Shortcomings

1. Come short (Rom. 3:23).
2. Found wanting (Dan. 5:27).
3. Without strength (Rom. 5:6).

Four Things in Connection with the Lamb

1. The blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:14).
2. The book of the Lamb (Rev. 21:27).
3. The marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7).
4. The wrath of the Lamb (Rev. 6:16).

Behold the Lamb of God

John 1:29

1. The Lamb from God—tells of God's love.
2. The Lamb for God—tells of God's justice.
3. The Lamb for men—tells of God's grace.

What Think Ye of Christ?

Matthew 22:42

1. As to His pedigree.
2. As to His purity.
3. As to His passion.
4. As to His power.

Four Types of the World in the Old Testament

1. Babylon—religion.
2. Egypt—sorcery.
3. Sodom—wickedness.
4. Jericho—world under judgment.

The Final Great Open-Air Prayer Meeting

Revelation 6:15-17

1. A day termed "the day of His wrath" has come.
2. No station, nation, creed, or claim now counted.
3. Fear, terror, and anguish the common lot.
4. Deliverance from the face of our insulted Saviour—their supreme desire.
5. Their prayers, tears and efforts all unavailing.

Is It Well?

II Kings 4:26

1. Is it well with thee?
2. Is it well with thy husband?
3. Is it well with the child?

Divine Mercy

"For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds"
(Psalm 57:10).

1. Its amazing greatness into the heavens overtopping sin.
2. Wide as the sky.
3. Deep abiding, sure. God's mercy reaches to the heavens as a:
 - a. Throne.
 - b. Ladder.
 - c. Rainbow.
 - d. Mountain.

Part Two

DEVOTIONAL

The Altogether Lovely One

"His mouth is most sweet; yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem"
(Song of Solomon 5:16).

Introduction: The preciousness of His love, His glorious work, His adorable Person.

- I. In what loveliness consists.
 1. Completeness.
 2. Perfect proportions.
 3. Attractiveness.
 4. General perfection.
 5. Christ is all this and infinitely more.
- II. The text only true of one Person.
 1. He is lovely.
 2. All in Him are lovely.
 3. He is all that is lovely.
 4. There is nothing unlovely about Him.
 5. He is altogether lovely.
- III. His loveliness is perpetual.
 1. He ever was, is, and shall be lovely.
 2. Lovely under every and all conditions.
 3. Lovely in all His attributes and ministry.
 4. Lovely under trial, suffering and death.

- IV. "Altogether lovely" inadequate to express His glorious perfection.
 - 1. No mortal tongue, no language, no power to express His perfections.
- V. What His loveliness suggests.
 - 1. His amazing condescension in loving the unlovely.
 - 2. His amazing love demands our all.
 - 3. The amazing fact that we shall see Him as He is and be like Him.

The Anointing Oil

The ordinance of the anointing oil was one of the most common and significant in the Old Testament: the leper, the tabernacle, the priest, the prophet, kings, etc. Anointing is full of significance. The anointing oil is a special symbol of the Holy Spirit and the dedication of person anointed.

- I. The preparation of anointing oil (Ex. 30:23-33).
 - 1. Specially prepared. The different ingredients, chiefly perfumes mixed with oil.
 - a. Oil—Holy Spirit.
 - b. Fragrance—Christ.
 - 2. The same blessed Spirit that dwelt in Christ is in the believer (Rom. 8:9).
 - 3. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22. Comp. I John 2:6, John 8:29).
- II. Oil was sweet and fragrant (Ex. 30:23). Those anointed should thus bear the fragrance and sweetness of heaven (Phil. 4:8).
- III. No imitations to be made (Ex. 30:37). The Holy Spirit cannot be imitated (Lev. 10:1; Acts 8:20; Ex. 30:32).
- IV. Oil not for the natural man.
 - 1. Anointing oil set apart for holy ones (Rom. 12:1; I Cor. 3:17).
 - 2. Spirit's work to cleanse, separate, dedicate; have full possession; use.

Approved Workmanship

II Corinthians 6

- I. The workman.
 1. In union with Christ, a recipient of the grace of God (verse 1).
 2. Of the family of God, the household of faith (verse 18).
See also I Pet. 2:9, 10; I Cor. 3:9, 10; II Tim. 2:15, 16; I Tim. 4:16.
- II. The workman's work.
 1. Ambassadors for Christ (verse 20).
 2. Ministers of God (verse 4).
 - a. A sublime mission.
 - b. A solemn responsibility.
 - c. A supreme opportunity.
- III. The workman and his work evidenced of God.
 1. By ability to endure the 10 proofs of verses 4 and 5.
 2. By the 18 approved evidences of verses 6-10.
 3. By separation from all unequal yokes, errors and fellowships (verses 14-18).

At Jesus' Feet

- I. Pardon (Luke 7:38).
The sinful woman (verses 37, 47-50).
- II. Peace (Luke 8:35).
The pardoned soul at peace and rest at Jesus' feet.
- III. Praise (Luke 17:16).
One leper returned and gave thanks falling at Jesus' feet (Luke 17:17-19).
- IV. Power (Luke 10:39).
At Jesus' feet listening to His Word is the place of power.

Not at Jesus' Feet

- I. Martha's service irksome and burdensome (Luke 10:40).
- II. Wrong thoughts of God. "Dost Thou not care?"
- III. Wrong thoughts of her sister "she hath left me alone."
- IV. Doubts her Lord.

The Beauty of the Gospel

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"
(Isaiah 52:7).

- I. The beauty of the truths of the gospel.
 1. The personal attributes and glory of God revealed in the gospel.
 2. Beautiful because of its mission.
 3. Beautiful because of the sublime hopes, assurances and inheritance it reveals.
- II. The beauty of the influence it exerts.
 1. Its power to change and mould character.
 2. Its effect amidst paganism and heathenism.
 3. Unlike war, trade, etc.
- III. The beauty of being a messenger to this people.
 1. A messenger of peace to besieged garrison.
 2. A messenger of comfort and joy to sad and sorrowing.
 3. A messenger of life to those in condition of death.

The Beauty of the Lord

1. The beauty of His person (Song of Solomon)
2. The beauty of His power (His miracles).
3. The beauty of His preaching (Sermon on the Mount).
4. The beauty of His patience (with His disciples).
5. The beauty of His passion (Calvary).
6. The beauty of His promises.
7. The beauty of His presence.

Bride Leaning on Her Beloved

"Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth that bare thee"
(Song of Solomon 8:5).

Introduction: Her delightful communion, she charges that it be not broken (verse 4).

- I. The bride and her beloved Bridegroom.

- II. Her attitude towards him, leaning.
 - 1. Conscious of nearness of divine supporter.
 - 2. Casting her weight upon Him.
 - 3. The desirable posture, leaning on Him.
- III. Reasons for leaning.
 - 1. Not always wise to trust other by leaning.
 - 2. The Beloved can be trusted and the bride, because she is weak, needs to lean.
 - 3. Because the way is long.
 - 4. The way is perilous.
 - 5. Uphill.
 - 6. She needs him because leaning on him separates her from old loves.
 - 7. She had learned his strength therefore she leaned.
- IV. Who is the leaner?
 - 1. Her name was "outcast" but now Hephzibah—"The Lord delighted in her."

But We See Jesus

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9).

- I. We see Jesus.
 - 1. As to His pre-existence.
 - 2. As Creator.
 - 3. As the angel of the covenant.
 - 4. As to His incarnation, His perfect humanity, His life on earth.
 - 5. Made sin at Calvary.
 - 6. His resurrection, ascension, coronation, coming again.
 - 7. In all His perfection.
- II. We see Jesus, "but."
 - 1. Amidst darkest surroundings, gloom and temptation (verse 8).
 - 2. The hope and answer to sin, sorrow and death.

3. The friend for child, youth, manhood and old age.
- III. We see Jesus.
 1. Prophetically.
 2. Providentially.
 3. By faith.
- IV. We see Jesus.
 1. As the coming King of Glory.
 2. As the Judge of the wicked.

Called to God's Eternal Glory

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us into his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you" (I Peter 5:10).

Introduction: Inability of a mortal to speak adequately of glory.

- I. Eternal glory the destiny of the elect of God.
 1. Nothing short of glory.
 2. This glory has been promised (Ps. 73:24; 84:11).
 3. A glory to which we are the "called" (I Pet. 5:10; I Thess. 2:12).
 4. Glory joined with justification (Rom. 8:30).
 5. For this glory we are being prepared (Rom. 9:23; II Cor. 4:7; 3:18).
 6. Fellowship with Christ a guarantee of this glory (Rom. 8:17).
 7. We are to be brought to glory (Heb. 2:10).
 8. This glory pertains to our whole redeemed manhood (I Cor. 15:43; Phil. 3:21).
- II. In what the saints glory consists.
 1. What does the world count glory?
 2. Queen of Sheba went to see glory of Solomon.
 3. A purified character.
 4. A perfected manhood—what Adam lost.
 5. Complete victory and triumph.
 6. Glory—the divine approbation.

7. Reflecting the divine glory.
8. Our eternal relationships in glory partly constitute it.
9. Never out of the glory of His face.
10. The enjoyment of God Himself.

III. What the consequent influence upon heart and life.

1. Should excite desire.
2. Should fear lest we come short.
3. Should excite lifelong gratitude.
4. Should excite dauntless courage.
5. Persuasive influence.

Christ the Believer's Center

"It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth; I held him, and brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me" (Song of Solomon 3:4).

Introduction: Note the words, "I passed from them." The world, even the fellowship of the best of saints is lacking; Christ alone can satisfy.

I. Love in fellowship. "I found Him."

1. It was Himself I found.
2. I got beyond men, means and things.
3. I beheld His person.
4. My heart found peace and rest in Him.
5. I could say, "My beloved is mine, and I am His."
6. I found my all for earth and heaven.

II. Love in possession. "I held Him."

1. Heart's resolve was never to lose Him.
2. Amidst my timidity and fear I pleaded that He would never withdraw from me.
3. I pleaded my joy, my protection, my all was Himself.
4. By making Him my all, He ever abides my near and constant companion.
5. I hold Him as for my own personal self.

- III. Love bringing Him in. "I brought Him in."
 - 1. We thus bring Him wherever we go.
 - 2. Worship, service, amidst sorrow and sadness.
 - 3. For all joy and pleasures.
 - 4. How we bring Him: His presence, His Word, His interests.
- IV. Thus we see:
 - 1. Christ the Center.
 - 2. Made thus by being brought.
 - 3. He must be cherished.
 - 4. Only by experimental knowledge is such truth appreciated.

***Christ and the Holy Spirit in
the Book of Proverbs***

II Chronicles 1:7-12; Luke 11:13

Key word to book of Proverbs is "wisdom." The Hebrew word wisdom similar to the term *logos* in the New Testament. Thus as it is the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ, wisdom symbolizes the Holy Spirit and Christ.

- I. Christ and the Holy Spirit in His personal and primeval glory (Prov. 8:23).
 - 1. This blessed Person before creation (verses 25, 26).
 - 2. Taking part in creation (8:27-30).
 - 3. The blessed Trinity thinking of and caring for the sons of men from the very beginning (31).
 - 4. The blessed God in Providence (15, 16).
 - 5. Take heed to His voice (32-36).
- II. Wisdom building her house (9:1).
 - 1. We have the seven pillars upon which she builds. Christ building His church upon truth, life, faith, love, power, and hope.
 - 2. See wisdom preparing the sacrifice providing the table—Christ (verse 2).
 - 3. Wisdom inviting a starving world (Psalm 55:1; Prov. 1:20).

- III. Wisdom's message to truth seekers (Prov. 2:1-5).
 - 1. Here is revealed the great truth that God has hidden every precious thing in such a way that reward follows the diligent seeker. Same in nature (Eccl. 1:13; 7:25; Dan. 9:3; Matt. 6:33; 7:7, 8; Col. 3:1; Heb. 11:6, 14; 13:14).
- IV. Wisdom revealing the true treasures (Prov. 3:13-18; 8:10, 11, 18-21).
 - 1. Like Solomon, let us see with single-hearted wisdom, then Christ by His Holy Spirit will become to us all things (I Cor. 1:30).

The Church's Great Need

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts"
(Zechariah 4:6).

- I. He is the quickener of souls.
 - 1. Regeneration not reformation.
 - 2. All preaching and work of little value unless Holy Spirit moves.
 - 3. The quickener of Christians too.
- II. The Holy Spirit the illuminator.
 - 1. We have the letter of inspiration but we need the divine Illuminator.
 - 2. The great Unfolder of truth.
- III. Holy Spirit creates spirit of adoption.
 - 1. Not slavish fear, but that of sons, until we cry "Abba, Father."
- IV. He is called the spirit of holiness.
 - 1. He makes believers holy.
 - 2. Where He reigns there is holiness.
 - 3. A Spirit-controlled Church—a holy Church.
- V. The spirit of grace and supplication—prayer His native element.

VI. Where He rules—fellowship.

1. Love.
2. Unity.
3. Peace.
4. Concord.

VII. He Himself the Comforter.

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:25-35

I. A disciple of Christ.

1. Difference between believer and disciple.
 - a. What constitutes a believer (I John 4:15).
 - b. Believer saved without works (Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5).
 - c. Saved the moment he believes (John 6:47).
2. Disciple—learner, one who sits at Jesus' feet, learns, obeys, confesses Him Lord and Master, lives to do His will.

II. How to become a disciple.

1. All natural affection must take secondary place and Christ ever be first (verse 26; Phil. 1:21).
2. He must deny self (verse 27; Matt. 16:24). Must bring everything into captivity (II Cor. 10:5).
3. He must bear his cross. While crucified by imputation, he must die daily and reckon himself dead (Rom. 6:11). Judicially, he is dead, actually, he must die (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 3:10).
4. He must follow Christ, not only learn of Him but learn Him (Eph. 4:20; Matt. 11:28; I Pet. 2:21).

III. Counting the cost (verses 28-33).

1. It costs nothing to be a believer (Rom. 6:23).
2. The great cost of discipleship—denial of self.
3. Many believers on Christ build nothing (I Cor. 3:11-15).

IV. Question of salt (verses 34, 35).

1. The one thing that is essential in salt.
2. The Church thus ordained (Matt. 5:13).
3. Salt preserves from corruption. Church in spite of all failure, preserves the world from immediate destruction.
4. Holy Spirit in believer and Church gives savor, pungency and power (Eph. 3:20).
5. Sadly possible to resist, grieve, quench the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30).
6. The savorless life of many—only fit to be cast out (Rev. 3:16).

V. Lesson points.

1. Discipleship—fellowship.
2. As a believer to follow Him proves our love to Him.
3. Discipleship—not foundation, but what we build thereon.
4. Beginning as believers we should go on as disciples.
5. Cost of discipleship is compensated by power for service.
6. Pungent Christianity like salt.
7. Savorless Christian like useless salt.

A Divine Call to Service

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"
(Matthew 4:19).

I. "Follow Me."

1. The great preparation for service—not college, creed or training.
2. This entails separation from and to.
3. Also an abiding with Christ.
4. Obedience to Christ.
5. Teach, live and practice as He did.

II. "And I will make you."

1. Christians are born and servants are made by the Lord Himself.
2. Made partakers of His wisdom, grace and power.

III. What He will make His sincere followers.

1. A fisherman because he cannot see the fish, has to be trustful and dependable.
2. His very livelihood depends upon his diligence and perseverance.
3. A good fisherman is clear-headed, tactful and on the watch.
4. Real labor necessary.
5. A brave daring calling.
6. All this a true follower becomes.
7. "I will make you."

Divine Consolations—An Inquiry

"Are the consolations of God small with thee? is there any secret thing with thee?" (Job 15:11).

I. The inquiry.

1. The will of God for His children is joy. Morbidity, despondency, apprehension and dread are not the expressions of healthy life in Christ.
2. What are some of the consolations of God?
 - a. Out of hell.
 - b. On your journey home to heaven.
 - c. A blood-bought child of God.
 - d. Such a Saviour.
 - e. Such temporal blessings.
 - f. Such spiritual fellowship.

II. What has been the effect of the consolations?

1. Have they made us holier and happier?
2. Is there advance, growth and increase?
3. Do we feel a consciousness of greater desire for the means of grace—consolation?
4. Is there an up and down experience?
5. Have we fully submitted?
6. Watch Satan's deceits to draw you away to spoil your appetite.
7. Never turn from God for consolation.

- III. Can any such consolations as the divine be found?
 - 1. Have you found something new of worth?
 - 2. Have you become so strong as to do without divine consolations?
 - 3. Are you a fatalist regarding the matter?
- IV. Let us diagnose the trouble.
 - 1. Is some sin allowed?
 - 2. Is some duty neglected?
 - 3. Is some idol taking God's place?
 - 4. Has God the full and first place?
 - 5. Has self-satisfaction taken root?
 - 6. Is there unbelief and mistrust?
- V. The way of restoration.

Divine Consolations

"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her" (Hosea 2:14).

Introduction: A revelation of God's sovereign grace.

- I. The reasons for gracious operations of God's grace.
 - 1. "Therefore" relates to preface.
 - 2. "Behold"—divine grace in operation.
 - 3. Truly God's ways are higher than our ways.
- II. The way of divine dispensations. See text, "I will allure her" etc.
 - 1. Wilderness—conviction, sense of desolation, destitution, affliction, loneliness, desert.
- III. Divine consolations. "Speak comfortably" etc.
 - 1. I will speak.
 - 2. How comfortable are God's words.
 - 3. Effectual consolation.
 - 4. Full and satisfying.
- IV. The manner of God's allurings.
 - 1. Enticements.
 - 2. As parent with child.
 - 3. His gentleness, His patience, His kind providences.

Divine Encouragement

"Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me" (Isaiah 44:21).

- I. "Thou art my servant."
 1. A practical designation, "my servant," action and service, heart and hands, time and talents.
 2. A personal title.
 3. An exclusive title.
 4. An honorable title.
 5. Revealing divine acceptance.
- II. The consequent divine promise.
 1. Reveals His constant mindfulness.
 2. The Lord is the Friend of His servants, delights to bestow benefits and blessings upon them.
 3. The Lord will make known His mind and commune with His servants.
 4. His changeless love for His servants increasing with age.
- III. The reasons why.
 1. Because He says it.
 2. He formed, fashioned, elected His servants.
 3. The past blessing is a pledge for the future.
 4. Because of what the servant cost Him.
 5. Because His heart is full of love and beneficence.

Divine Faithfulness and Human Unbelief

"If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself" (II Timothy 2:13).

Introduction: This is one of Paul's faithful sayings. See other four: I Tim. 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; Titus 3:8.

- I. A sad possibility.
 1. The whole human race.
 2. Rulers—this counts greatly with men. Have any rulers believed?

3. Leaders of thought, philosophers, scientists, politicians, etc.
 4. Public opinion, the majority.
 5. Religious leaders.
 6. What of ourselves?
- II. A consoling assurance.
1. He abideth.
 2. He abideth faithful.
 3. Pledged to keep His own even though they are unbelieving.
 4. The believer's preservation depends upon divine faithfulness.
 5. His Word, His covenant, His promise, His oath, abideth faithful.
- III. A glorious impossibility.
1. This is one of the things God cannot do.
 2. It tells us He cannot change.
 3. He never alters.
 4. Can never cancel covenant of grace.
 5. The atoning sacrifice unalterable.
 6. Mercy-seat ever accessible.
 7. His love always full, strong and free.
 8. His providence assured.
 9. His offices: advocate, intercessor, priest and king.
 10. His attributes.
 11. His character.
 12. His promised return.

Divine Guardianship

"I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day" (Isaiah 27:3).

Introduction: Nothing more encouraging than to dwell upon the divine promises.

- I. The need of divine guardianship reveals the presence of foes.
 1. Human foes.
 2. Spiritual foes.

3. One's own evil heart.
- II. The divine guardianship revealed by perpetual watchfulness.
 1. A heart that feels and loves.
 2. An eye that sees perfectly.
 3. An unceasing vigilance (Psalm 121:4).
- III. The divine guardianship is seen by the constant refreshment afforded.
 1. God thus pictured supplying constant grace.
 2. A picture of the vine being nourished and fed.
 3. His tending is continual, gracious, helpful.
- IV. The divine guardianship discovers Jehovah's emphatic, active, unceasing and effectual care for His elect people.

Divine Intensity

- I. Our Lord's intensity of regard for His friends (Luke 10:41).
 1. Christ is here known and loved but He is not first.
 2. Our Lord craves first place.
 3. The Lord's table today and prayer.
- II. The intensity of warning (Luke 22:31).
 1. Peter in peril, Christ warns.
 2. Our business to warn today.
- III. The intense call to unconverted (Acts 9:4).
 1. Our Lord, whether before or after Calvary, is intensely in earnest.
- IV. Self-Sacrifice (Gen. 22:11).
 1. Intensely desirous to save Abraham.
 2. See His intensity (John 3:16).
 3. See what intensity should be ours (I John 3:16).
- V. Holiness (Ex. 3:4).
 1. The shameless insult to Jehovah of higher criticism when we remember the very ground is holy where God is.

VI. Soul winning (Matt. 23:37).

1. When Christ sees a city gone to evil He weeps. He could have reformed it but that was not His mission, nor is it ours.
2. We are here to bring men to Christ.
3. His intense zeal cost Him His life where He wept.

VII. Prayer (Matt. 27:46).***The Divinely Appointed Ambassador***

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

(II Corinthians 5:20).

Introduction: Note the positive "we are" of text.

I. His duties.

1. Negatively.
 - a. Not to originate the message.
 - b. Not to seek own interests or glory.
 - c. Not to depart from instructions.
2. Positively.
 - a. To go when and where sent.
 - b. To make clear the mind represented.
 - c. To maintain at all costs the honor of represented.
 - d. The interests of the empire he represents to take precedence.
 - e. To aim at bringing his country to the highest prestige and respect.

II. The message.

1. Christ's full and proper deity (verse 19).
2. Gospel of regeneration (verse 17).
3. Imputed righteousness (verses 19-21).
4. Reconciliation on the ground of Christ's death and resurrection (verse 15).
5. Eternal security in Christ.

- III. How message is to be delivered.
 - 1. With intense zeal and earnestness.
 - 2. With godly love and sympathy.
 - 3. With pleadings and beseechings.
 - 4. All enforced by godly life.
- IV. How the faithful ambassador is to be regarded.
 - 1. As standing in Christ's stead.
 - 2. Obedient (Heb. 13:7, 17).
 - 3. Esteemed and loved (I Thess. 5:13).

The Emmaus Episode

Luke 24:13-35

- I. Blessed companionship on the pilgrim way.
 - 1. The two were returning home like defeated warriors.
 - 2. Little did they know what was in store for them as they conversed.
 - 3. Our Lord drew near and walked with them but they knew Him not.
- II. Their hearts were right although out in their judgment.
 - 1. Their sad hearts because of loss of Him, drew Him to them.
 - 2. He is ever near when His people are cast down and sad (John 11; John 14; Matt. 11:28).
- III. Even though they knew Him not He was at hand.
 - 1. His pledged word never to leave nor forsake His own (Mal. 3:16).
 - 2. Even though He hides Himself He is still near and at the fit moment will reveal Himself.
 - 3. He has His purposes even in His hiding.
- IV. He is at once the great subject and expositor of Scripture.
 - 1. He listens to all their difficulties (verses 17-24).
 - 2. He chides them regarding their doubts.
 - 3. All their sorrow because of unbelief.
 - 4. He confirms their faith in all Scripture.
 - 5. Himself, the theme of Bible.

- V. He reveals Himself.
 - 1. He always goes where love constrains Him to come in.
 - 2. He delights to sup with His loved ones.
 - 3. He always brings more than He takes.
- VI. The sequence.
 - 1. Burning heart.
 - 2. Opened Scriptures.
 - 3. Hastened steps.
 - 4. Emphatic pronouncement.
 - 5. His blest appearing.

Exquisite Music—God's Tender Mercies

"To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us" (Luke 1:77, 78).

Introduction: This joyous song of Zacharias.

- I. The basis of all holy joy is God's tender mercies.
 - 1. Such music suits the ears and satisfies the heart of believing sinners.
 - 2. This is the keynote to all true joy, peace and hope—nought else.
- II. The first chord struck in this exquisite music.
 - 1. God hath visited us, hence blessed.
 - 2. By raising up the Prince of the house of David.
 - 3. By His holy prophets.
 - 4. Thus keeping His promises and covenant and His oath.
 - 5. By the coming of the Child.
- III. The second chord in this exquisite music.
 - 1. Redemption.
 - 2. To give knowledge of salvation.
 - 3. Remission of sins.
- IV. The glory of this exquisite music.
 - 1. The dayspring's arrival—the glory of the morning sun.
 - 2. Bringing light and peace.
- V. The coming great chorus (Revelation 5:12).

The Flaming Sword

"So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life" (Gen. 3:24).

- I. The flaming sword.
 1. The slaying power of the blessed Holy Spirit.
 2. Holy Spirit always honors and works in conjunction with Word of God (Eph. 6:17; I Thess. 1:5; I Cor. 2:10; Heb. 4:12).
- II. The flaming sword. The Holy Spirit directing to Calvary.
 1. Judgment before mercy (Gen. 3:15, 21; Rom. 3:26).
 2. Death before life (John 12:24).
 3. Death and life side of Cross (Gal. 3:10-13).
- III. Work of Holy Spirit to put to death the life of self and sin (Rom. 8:13). Self would force way back to Tree of Life and the appalling results living forever in sin. Flaming sword—Holy Spirit—keeps the way.
- IV. Holy Spirit gives life on the ground of Christ's death to those who surrender and die in and with Christ (Rom. 6:6-10).
 1. Salvation through destruction.
 2. Elevation and coronation through suffering (I Cor. 15:26; Rom. 8:17; II Tim. 2:11, 12). Illustrate—the deluge, passover, Red Sea, Joseph, Daniel, the Lord Jesus.
- V. The only power that enables worship is faith in the promised deliverer.

Four of the Redeemer's Glories

"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12).

Introduction: Our Redeemer has many glories.

- I. First glory, "He hath poured out His soul unto death."
 1. A deliberate act.
 2. Nor did He merely submit.

3. All this He did voluntarily of His own will.
4. He did what He did perfectly, completely wholly.
- II. Second glory, "He was numbered with the transgressors."
 1. By those that slandered Him.
 2. By earthly tribunal.
 3. He endured as transgressors justly endure: privation, loneliness, hunger, thirst.
 4. God thus numbered Him.
- III. Third glory, "He bare the sin of many."
 1. Not because of weakness or personal sin.
 2. Not as a martyr or example, merely.
 3. As man's Saviour, He bore in His own body our sins.
- IV. Fourth glory, "He made intercession for the transgressor."
 1. All His life.
 2. All His heart.
 3. All His ministry.
 4. All His suffering.
 5. All His death.
 6. All His office.
 7. Now in glory.

When He returns again in glory, it will be for saved sinners.

Four New Covenant Rests

- I. Rest from a guilty conscience.
 1. The blood is the ground of it (Col. 1:20; Eph. 1:7; Matt. 11:28).
 2. Faith is the ground of its enjoyment (Rom. 5:1; Heb. 4:3).
 3. The portion of none but the saved.
- II. The rest of fellowship with God.
 1. Sins allowed by believers spoil rest (I John 1:6).
 2. Confessed sins restore rest (I John 1:7; 2:1; 1:9).
 3. The blessedness of fellowship with our Lord (Matt. 11:28).

III. Rest in the coming kingdom.

1. A thousand years of universal peace and rest (Rev. 20:6).
2. All our powers and energies should be centered on this (Heb. 4:11; Matt. 6:33).
3. God's answer to all man's highest hopes and truest heart yearnings.

IV. The rest that remaineth (Heb. 4:9).

1. God and His eternal rest.
2. Christians like Him and with Him enjoy His rest.
3. Some of the delights of the eternal rest.
4. It is perfect.
5. Eternal.

Fruit

"As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste" (Song of Solomon 2:3).

- I. His fruit was sweet unto my taste. Love, joy, peace, strength, sympathy, power, everything lovely.
- II. No fruit apart from union with Christ (John 15:4; Matt. 12:33; Luke 13:6; Jude 12).
- III. Because of vital union with Him. The same delightful fruit (Gal. 5:22).
- IV. Thus His life and ours are one. Our consequent great honor of setting forth His life by bearing the same fruit.

God and His People

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17).

Introduction: The joy of God's elect because of His gracious work for them.

- I. God's relationship to His people. "The Lord thy God."
 1. Their covenant God who keeps His promises.
 2. Their rightful King, deserving loyal obedience.
 3. Their mighty deliverer.

- II. God's presence with His people. "In the midst of thee."
 - 1. For sin (John 19:18).
 - 2. Fellowship (Matt. 18:20).
 - 3. For peace (Luke 24:36).
 - 4. Worship (Rev. 2:1; 1:13).
 - 5. Glory (Rev. 5:6; 7:17).
 - 6. By His divine Spirit.
 - 7. Through His Holy Word.
- III. God's work for His people. "He will save."
 - 1. From the guilt, power and presence of sin.
 - 2. By constant providential care.
 - 3. From error, ignorance, and temptation.
 - 4. From fear of death and dominion of the grave.
- IV. God's delight in His people.
 - 1. True and tender.
 - 2. Full and deep.
 - 3. Perfect and abiding.

God's Fellow-laborers

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (I Corinthians 3:9).

Introduction: This is the age when God is at work.

- I. Regenerated men and women called to labor.
 - 1. Spiritual labor entails spiritual life.
 - 2. Spiritual life discovered in labor.
 - 3. Hearts at rest, hands are busy.
- II. Regenerated men and women are laborers together with one another.
 - 1. There are diversities of gifts.
 - 2. But there is oneness of aim and purpose.
 - 3. Sympathy and fellowship is characteristic.
- III. Regenerated men and women are laborers together with God.
 - 1. The field—the world.

2. It is God's heritage, He calls and sends forth and sustains those thus sent.
3. He has perfect knowledge of needs of the soil.
4. He possesses all necessary instruments, the different gifts, law and gospel.
5. He has the right seed.
6. He controls all circumstances.
7. He has full knowledge of the harvest results.

God's Gentleness

"A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory" (Matthew 12:20).

Introduction: Compare Matthew 12:15-21 with Isaiah 42:1-3. Rebukes passion, exhorts patience. Boasting compared with humility. Ostentation compared with reserve.

- I. The wondrous tenderness of Christ's heart.
 1. As revealed in the text.
 2. A bruised reed is the Christian life out of tune or harmony.
 3. Christ found many such amongst His own immediate followers.
 4. Many such today.
 5. The smoking flax illustrates the faintest evidence of divine life within.
 - a. He never quenches, but feeds, fans, enflames.
 - b. The bruised and smouldering ones have all the tenderness of His heart.
 - c. This is unlike law and unlike the natural man.
- II. The wondrous gentleness of Christ's touch.
 1. The outcome of a gentle heart.
 2. Not only the kind deed needed.
 3. How gentle the compassionate touch.
 - a. Christ's look (Luke 22).
 - b. Christ's voice (John 10).
 - c. Christ's touch (Luke 10).

III. The wondrous patience and forbearance of Christ with broken reeds and smoking flax.

1. Christ alone has this forbearance.
2. Only possible as Christians know and do the will of Christ (Matt. 18:21, 22, 27, 32).
3. Will endure until "He has brought judgment to a victorious issue" (Isaiah 42:4).
4. Marvelous grace, mercy, compassion and love!

God's Sympathy with His People

"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old" (Isaiah 63:9).

Introduction: Those who know God as their Father have all the affectionate sympathy of His profound love.

- I. A profound fact stated.
 1. The negative—Heb. 4:15. Contrast heathen cruelty and divine sympathy; cold unbelief with Christian consolation; modern notions with Scripture truth.
 2. The positive—Heb. 2:18. He feels all sorrow or suffering, —moral, mental or physical.
- II. A profound blessing experienced.
 1. Not theory or accurate scriptural knowledge merely, but experimental knowledge necessary if true comfort is to be enjoyed.
 2. Experimental knowledge proves the reality of divine sympathy.
 3. The unspeakable blessing this experience affords (II Cor. 1:3-6).
 4. Those saints who have been comforters of others have themselves had large experience of divine sympathy.
- III. A profound incentive to Christian fortitude.
 1. The Christian who knows his God is never cast down in utter despair.

2. The Christian learns and reveals patience and fortitude under suffering being sustained by divine sympathy.
3. The Christian comes out of affliction an experienced sympathetic bearer of other's burdens and sorrows.
4. The Christian learns, like his Master, to endure, suffer and bear gladly, manfully the sorrows and afflictions of life, knowing they work out a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

God's Unspeakable Gift

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Corinthians 9:15).

I. God's gift is Christ.

1. The glory of His person.
2. Splendor of His character.
3. Grandeur of His attributes.
4. These all rule out merit or works.
5. Grace reigns when God gives Christ.
6. The work for which God gave Christ is all of grace: His life, His death, His resurrection, His ascension, His advocacy, His return.
7. The two things required in a gift.
 - a. A giver.
 - b. A receiver.
8. Once the gift is received it is ours.
9. Once given, never taken away.

II. Christ is God's unspeakable gift.

1. Why then try to speak of Him?
2. The best spokesman Christ ever had terms Him unspeakable.
3. Great sinners saved thus acclaim Him.
4. Saints of longest experience also.
5. All present should hail Him.

III. This unspeakable gift calls forth praise, acknowledgment and thanks.

1. To know and trust Christ is to praise and thank God.
2. Expression cannot be restrained.
3. Confession and acknowledgment a sure result of acceptance.
4. Praise gives more value to the gift.
5. Our praise will interest others to want to know Him.

A Good Creed

Psalm 23

- I. The Good Shepherd, Jehovah Jesus.
 1. The self-existing One, "I Am," Jehovah.
 2. The Shepherd, the eastern figure. Our Shepherd is faithful, strong, and tender.
 3. "My" all the difference from "the."
 4. I shall not want.
- II. Rest and refreshment (verse 2).
 1. Safety necessary to rest.
 2. Adequate provision.
 3. Obedience to Shepherd's voice.
- III. Restoration.
- IV. Led into paths of righteousness (verse 3).
 1. Willingness.
 2. Watchfulness.
 3. Thoughtfulness.
- V. The valley of the shadow (verse 4).
 1. The many valleys full of shadows.
 2. I will not fear, because I love.
 3. "Thou art with me."
- VI. The rod and staff to comfort.
 1. The rod to defend and correct.
 2. The staff to sustain and restrain.
 3. The crook to pull us out and up.

VII. The banquet (verse 5).

1. Daily providences.
2. Spiritual refreshments.
3. Unmerited desert.

VIII. The divinely appointed escort, goodness and mercy.**IX. Our Father's house forever perfect and eternal.*****A Good Minister of Jesus Christ***

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained" (I Timothy 4:6).

I. What constitutes a good minister of Jesus Christ?

1. Simple trust, confidence or belief in the living God as Saviour (I Tim. 4:10).
2. Soundness in personal character (verse 16).
3. A pure conscience (I Tim. 3:9).
4. Spiritual maturity (II Tim. 2:15, 16).
5. Soundness of doctrine (I Tim. 4:16).
6. Willingness to endure hardness (II Tim. 2:3).
7. Loving loyalty to Christ, His Word, His people and a consuming desire to see souls saved (II Tim. 3:6, 17; 4:2; Jude 22, 23).

II. How such a good ministry is obtainable.

1. By right thinking (II Cor. 10:5; Phil. 4:8).
2. Undivided surrender of whole being to God (Rom. 12:1). "For me to live is Christ."

The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10:14, 15).

Introduction: The Good Shepherd died to save us (John 10:11). The Great Shepherd lives to guide us (Heb. 13:20, 21). The Chief Shepherd comes to give us the crown of glory (I Pet. 5:4).

- I. **The Good Shepherd's complete character.**
 1. Describe the Eastern shepherd.
 2. He owns the flock.
 3. His wealth consists in them.
 4. He is their keeper.
 5. He is their provider.
 6. He is their leader.
 7. He is their defender.
- II. **The Good Shepherd's complete knowledge.**
 1. Christ's knowledge of His own, "as the Father knoweth Me..."
 2. He knows their number, their persons, sorrows, trials, sins.
 3. His knowledge is thus perfect, intimate and all embracing.
 4. Those whom He knows get to know Him (verse 14).
 5. To know Him is to love Him, to obey Him, to trust Him, to honor Him, to serve Him.
- III. **The Good Shepherd's complete sacrifice.**
 1. Repeatedly mentioned (verses 11, 15, 17, 18).
 2. He was ever willing to lay down His life for the sheep.
 3. He did live and now lives for the sheep.
 4. Not only did He live and die for the sheep but He is coming again to take them home—one flock, one Shepherd.

The Good Shepherd and His Flock

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young" (Isaiah 40:11).

Introduction: The Eastern shepherd.

- I. **The Good Shepherd has a flock, "His."**
 1. Given Him of God.
 2. Purchased by His blood.
 3. Ultimately claimed at His coming.

- II. **The Good Shepherd loves His flock.**
 - 1. His desire is towards them (Song of Solomon 7:10).
 - 2. Many waters cannot quench this love (Song of Solomon 8:7).
 - 3. He gave His life for them (John 10).
- III. **The Good Shepherd's tender care.**
 - 1. Gathers the lambs in His arms.
 - 2. Gently leads the older and burdened.
 - 3. Knowing, He feels, and feeling, He cares.
- IV. **The Good Shepherd guides His flock.**
 - 1. He leads—goes before.
 - 2. Leads them out, brings them in, calls them all by name (John 10:3).
- V. **The Good Shepherd guards His flock.**
 - 1. He never slumbers nor sleeps.
 - 2. He conquers every lion.
 - 3. He guards them against their own folly as well as all dangers.
- VI. **The Good Shepherd feeds His flock.**
 - 1. Green, good pastures, still waters, the finest of the wheat, living bread.
- VII. **The Good Shepherd seeks the straying sheep.**
 - 1. When tired, wounded or broken He takes it on His shoulders (Luke 15).
 - 2. Leaves ninety-nine for one gone astray.
 - 3. This is the Good, the Great Shepherd.

A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"

(II Timothy 2:3).

- I. **The good soldier.**
 - 1. Is chosen of God.
 - 2. Must be a new creature.
 - 3. Must be a citizen of heaven.

- II. The good soldier in training.
 - 1. Obedience, loyalty, ambition.
 - 2. Accordingly he strives, labors, suffers, endures, studies, and shuns all folly (verses 4, 5, 15, 16).
- III. The good soldier fitted for active service.
 - 1. Personal strength, character.
 - 2. Willing to endure.
 - 3. Lays aside all weights (verse 4).
 - 4. A single object "to please Him."
- IV. The good soldier rewarded.
 - 1. Teaches others.
 - 2. Crowned.
 - 3. Partaker of fruits.
 - 4. Eternal glory.
 - 5. Live with Him.
 - 6. Reign
 - 7. Honored.

Holiness Unto the Lord

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (I John 2:6).

- I. Every truly converted person should abide in Christ.
 - 1. Because holiness is expected of all believers (II Cor. 5:17, 18).
 - 2. Because it is impossible to live a holy life unless we abide in Christ.
- II. In what does a holy life consist?
 - 1. Doing always those things which please God (I John 2:3-6).
 - 2. In bringing forth the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-26).
- III. How are Christians to attain to this lofty ideal?
 - 1. By studying Christ.
 - a. Spirituality.
 - b. Subjection.
 - c. Sympathy.
 - d. Strength.

2. By exercising themselves unto holiness.
 - a. Prayer.
 - b. Bible study.
 - c. Resisting evil.
 - d. Activity.

Human Needs and God's Sufficiency

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Introduction: God's all-sufficiency to meet every need (II Kings 4:1-7).

- I. The need expressed (verse 1).
 1. Debt, distress, danger (see I Sam. 22: 1, 2).
 2. Child of God in a distressing case "even now."
 3. Man's extremity God's opportunity.
 4. Set out all your needs like empty vessels.
- II. The resources discovered (verse 2).
 1. What hast thou?
 2. God makes use of what He has given us.
 3. All we can ever need at hand: oil—Holy Spirit.
 4. Ours to trust and obey.
- III. The divine condition for supply.
 1. The great secret is, "make room for God."
 2. Bring empty vessels (verse 3).
 3. Bring neighbors' vessels also.
 4. "Not a few"—"according to your faith."
 5. Note "shut door" essential (verse 4).
- IV. The divine method for continual feast.
 1. Having yourself receive life and it abundantly.
 2. "Go," "sell."
- V. Continual supply while faith lasts (verse 6).
 1. Constant supply while faith brings vessels.
 2. "And the oil stayed"—when?

"I Am"

1. "I am the bread of life." Sustenance by holiness (John 6:35).
2. "I am the light of the world." Illumination by holiness (John 9:5).
3. "I am the door." Safety by holiness (John 10:9).
4. "I am the good shepherd." Supply by holiness (John 10:11).
5. "I am the resurrection and the life." Triumph by holiness (John 11:25).
6. "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Progress by holiness (John 14:6).
7. "I am the vine." Fellowship and identity with holiness (John 15:1).

"I Am the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valleys"

Song of Solomon 2:1

Introduction: The same blessed One who said, "I am the vine," speaks of Himself in the text.

- I. Our divine Lord's exceeding delightfulness.
 1. Not only bread and water but all delightfulness.
 2. Note, "I am," He is all now that He ever was.
 3. Not merely as to His office and possessions, but Himself.
 4. Only by the eye of faith can He be thus discerned.
 5. Like the flowers mentioned, all variety and fragrance in Him.
 6. In all this He is the choicest of the choice.
- II. The sweet variety of His loveliness.
 1. The rose—His kingly majesty in suffering.
 2. The lily—His love and purity.
 3. Both—great variety—all beauty of heaven and earth center in Him.
 4. Our whole discernment and the discernment of the whole cannot find out or exhaust Him.

III. All His delightfulness is for all His beloved.

1. Our heavenly Father's garden offers a profusion of flowers.
2. They are to be enjoyed by all, not for an exclusive few.
3. Found amidst the commonplace "plains and valleys."
4. Graciously easy to obtain.
5. Fragrance which fills not only all the house but the world.
6. Unlike roses and lilies, "He dieth no more."

IV. Conclusion.

1. Blind men see no color.
2. Without sense of smell no enjoyment of perfume.
3. The unsanctified see no beauty in Him.
4. What is this wondrous Person to each of us.

The Immaculate Bride

"Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee"
(Song of Solomon 4:7).

Introduction: Other Scriptures which run parallel with this: Col. 1:28; 2:10; John 15:3; Rom. 8:1. What gives us this wondrous standing?

- I. The bridegroom's love.
 1. As the gift of His Father He sees her all fair.
 2. He covers her with His own robe of righteousness (John 17:22).
 3. He sees no spot in His beloved.
- II. His atoning blood.
 1. He dies for every one in the Covenant of Election.
 2. Such are chosen in Christ and to save them He sheds His blood.
 3. Such are accounted clean every whit.
- III. The indwelling Spirit of God.
- IV. Christ's anticipation of what His bride shall actually become (Eph. 5:27).
- V. What grand motives the bride has to make her state more coincident with her standing.

The Impotent Man and the Omnipotent Saviour

John 5:5-8

- I. The case divinely known.
 1. Jesus saw him lying (verse 6).
 2. Jesus knew he had been thus a long time (verse 6).
 3. Jesus knew all about his failures (verse 7).
- II. The divine address to man (verse 6).
 1. Omnipotence dealing with impotence.
 2. No question of *how* or when, "Wilt Thou."
 3. What was the man there for? (verse 4).
 4. Guard against formality and indifference.
 5. Be earnest, opportunity is passing.
- III. The man's complaint (verse 7).
 1. The natural tendency of man is to lean upon man.
 2. He looked to the waters.
 3. Self and self-efforts.
 4. Man and means must be forgotten if God is to work.
- IV. The case divinely met (verses 8 and 9).
 1. All the man's help was in Christ.
 2. Christ always exceeds expectation.
 3. The man divinely encouraged.
 4. He obeys and is delivered.
 5. Power and rest.

Jehovah's Revealed Glory

Psalm 19

Introduction: God has given a revelation of His power in nature, but in His holy Word He gives us a revelation of His mind.
His holy Word:

- I. What is it? (Ps. 19:7-10).
 1. The law (Ps. 1:2) as such is perfect as doctrine in all its teachings and claims.
 2. Testimony, as such is "sure," (I Cor. 2:1) Evidence (II Tim. 1:8).

3. **Statutes**—principles these are right.
4. **Commandment**—authority, pure, illuminating (John 12:50).
5. The fear of the Lord—Christianity as such is pure and undefiled.
6. The judgments of the Lord—administration, **altogether** true and righteous.

II. What it does.

1. It converts the soul.
2. Makes wise the simple (Ps. 119:130).
3. Rejoiceth the heart (Ps. 119:126).
4. Enlighteneth the eyes.
5. It endureth forever (I Pet. 1:23).

III. What it demands (verse 10).

1. To be valued above gold.
2. To be read and delighted in.
3. To be studied and obeyed.

Leper's Anointing

Leviticus 14

In the law of the leper's cleansing we have the type of Holy Spirit cleansing and setting apart the sinner.

I. The poor leper must be met, welcomed and brought in by priest.

1. The sovereign grace of God set forth. Holy Spirit's work to bring men to Christ.
2. Salvation is altogether of the Lord (Rom. 9:15, 16; Isa. 12:2; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8, 9; John 15:16).

II. Blood, water, oil (Lev. 14:14-18). Atonement, regeneration, consecration.

III. Places of anointing.

1. The ear. Apprehension and reception (Matt. 13:20-23).
2. The hand. Appropriation of faith and holy service (Rom. 5:1; Heb. 4:2; Rom. 10:9, 10).

3. The foot. Steps and ways all dedicated to God (I Pet. 2:21; Prov. 3:5, 6; Gal. 5:16).
- IV. See such a one anointed (verses 17, 18). All the remaining oil poured out. Holy Spirit power given anointed ones.
- V. Christ's all for us.

Life's Necessary Pauses

"Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalm 46:10).

- I. For salvation (Ex. 14:13). To know God in His wisdom, grace, love and power the soul must rest, wait and be still.
- II. For growth (II Pet. 3:18).
 1. Next to life, growth is necessary (Ps. 4:4).
 2. The abiding life ensures growth.
 3. As in nature, so in grace, commune, meditate, rest.
- III. For guidance (I Kings 19:12).
 1. To commune with God and secure guidance, cease from man, din, strife. Be still and wait for God's guidance.
- IV. For deliverance (Mark 4:39).
 1. Trust in the Lord and wait patiently for Him and He shall give thee thy heart's desire (Ps. 37:7).
 2. I had fainted unless I had believed (Ps. 27:13).

The Lord Blessing His People

"Ye are blessed of the Lord which made heaven and earth" (Psalm 115:15).

- I. Blessing for the peculiar people, "ye."
 1. Blessed because of His will so to do.
 2. Proven by daily indisputable evidence.
 3. A people thus blessed known by their God-fearing character (verse 13).

4. This blessing common to all God-fearing people "both small and great."
5. God's blessing to His peculiar people is to them exceeding precious.
- II. Blessing from a peculiar quarter.
 1. Our heavenly Father's blessing.
 2. From the Almighty Creator.
 3. From the infinitely wise, kind and considerate One.
 4. From the omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent One.
- III. Blessing of a peculiar date—"ye are."
 1. Present tense blessing.
 2. Embracing all circumstances.
 3. Positive, present promise.
 4. Covers everything for time and eternity.
- IV. Blessing with a peculiar certainty.
 1. Not "ifs" or "perhaps" but all positives.
 2. Not in word only, but in very deed.
- V. Such blessing involves peculiar duty.
 1. Such duty is comprehensive.
 2. Reasonable.
 3. Beneficial.
 4. Preparatory.

The Mercies of God and Their Appeal to Us to Surrender All

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

Introduction: This verse takes us back to previous "therefore."

1. Justification (3:24; 5:21).
2. Identification (chapter 6).
3. Unification (7:1-6).
4. Sanctification (7:7-25).
5. Emancipation (8:1-17).
6. Glorification (8:18-32).
7. Preservation (8:33-39).

My Beloved Among the Lilies

"My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies. I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies" (Song of Solomon 6:2, 3).

- I. My beloved, who is He?
 1. These are the words of the bride regarding the Bridegroom.
 - a. The Church is here speaking.
 - b. Israel was the vineyard (Isa. 5:1).
 - c. Our Lord at His baptism and transfiguration acknowledged by God as the Beloved.
 2. See the Bride's estimation of her Beloved (Song of Solomon 1:13-15; 2:3-7).
 - a. His readiness to come to her help (2:8, 9).
 - b. Consider their mutual delight (4:8).
 - c. The bride invited the bridegroom (5:6). The bride mourns the loss of the bridegroom (5:6).
 3. In Bridegroom's absence she extolls Him (5:10-16).
- II. His garden—Church in the world.
 1. Here we have sovereign and distinguishing grace.
 2. Garden—fruit trees, choice plants, beautiful flowers.
 3. Church is God's well watered garden.
 4. Garden tended and well kept.
- III. Beds of spices—different churches.
- IV. His going down—king and owner.
 1. He came down to create His garden.
 2. He is coming again to inherit it.
 3. In the meantime He ever has us on His heart.
- V. He feedeth among the lilies.
 1. Lilies—believers. From me is thy fruit found.
 2. He delights to gather the fragrant lives and holy service of His lilies.

The Need and Gift of Divine Power

Isaiah 40:28-31

Introduction: What Israel needed in captivity, the Church of God needs today—power.

- I. Despondency reprov'd (verse 28).
 1. The people's complaint (27).
 2. The prophet's reply (28).
 3. He appeals to their intelligence as well as their consciences and hearts.
 4. He reminds them of Jehovah's attributes.
- II. The weakness turned into strength.
 1. "He" giveth power (29).
 2. Increaseth strength to those conscious of weakness.
 3. If true regarding Israel, how much more so to us since promise of Acts 1:8.
- III. The prevalence of human weakness.
 1. Israel dispirited, dissatisfied, despairing (30).
 2. All God's people liable to it (30).
 3. Expressed in joylessness, half-heartedness, faint-heartedness. Defeat before temptation.
- IV. The divine "but" (31)
 1. Revealing how restoration comes about.
 - a. Waiting—dependence upon God alone.
 - b. Waiting—expectancy.
 - c. Waiting—patiently.
 2. The divine promise "shall renew."
 3. Renewed strength in action.
 - a. Resistance.
 - b. Endurance.
 - c. Steadfastness.
 - d. Joyfulness.
 - e. Faithfulness.
 - f. Perseverance.
 - g. Power.

Our Lord in the Midst

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you" (John 20:19).

- I. The manner of His appearing.
 1. To Mary Magdalene (John 20:16).
 2. To two on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13).
 3. To the eleven (Luke 24:36).
 4. See I Corinthians 15:1-7.
 5. He delighted to thus make Himself known to His loved ones.
 6. He came to those quite unworthy of the great honor.
 7. Note His appearing amidst quiet seclusion from the world.
- II. His attitude when appearing.
 1. He stood.
 2. He speaks.
 3. He revealed Himself.
 4. He opened to them the Scriptures.
 5. They forgot all but Himself in His presence (Luke 24:39).
- III. The effect of His appearing.
 1. They were evermore attached to His blessed Person.
 2. He gave them the great commission.
 3. He breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit (John 20:22).

Our Lord's Omniscience

John 2:23, 24; I Samuel 2:3

Introduction: Unlike ourselves, our Lord judges man not by appearances.

- I. Proofs of our Lord's omniscience.
 1. Nathanael (John 1:47-51).
 2. Nicodemus (John 3).
 3. Woman of Samaria (John 4).

- II. Our Lord's knowledge of man is perfect.
 - 1. He knew his possibilities before the fall.
 - 2. The depths to which man has fallen.
 - 3. Like a physician who truly diagnoses the case, He knows the worst.
 - 4. He also knows the possibilities if healed.
 - 5. He knows the struggles, the heartaches.
 - 6. He knows the power, plans and aims of Satan concerning each man.
 - 7. He knows every one of us here, and every thought.
- III. Knowing all, He loves us and seeks to serve us.
 - 1. Knowing all He does not cast us out or shake us off.
 - 2. Knowing all He applies just the suitable remedy and deals with each accordingly.
- IV. Our omniscient Lord desires us to know Him.

Our Lord's Personal Excellencies

Song of Solomon 5:9-16

Introduction: A man always better than his best works. A tree better than its best fruit—so our all glorious Lord and Saviour.

- I. A pertinent enquiry (verse 9).
 - 1. The language of comparative religionists.
 - 2. Of intellectual curiosity.
 - 3. Of cynical criticism.
 - 4. Of awakened surprise.
 - 5. Of heart's desire.
- II. His excellencies extolled (verse 10). "Chiefest among ten thousand."
 - 1. He is preeminent.
 - a. Among angels and men.
 - b. In all His relationships.
 - c. In holiness, power, glory and love.
 - d. As a friend, teacher, guide and counsellor.
 - e. In all things He must have preeminence.

2. He is altogether lovely—perfect in His Sonship, obedience, reverence and filial love.
 3. His personal qualities transcend all description.
 - a. Perfect in physique, health, beauty.
 - b. Moses for meekness, Job for patience, Daniel for constancy. All these exhibited in all-glorious Redeemer to the full (Phil. 4:8).
 - c. Incomparable in all His offices, Saviour, Advocate, coming King.
- III. The dignity of our personal relationship (verse 16).
1. High personal relationship and consequent appreciation.
 2. Humble, godly appropriation.
 3. True public confession.
 4. Such should lead to godly emotion, meditation, affection, devotion. "This is my Beloved and this is my Friend."

Our Lord's Steadfastness

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51).

Introduction: Our blessed Lord was as resolute as He was submissive in doing the will of God. He had no flint in His blessed heart, but much in His holy face. Consider His stern resolve.

- I. His steadfast resolve tested.
 1. By worldly offers to make Him king.
 2. By the devil (Matt. 4:9).
 3. By friends, Peter and all the disciples and His relatives.
 4. The whole human race against Him.
 5. By taunts, scoffs, derision.
- II. His steadfast resolve sustained.
 1. As a man was dependable for His steadfastness, hence the therefore of Isaiah 50:7. This was due:
 2. To His divine schooling (verse 4).
 3. To His conscious innocence (verse 5).
 4. To the joy that was set before Him (verse 8).
 5. Chiefly to His unshaken confidence in God (verse 9).

- III. His steadfastness our incentive to godly stability. See Psalm 112:6-8; 57:7; 108:1. A fixed heart signifies:
1. An established heart (Ps. 112:8).
 2. A purposed heart (Ps. 17:3).
 3. A determined heart (Acts 4:20; I Cor. 2:2).
 4. Those who keep rank (I Chron. 12:33, 38; I Pet. 5:10).
- IV. The want of heart fixity the road to soul decline.
1. Easily moved and carried away with divers doctrines.
 2. Want of steadfastness the way of Peter's downfall.
 3. "Demas hath forsaken Me having loved...."
- V. To glorify God, fixity of heart and purpose.
1. Heedful, leads to joy, peace, victory.
 2. All great men of God, men of fixed heart and steadfast purpose.
- VI. Our Lord's steadfastness our example.
1. Our purpose should be like His—the glory of God.
 2. Our education and training like His—taught of God.
 3. Our strength is in God as was His (Isa. 50:7, 9).
 4. Our path is that of faith as was His (Isa. 50:10).
 5. Our resolve must be steadfastly maintained to the end as was His.
 6. I Corinthians 15:58.

Our Redeemer Divinely Described

Isaiah 50:2-11

Introduction: When divine call was made for a Saviour of guilty man, there was no answer, so God Himself comes to the rescue. See Him whose picture is here divinely drawn.

- I. Behold the Messiah as God.
 1. He comes in fullness of power, "Is my hand shortened?"
 2. His saving power equal to His destroying power for instance, "I dry up the sea."
 3. His power seen in nature, "I clothe the heavens."

4. Think, He who rebuked the sea, was for us rebuked; He who created blackness, for us endured the same.
5. He who creates and controls earth, sea and sky is our Lord and Saviour.
- II. Behold Him as the divinely appointed Teacher.
 1. Instructed and endowed, "The Lord hath appointed me the tongue of the learned."
 2. He condescends to the needy, "to him that is weary."
 3. Watchful of each case, "that I should know how to speak a word in season"—a rare gift.
 4. Always in communion with God, "He wakeneth me every morning," "He that sent me is with me."
- III. Behold Him as the divinely appointed Servant.
 1. He speaks the words given Him, "He wakeneth my ear to hear."
 2. Consecrated, "hath opened my ear."
 3. Always obedient, "I was not rebellious."
 4. Always persevering, "neither turned away back."
 5. Courageous amidst all.
- IV. Behold Him as the peerless Sufferer.
 1. His entire submission, "back, cheeks, hair, face, etc."
 2. All willingly submitted, "I gave," "I hid not."
 3. His lowly submission, "shame and spitting."
 4. Patient submission, never a reproachful word.
- V. What the glorious One demands of us.
 1. If we say we abide in Him we also ought to walk even as He walked (I John 2:6).

Paul's Desires for the Ephesians

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power" (Ephesians 1:18, 19).

- I. The hope given by God's call.
 1. The nature of God's call (Rom. 8:30; Col. 3:15; I Pet. 3:9; 5:10; Phil. 3:14; Heb. 3:1).

2. The hope given by God's call.
 - a. "We have obtained an inheritance" (verse 11).
 - b. We should be to the praise of Him (verse 12).
 - c. Sealed for Jesus Christ (verse 13; Jude 1).
 - d. Until the redemption of the purchased possession (verse 14).
- II. The riches or wealth of the glory of His heritage.
 1. Our title to it (verse 14; John 17:22; Heb. 9:15).
 2. It is a rich inheritance (Phil. 4:19).
 3. It is a glorious inheritance (Matt. 13:43).
 4. It is the gift of the Father divided up by Christ the Son (Rom. 8:17).
- III. The transcending greatness of His power.
 1. The nature of this power (verse 20; Rom. 8:11).
 2. The sphere of its working, "to usward who believe" (verse 19; Eph. 3:7; Rom. 1:16; I Pet. 1:5; Phil. 3:10, 21).

The Pot of Oil

II Kings 4:2-7

Introduction: After Elijah's fine ministry the beautiful, strong, quiet ministry of Elisha. Like John the Baptist and our Lord Jesus. Interesting to compare our Lord's first miracle with that of Elisha's.

- I. The poor widow's great need (II Kings 4:1).
 1. Debt, distress, danger—a place of extremity.
 2. Just the place where God loves to come in.
 3. Israel in Egypt; Daniel in lion's den; faithful three in fiery furnace.
 4. Remarkable how all the great victories in Scripture reveal God's grace. (See I Cor. 1:27.)
- II. The poor widow's resources (verse 2).
 1. It seemed to her she had "nothing" yet she possessed more than enough. (See I John 4:4; II Cor. 6:10.)
 2. Lesson—use what you possess. (See Gen. 21:19; II Kings 6:17; John 14:12, 17.)

III. Conditions for receiving divine aid (verse 3).

1. The great truth, "make room." Once we feel our need take it to God and then trust Him.
2. "Go sell" (verse 7; also Mark 10:21; Matt. 25:15; Luke 14:12).
3. The Holy Spirit enough for every emergency. (Cp. Luke 11:13; Matt. 7:11).
4. While faith lasted oil flowed (verse 6 and Matt. 9:29; Eph. 3:16).

The Preciousness of Christ

"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious" (I Peter 2:7).

Introduction: The precious things in Peter's letters: faith (I Pet. 1:7); blood of Christ (I Pet. 1:19); promises (II Pet. 1:4).

I. A positive fact stated.

1. He was the precious hope of all Old Testament saints (Heb. 11:13, 26).
2. So precious was Christ to saints of all ages that many have left all, suffered and died for His blessed name—Daniel, Stephen, Polycarp, Ridley, Tyndale, Rutherford, etc.
3. Christ is so precious to many today that multitudes are ready to die for Him.
4. Think of the self denial, patience and sacrifice because of this precious One.
5. He is so precious that to touch Him, His perfections, His Word, is to cut to the quick His followers.

II. The reason why.

1. Because of the worth of His personality and character.
2. Because of His love which has won us.
3. Because of His lavished kindnesses, mercies and grace.
4. Because of what He has done, is now doing and will yet do for us.

III. This is the true believer's test.

1. Christ is precious to him.
2. His person, His Word, His presence—nothing can take their place.
3. "Christ is All."
4. Inquire, is Christ really precious?

The Priceless Legacy

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you, Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

I. The world and all that is of it opposed to true peace because of sin.

1. Its cry of "peace, peace" is false.
2. Sin has brought man into rebellion against the laws of God, such as obedience, confidence, love, wisdom, holiness, health, life.
3. Consequently highest and best of human efforts fail regarding peace—human legislation and laws, education, religion.
4. Earthly honors, fame, riches—all are vanity regarding heart peace.

II. God in Christ the author and bestower of true peace.

1. Peace is God's gift (Col. 1:12).
 2. Heralded by angels (Luke 2:14).
 3. Proclaimed by Christ (Eph. 2:17).
 4. Christ made peace (Col. 1:20).
 5. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).
 6. Outcome of justification (Rom. 5:1).
 7. Consequent upon spiritual mindedness (Rom. 8:6).
- The world needs the Prince of peace.

III. Not only has earth no power to give peace, nor to take it away, but it is also beyond its understanding.

1. Peace is heaven's atmosphere imparted to the soul that believes (John 14:2, 3).

2. Such peace as possessed Christ is the privilege of Christians—"My peace."
3. Peace that is not disturbed by surface ripples (Phil. 4:7).
4. Great peace to those who love God's laws (Psalm 119:165).
5. Perfect peace (Isa. 26:3).

Root, Fruition and Harvest

II Peter 1:1-11

I. The root.

1. Faith (verses 1 and 5).
2. Life through the knowledge of Christ by faith (verse 3).
3. Divine nature (verses 4 and 1).
4. Faith the root that makes grace and peace possible (verse 2). This grace or favor or blessing of God increases as we by faith advance in knowledge of God.

II. Fruition.

1. Faith thrusts its roots into God's promises and draws life, vigor and all necessary elements to grow up into development, or to add to, or to supplement to faith necessary and natural fruit.
2. Only by such fruition can we put beyond doubt God's selection and call of us (verse 10).
3. The kinds of fruit that grow upon the tree of faith.
 - a. Virtue—all Christian graces (I Pet. 2:9).
 - b. Knowledge—of Him, of His heart, His work (verse 8).
 - c. Temperance—control of self; self-mastery.
 - d. Patience—ability to endure.
 - e. Godliness—God-likeness amidst all.
 - f. Brotherly kindness—a heart of feeling for one's true brethren.
 - g. Love—the different kinds of fruits on the tree of faith, living upon the promises of God, all ripe.

III. Harvest.

1. "Neither barren nor unfruitful" (verse 8).
2. Assurance, sure election (verse 10).
3. Overcoming life (verse 10).
4. Great harvest home (verse 11).

The Royal Chamber of Rest

"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him; fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass" (Psalm 37:7).

I. The ascent to this royal chamber.

1. "Fret not thyself"—come in from the wilderness of worldlings and cease hunting trouble.
2. Ascend to rest chamber, "trust and obey" (verse 3).
3. We now reach the banqueting house (verse 3).
4. We ascend still higher to the chamber of delight and desire (verse 4).
5. Still we ascend, "commit thy way and trust" (verse 5).
6. The King's assurances on the way (verses 5, 6).
7. We are now lighted into the royal rest chamber (verses 6, 7).

II. The royal rest chamber examined.

1. Everything that rests the mind is here: stable, fixed, secure.
2. Everything conducive to contentment, satisfaction and peace.
3. Perfect confidence.
4. Submission to all enticements.
5. Patient waiting upon the King.
6. This brings peace and happiness.
7. Expectation and victory.

III. The quality of the rest.

1. In the Lord.
2. Your covenant God.
3. All the blessed relationships.

4. The divine attributes.
5. His gracious Word.
6. His perfect will.
7. This brings to everlasting rest.

Seven Qualities of the Lord's Servants

Luke 12

- I. Girded (verse 35).
 1. Ready.
 2. Strong.
 3. Equipped.
- II. Shining (verse 35).
 1. We give a reflected light.
 2. We are to walk in that light.
 3. Burning and shining lights.
 4. Not to be hid.
 5. God's luminary—His Church.
- III. Waiting (verse 36).
 1. Waiting upon Him.
 2. Waiting for Him.
- IV. Watching (verse 37).
 1. Left in charge.
 2. Everything prepared for Lord's return.
- V. Faithful (verse 42).
 1. Full of faith.
 2. Loyal and true.
 3. Dependable.
- VI. Wise (verse 42).
- VII. Blessed (verse 43).

The Spirit of Burning

Isaiah 4:4; Acts 2:3

- I. Holy Spirit operates in burning up the dross (Isa. 1:25).
Majority of Christians satisfied with low level in experience such as false confidences, unworthy standards, crippling fears, secret sins, unworthy motives.

- II. Holy Spirit not only burns up the chaff but burns in (II Cor. 3:18).
 - 1. The set-apart Christian (Ps. 4:3).
 - 2. Bears the moral characters of Christ in His life and walk (Gal. 5:22).
 - 3. The vessels must go through the fire until the image of Christ is burned in—not painted—burned; chief work of Holy Spirit in believers is to reveal Christ.
- III. Holy Spirit burns on.
 - 1. John Baptist a burning and shining light (John 5:35).
 - 2. To shine for God, the self-life in us must burn up—dross.
 - 3. Burn in Christ-likeness—burn in and on us.
 - 4. Holy Spirit burning in us gives light, cheer, warmth and guidance.
- IV. The judgment seat of Christ (I Cor. 3:12-15).
 - 1. Life, character and works not tested here will be tried at judgment seat of Christ.
 - 2. Rewards according to works awarded; trial by fire.
 - 3. Judge self now and put away all evil—thus escape judgment in coming day.

Spiritual Athletics

I Corinthians 9:24-27

Introduction: The gift and the prize.

- I. The race—the Christian life.
 - 1. Progress (Phil. 3:13, 14).
 - 2. Earnestness.
 - 3. Concentration, “one thing I do.”
 - 4. Endurance (Heb. 12:10). Patient continuance.
- II. The spectators, “A great cloud of witnesses.”
 - 1. God’s eye is upon us.
 - 2. All heaven is interested.
 - 3. The world is watching.
 - 4. Fellow believers are looking on.

III. The contestants.

1. Must be sound in wind and limb.
2. Must have met all entrance rules.
3. Must have knowledge of course.

IV. The training.

1. Entails strict discipline.
2. Willingness and ability to endure hardness.
3. Laying aside everything that hinders.

V. The prize.

1. The greatest honor of the year.
2. Bestowed by the King Himself.
3. Ours an imperishable crown.

Spiritual Mathematics

II Peter 1:5-11

- I. Virtue—manliness (Phil. 4:8; I Pet. 2:9). Daniel, Paul, Luther, Knox.
- II. Knowledge (II Cor. 6:6; 8:7). Necessary for applied virtue (Rom. 10:2; 15:14; Phil. 2:8; Col. 1:9; II Pet. 3:18).
- III. Temperance—self control (Prov. 16:32; I Cor. 9:25).
- IV. Patience—ability to wait on and for God (Heb. 10:36; 12:1; Rom. 5:3, 4; James 1:3).
- V. Godliness—reverence or filial fear—active, practical Christianity (I Tim. 2:2; 4:8; 6:6).
- VI. Brotherly kindness (Col. 3:12).
- VII. Charity—devotion, love (I Cor. 13:1-4).

Application—

1. See the blessedness of the possessor (verse 8).
2. The sadness of non-possessor (verse 9).
3. The divine appeal (verses 10, 11).

Taking Heed to One's Ways

Psalm 39:1-4

- I. A godly engagement (verse 1).
 1. Because of personal benefit "that I sin not."
 2. Because of influence amidst the wicked.

- II. A godly outcome.
 - 1. Stirred or troubled (verse 2).
 - 2. Desires heated (verse 3).
- III. Quiet musing is desirable.
 - 1. By musing we get the good out of divine things.
 - 2. Quiet, godly musing fixes Truth upon memory and heart.
 - 3. It opens up and leads into divine secrets.
 - 4. It begets holy joy and peace.
- IV. Fuel added for meditation.
 - 1. Meditate upon His blessed person.
 - 2. His attributes.
 - 3. His character.
 - 4. Our eternal state and glory.
 - 5. The awful hell to which lost go.
- V. Pent up speech (verses 3, 4).
 - 1. Of God, of eternity.
 - 2. Leads to desirable prayer.

The Trial of Faith—A True Cause for Joy

James 1:2-4

Introduction: The natural man unable to appreciate this.

- I. Faith on trial.
 - 1. Herein the difference between true Christianity and mere religion is proven.
 - 2. How faith is tried, tested (Gen. 22; Job).
 - 3. Early Church and martyrs, examples.
 - 4. Explain how faith is tested today.
- II. Faith tested—a true cause for joy.
 - 1. Seen in the fact that the tried soul possesses faith to try, or test.
 - 2. Because true faith always stands the test; true doctrinally as well as experimentally.
 - 3. Faith victorious in trial puts the flesh in right place and proves Satan a liar,

4. See text—"count it," trial of faith enables us to count correctly.
- III. The trial of faith produces priceless virtues. The hallmark of divine testings.
 1. Patience—note its different qualities.
 - a. It accepts the testings without murmurings.
 - b. It enables an experienced Christian to bear reproach, slander, injury, as Christ did.
 - c. It makes the tested Christians cautious and careful.
 - d. It enables the tested soul to wait, to trust, to endure.
 - e. To glorify God amidst the furnace.
- IV. The trial of faith promotes to completeness in spiritual life (verse 4).
 1. Herein is understood the "all joy" of verse 2.
 2. No complete, well-rounded character without testing.
 3. Thus are the true riches acquired.
 - a. Brave hearts.
 - b. Strong characters.
 - c. Virile witnesses.
 - d. Noble lives.
 - e. True greatness.
 - f. "Entire"—"wanting nothing."

The Two Divinely Appointed Companions

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever" (Psalm 23:6).

- I. Covenant goodness and covenant mercy—in what they consist.
 1. A fountain and a river.
 2. God's heart and God's hand.
 3. Divine pity, compassion—mercy.
 4. The kindness and favor of God as seen in all His providential dealings—goodness.

- II. **The certain companionship of these divine attendants.**
 - 1. Past providences emphasizes the "surely."
 - 2. The certainty of their presence even though circumstances seem to contradict.
 - 3. The believer's pathway guarded by this strong rear guard.
- III. The life-long continuity of these divinely appointed companions.
 - 1. The Christians' life made up of days.
 - 2. This companionship begins at Calvary; continues to the gates of glory.
- IV. The fixity of the purpose of these divine companions is not only lifelong attendance but to bring us into our Father's house, there to live for ever.

The Uplook of Victory

*"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth"*

(Psalm 121:1, 2).

Introduction: The true Christian's aim is victory over the world, the flesh and the devil.

- I. A high standard in life essential to victory.
 - 1. A high conception of the dignity of a true Christian life.
 - 2. A high sense of the value of time, opportunities and given powers.
 - 3. A high aim to achieve the best.
 - 4. A high object—Christ's glory.
- II. Christian hill-climbers generally victorious.
 - 1. Hill climbers are uplookers—aspirants.
 - 2. Use circumstances as stepping stones.
 - 3. Say to those in the valley, "come on, come up."
 - 4. Hill-top Christians are those with vision, horizon and power.
 - 5. God calls us up to His hill. "Who shall ascend?"

III. Not the mountains but God, the true object and real help (verse 2).

1. Mountaineering only useful as it brings us to "up," "out," and "in," and enables us to look away and "up."
2. Mountain lives and incidents good as incentives and examples, but we need more, and help is the Lord Himself.
3. Mountaineering actually dangerous apart from sure guide. Self, reason, science, education, when climbed apart from God mean a dash to ruin oftentimes.
4. All Christians should climb, but keep wide of all volcanic eruption. Keep eye on God.



A Christian's Daily Chart

1. Do (John 13:15; Luke 10:37).
2. Walk (I John 2:6, Gal. 5:16).
3. Abstain (I Pet. 2:11-23).
4. Be wise (Eph. 5:15, 16).
5. Obey (John 14:21).

The Christian Walk

1. Walk worthy of the gospel (Phil. 1:27).
2. Walk worthy of the vocation (Eph. 4:1).
3. Walk worthy of God (I Thess. 2:12).
4. Walk worthy of the Lord (Col. 1:10).

David's School

"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness" (Psalm 143:10).

1. The best Teacher.
2. The best scholar.
3. The best lesson.
4. Best lesson learned—"Thy spirit is good."

**Four "Notes" for the Christian
The Lord Jesus**

1. The lofty One (Isa. 57:15).
2. The lowly One (Matt. 11:29).
3. The lovely One (Song of Solomon 5:16).

1. Fear not (Gen. 15:2).
2. Fret not (Ps. 37:1).
3. Forget not (Ps. 103:2).
4. Faint not (Gal. 6:9).

Psalm 125

1. Covenant mark—"they that trust."
2. Covenant security (Verses 1, 2).
3. Covenant rod (Verse 3).
4. Covenant principles (Verse 4).
5. Covenant security—peace (Verse 5).

Walking Orderly

"... but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law"
(Acts 21:24).

1. Keeping in the ranks (I Chron. 12:33, 38).
2. Well-rounded Christian character (I Pet. 5:10).
3. With one accord in one place (Acts 2:1).
4. Unity and order (Num. 2:34; Josh. 6).

Trust in the Lord

*"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord,
hast not forsaken them that seek thee"* (Psalm 9:10)

1. All important knowledge.
2. Blessed result.
3. Sufficient reason.

A Five-Fold Command

1. Pray ye (Luke 10:2).
2. Bring ye (Mal. 3:10).
3. Tarry ye (Luke 24:49).
4. Go ye (Matt. 28:19).
5. Watch ye (Mark 13:35).

Access Unto God

1. Precept (James 4:8).
2. Response (Heb. 10:22).
3. Result (Ps. 65:4).

Seven Fellowships

1. Fellowship with the Father (I John 1:3).
2. Fellowship of the Son (I Cor. 1:9).
3. Fellowship of the Spirit (Phil. 2:1).
4. Fellowship in Light (I John 1:7).
5. Fellowship of suffering (Phil. 3:10).
6. Fellowship in service (Col. 4:7).
7. Fellowship in the gospel (Phil. 1:3).

Seven Links of Fellowship

1. Gathered (Matt. 18:20).
2. Framed (Eph. 2:21).
3. Buildded (Eph. 2:22).
4. Knit (Col. 2:2).
5. Perfectly joined (I Cor. 1:10).
6. Striving (Phil. 1:27).
7. Caught up (I Thess. 4:17).

Effectual Prayer

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"
(James 5:16)

1. Must be earnest (James 5:17).
2. In Christ's name (John 14:13, 14).
3. In the Holy Ghost (Jude 20).
4. In faith (James 1:16; Heb. 11:6).

God Is Faithful

"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (I Corinthians 1:9).

1. Great in faithfulness (Lam. 3:23).
2. Established in faithfulness (Ps. 89:2).
3. To all generations (Ps. 119:90).
4. He is the faithful God (Deut. 7:9).
5. His eyes are upon the faithful (Ps. 101:6).

Give Thanks

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare" (Psalm 75:1).

1. Do we give thanks?
2. We do give thanks.
3. What thanks do we give?
4. When do we give thanks?
5. Let us again give thanks.

Truly God Is Good

"Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart" (Psalm 73:1).

In blessing us:

1. Quantity, the greatest.
2. Variety, the choicest.
3. Quality, the sweetest.
4. Security, the surest.
5. Duration, the most lasting.

Ye Belong to Christ

Mark 9:33-42

1. The gift of the Father (John 17:2, 9, 24; 6:37).
2. Purchase of His precious blood (I Pet. 1:18; I Cor. 6:19, 20).
3. Members of His own body (Eph. 5:30; I Cor. 12:11, 12, 27, 19; Eph. 4:15-25).
4. "Because ye belong to Christ" (verse 41).

Godly Gladness

"Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased" (Psalm 4:7).

1. Its source—"Thou."
2. Its season—"Thou hast."
3. Its place—"in my heart."
4. Its excellence—"more than."
5. Its superiority—"their wine."

The Way of Blessedness Is by Obedience

1. Precept (Ps. 94:12).
2. Response (Josh. 24:24).
3. Result (Luke 11:28).

Part Three

DOCTRINAL

Assurance

"For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose"
(Romans 8:28).

Introduction: Every elect member of faith's household assured against every contingency.

- I. The assurance of being divinely insured is to those who love God (Luke 10:27). The love to God entails:
 1. The seat of all our intelligence, delight in God: His glorious Person, His perfect attributes, His unsullied perfection. "With all thine heart."
 2. The seat of all our affections and feelings, delight in God: our longings are towards Him, our delight is to enjoy Him, our highest ambition is to please Him. "With all thy soul."
 3. The combined heart and soul. "With all thy strength."
 4. The understanding, the judgment of our regenerate natures, are His. "With all thy mind."
- II. True love to God is consequent upon the divine and effectual call of God's elect and predestined people.
 1. The first evidence of effectual call is love to God, not a God.

2. Because loved and called.
3. There are the general called and the particular called (Rom. 1:6; I Cor. 1:24-26; I Pet. 2:9; Rev. 17:14).
- III. The divine insurance to all the called people of God.
 1. All things.
 2. All things work.
 3. All things work together.
 4. For good.
- IV. Divinely given assurance. "And we know."
 1. Natural.
 2. Legal.
 3. Evangelical.
 4. Experimental.

"Behold He Prayeth"

"And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth" (Acts 9:11).

- I. What is prayer?
 1. Hebrew word signifying appeal or intercession.
 2. The approach on the part of the soul to God in the name of Jesus Christ (John 16:23, 24).
 3. May consist in invocation, adoration, confession, petition, pleading, dedication, thanksgiving, blessing.
 4. Most natural act of a new-born child of God.
- II. What is the effect of prayer?
 1. It demands our best and brings all that is best to the front.
 2. It brings the heart into communion.
 3. It brings one into conformity to God's will.
 4. It brings one into actual dealings with God.
- III. What is the Christian's attitude regarding prayer?
 1. It is his vital breath.
 2. It is his constant attitude.
 3. It is his health, his joy, his life.

4. It is his mightiest weapon, his shield, **his** victory.
5. It is his lever to move, overthrow, accomplish **whatever** his faith aspires to according to God's will.

IV. What has prayer accomplished?

1. It culminated in the filling of the Spirit for Paul (verse 17).
2. Our Saviour a Man of prayer preeminently.
3. Church born in atmosphere of prayer.
4. Honor roll of Hebrews 11—all men of prayer.
5. Prayer enabled the martyrs to endure.
6. Church of God saved from failure and defeat by prayer.
7. Prayer, pardon, peace, power, purity, paradise.

The Blessedness of Blessing God

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1).

- I. Great saints have always been great in blessing God (Ephesians 1:1-15).
 1. Noah (Gen. 9:26).
 2. Abraham's servant (Gen. 24:27).
 3. Moses' father-in-law (Ex. 18:10).
 4. Women of Israel (Ruth 4:14).
 5. Ezra (7:27).
 6. Job (1:21).
 7. Ezekiel (3:12).
 8. Daniel (2:19).
 9. Simeon (Luke 2:28).
 10. Paul (Rom. 9:5).
 11. Our engagement (Rev. 7:12).
 12. Our text (Ps. 34:1).
- II. A godly occupation; how rendered.
 1. By expressions of gratitude and praise.
 2. A consistent life and walk.
 3. A zealous devotion and cheerful service.

4. By ministering to others, "inasmuch."
5. By spending and being spent with only the glory of God in view.
- III. The object of this godly occupation, "blessed be God."
 1. In nature (Ps. 19).
 2. In providence.
 3. In grace.
 4. In Christ.
 5. In glory (Rev. 5:13).
- IV. God should be blessed for His great mercies (verse 3).
 1. Full assurance.
 2. Our consequent delight.
 3. The all-embracing "all."
 4. The heavenlies—the redeemed are an heavenly people.
 5. In Christ (verse 3).
- V. God should be blessed because all His bestowals are free and sovereign.
 1. The divine choice (verse 4).
 2. Predestination (verse 5).
 3. Adoption (verse 5).
 4. Acceptance (verse 6).
 5. Redemption (verse 7).
 6. Forgiveness (verse 7).
 7. Inheritance (verse 11).
 8. All according to His good pleasure (verse 9).
 9. All with a view to holiness (verse 4).

We should bless the Lord ever, who hath predestinated us to be conformed to His Son (Rom. 8:29).

The Blood of the Everlasting Covenant

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

- I. What is this covenant?
 1. The contracting parties.
 2. What are its stipulations?

3. What is its object?
4. What were the motives of the covenanting parties?
- II. What is the character of this covenant?
 1. Its antiquity; older than the covenant of Eden.
 2. Its absolute surety.
 3. Its decreed immutability.
 4. Its endurance through all ages.
- III. The divine seal to this everlasting covenant—the blood.
 1. The shed blood is the fulfillment of the debtor's side of the bond.
 2. The shed blood meets the divine requirements against sin.
 3. The shed blood is the token and pledge of the believer's security.
- IV. The object of this blood-sealed, everlasting covenant.
 1. Jehovah's sovereign pleasure.
 2. His eternal glory.
 3. The eternal joy of His elect.

Christian Fellowship

"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind" (Philippians 2:1, 2).

Introduction: On fellowship; its meaning, need and privilege.

- I. Fellowship with God the Father. In childlike love, obedience and confidence (I John 1:3).
- II. Fellowship with God the Son (I Cor. 1:9). This entails companionship in His sufferings (Phil. 3:10).
- III. Fellowship with Holy Spirit (Phil. 2:1).
 1. Fellowship with Him in personal holiness.
 2. Fellowship with Him in His blessed ministry.
- IV. Fellowship in Christian doctrine (Acts 2:42). Purity of doctrine must be maintained (II John 9-11).

- V. Fellowship in Christian friendship (I John 1:7; Gal. 2:9).
 - 1. Such friendship entails confidence in one another.
 - 2. Loving esteem one of the other.
 - 3. Mutual understanding.
 - 4. Oneness of purpose.
- VI. Fellowship in Christian Liberty (II Cor. 8:4). Christian liberty a proof of other preceding fellowships.
- VII. Fellowship in service—the gospel (Phil. 1:5).
 - 1. Our duty.
 - 2. Our privilege.
 - 3. A necessity.
 - 4. Beneficial to all.
 - 5. Expands our sympathies and affections.

The Christian Soldier Equipped for Service

Ephesians 6:10-18

Introduction: The armory. I John 2:3; II Cor. 5:17; Rom. 10:9, 10.

- I. Terms of enlistment (verse 1).
 - 1. Obedience (verse 11; Luke 14:33).
- II. Length of service (Rev. 2:25).
 - 1. Until fight is finished.
- III. The foe antagonized (verse 12; Eph. 2:2; I Peter 5:8).
- IV. Equipment provided (verses 14-18).
 - 1. Loins girded with truth.
 - 2. Breastplate of righteousness.
 - 3. Gospelshod feet.
 - 4. Shield of faith.
 - 5. Salvation's helmet.
 - 6. The sword of the Spirit.
- V. The soldier on duty.
 - 1. Praying.
 - 2. Watching.
 - 3. Wrestling.

- VI. Victory assured.
 - 1. Able to stand.
 - 2. Able to withstand.
- VII. Overcomer rewarded (Rev. 21:7; II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:13; Rev. 2:7, 10, 11, 17, 23, 26-28; 3-5, 12, 21).

Christian's Emancipation

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God"
(Romans 8:21).

Introduction: This is the true emancipation from ignorance, blindness, miseries.

- I. Such liberty consequent upon birthrights.
 - 1. Right, authority, privilege and power the portion of every child of God.
 - 2. Consequent place in royal family—responsibilities.
- II. What Christian emancipation encompasses.
 - 1. Liberty from law to grace.
 - 2. Liberty from servitude and bondage.
 - 3. Freedom from taskmaster to Christ.
 - 4. From laws "do this" "musts," "shalt not," etc.
 - 5. Illustrate liberation from irksome school curriculum.
 - 6. The freedom of grace (Heb. 10:16).
 - 7. Liberty as purged worshipers to enter into the Holiest.
 - 8. No longer slaves, servants, but sons and joint heirs.
- III. Liberty from sin.
 - 1. As to its law in our members.
 - 2. As to its penalty and power.
 - 3. As masters in the house, sin must obey our rulings, it shall not have dominion.
 - 4. Whom the Son sets free is free indeed, has title deeds to freedom.
 - 5. Such freedom tends to holiness.

- IV. Analyze the liberty of free born citizens of heaven.
 - 1. The right of liberty of conscience; open Bible, freedom of worship.
 - 2. This liberty to encompass spirit, soul and body.
- V. This liberty termed glorious.
 - 1. Glorious because God-like.
 - 2. As to its sphere—glorious.
 - 3. Glorious as to its operations.
 - 4. Glorious as to its ultimate grandeur.
 - 5. Glorious as to its duration.

The Christian's God

II Corinthians 1:3-7

- I. Man and his miseries.
 - 1. The fact of them: tribulation, troubles, sufferings, afflictions (verses 4-6).
 - 2. In what man's miseries consist.
 - a. The plague of his own heart—sin.
 - b. Anguish and remorse of misspent days.
 - c. Frailty of mind and body.
 - d. Constant grind and dissatisfaction of life.
 - e. The inability of things to satisfy the soul.
- II. God and His comfort (verse 3).
 - 1. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus our God and Father, too.
 - 2. He is the Father of mercies (verse 3).
 - 3. God of all comfort.
 - 4. All our tribulation, trouble, suffering met by God's comfort (verses 3, 4).
 - 5. The worldling amidst his "all" is doomed to despair—the Christian finds consolation (verse 7).
 - 6. God as our Father administers His all comfort, consolation, and mercies in love and wisdom.
 - 7. Divine comfort assured according to needs and circumstances.

8. The divine comfort is bestowed abundantly in Christ (verse 5).
- III. The objects of this comfort.
 1. "We," "ourselves," "us" (verse 4).
 2. Experimental evidence enables us to direct others to the true source of comfort.
 3. Effective evidence the need of the day.
 4. We, too, can tell of its salutary effect.
 5. Our Lord perfected through suffering.
- IV. The reason for trial.
 1. That the tried ones may prove their effectual relationship to God.
 2. That we may prove experimentally God's sufficiency to sustain.
 3. That we may qualify to minister comfort to others.
- V. The godly outcome of it all.
 1. We become blessers of God (verse 3).
 2. Gratitude mingled with adoration our daily sacrifice.
 3. Divine comfort enjoyed leads to thanks, praise and worship.
 4. The blessedness as comforted ones life to comfort others.

Christ's Second Coming and Death

Christ's coming and Death are the very opposite of each other, and one never stands for the other in Scripture.

1. Death is an enemy (I Cor. 15:26).
Coming of Christ is the coming of a friend.
2. Death the penalty for sin (Rom. 6:23).
Coming of Christ will deliver us forever from sin and its penalty.
3. Death is the king of terrors (Job 18:14).
We look for the King of kings and Lord of lords.
4. Death is sorrowful and painful (Ps. 18:4; 116:3).
Christ's coming is a happy event.

5. Death is cruel separation (Gen. 37:35; John 11:31).
Christ's coming is glad reunion (I Thess. 4:16, 17).
6. Death casts unto a grave of corruption (I Cor. 15:42, 43).
Christ's coming lifts us from the grave.
7. Death has lorded over all (Rom. 5:17; Heb. 9:27).
Coming of Christ does away with death of His people.
"Death is swallowed up in victory."

Divine Deliverance

"Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf" (II Corinthians 1:10, 11).

Introduction: Comforted to comfort others (verse 4). Abounding sufferings for Christ. Abounding consolations by Christ (verse 5). No confidence in self (verse 9). And now text unfolds the past, the present and the future deliverance as God's people (verse 10).

- I. The past of divine deliverance. "Who delivered us."
 1. The history of God's people is one of past deliverances.
 - a. Israel's history one of constant deliverance.
 - b. The history of the Church similar.
 - c. Individual experience.
 2. The great deliverance—Calvary a past act.
 3. The experience of the redeemed is "He hath delivered."
- II. The present of divine deliverance. "Doth deliver."
 1. Providentially proven daily.
 2. Evidenced in material things.
 3. In the grace of sanctification.
- III. The future of divine deliverance assured. "Will yet deliver."
 1. As pertaining to sorrow, suffering and sin.
 2. As to spirit, soul and body.
 3. Every child of God landed safe at last.

- IV. This deliverance grounded upon the immutability of our glorious Redeemer (Heb. 13:8).
- V. How the divinely delivered people of God may become helpers together with God (verse 11).

Divine Justification

Romans 8:31-39

God's elect are triumphant over every accusation through divine justification.

- I. The triumphant pronouncement.
- II. The triumphant vindication.
 - 1. The ground of it, "God for us" (verse 31).
 - 2. The source of it—God's eternal counsels: foreknowledge, predestination, effectual call (verses 28, 30).
 - 3. The manner of it—justification—how?
 - a. God becoming man (verse 32).
 - b. The divine Man giving His life (verse 34).
 - c. The resurrection, ascension and intercession (verse 34).
- III. The triumphant argument.
 - 1. "What shall," verse 31; answer 31 and 32.
 - 2. "Who shall," verse 33; answer 33.
 - 3. "Who can condemn," 34; answer 34.
 - 4. "Who shall separate," 35; answer 34, 36.
 - 5. The consequent conclusion (verse 37).
- IV. The triumphant persuasion (verses 38, 39).
- V. The triumph of the elect is only in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Divine Salvation

"Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (Luke 2:28-30).

Introduction: Other salvation.

- I. Christ the divine Saviour.
 - "Unto you is born this day."

Isaiah, "God is my salvation."

David, "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

Simeon, "Thy salvation."

1. *Christ Himself* the salvation.
 2. Divine salvation *seen* in Christ.
 3. Salvation of every degree in Christ.
- II. To enjoy salvation Christ must be taken and praise given.
1. Not *enough* for Simeon to see he *must taste*. I will *take* the cup of salvation.
 2. When Christ is taken then we can say "*mine eyes have seen*."
- III. The blessed effect.
1. *Called by grace* we come and take, then depart in *peace*.
 2. A glad heart of praise.
 3. Evermore only heaven can satisfy—"now lettest thou thy servant depart."

Doctrine of Faith

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

- I. Its meaning (Heb. 11:1).
 1. Firm persuasion. Confidence in divine declaration. A gift of God by which we know, see and understand. Man's chief business is to please God.
- II. What faith is.
 1. Knowledge (Rom. 10:8-17).
 2. Assent or acknowledgment (II Tim. 1:12).
 3. Affiance—wholehearted trust (Isa. 12:2).
- III. The argument of text.
 1. Why can we not be saved without faith? There has never been a case of a person pleasing God without faith (Heb. 11:6).
 2. Faith brings down pride.

3. Faith necessary because works cannot save (Eph. 2:8).
4. Faith gives union with Christ.
- IV. The all important question.
 1. Have I faith in God as my Saviour?
- V. Faith one of the precious things.

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

"And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years"
(Genesis 6:3).

- I. God the Father elected to save all who believe. God the Son redeemed them with His precious blood. God the Holy Ghost regenerates them by His power (John 3:8; Rom. 3:24; 5:8; Titus 3:5).
- II. Holy Spirit co-equal with Father and Son.
 1. Creation (Gen. 1:2, 26).
 2. Attributes.
 - a. Omnipotence.
 - b. Omniscience.
 - c. Omnipresence (Rom. 8:27; I Cor. 2:10; John 16:13; Acts 5:3, 4).
 3. In redemption (Rom. 5:5; I Cor. 12:3).
- III. The power of Holy Spirit.
 1. Our Saviour was born by His power (Luke 1:35).
 2. He is empowered to minister by Holy Ghost (Matt. 3:16).
 3. Anointed by Spirit for miracles (Luke 4:14, 18).
 4. Christ's whole wondrous life and ministry in consequence of being filled with the Spirit (Acts 10:38; Heb. 9:14; Rom. 1:4).
- IV. Holy Spirit is the person Christ promised to take His place (John 14:16, 17).
 1. He is the guide, teacher, instructor of God's people (John 14:26).
 2. He always directs to Christ (John 15:26; 16:13).

- V. Some of His names and titles.
 - 1. Paraclete, Comforter, Advocate, Helper, Spirit of Christ, Spirit of the Lord (John 14:16; 15:26; 16:7).
- VI. His work on earth.
 - 1. At Pentecost (Acts 2:33, 37, 38, 41; 4:8-12; John 16:8).
 - 2. Warning (Eph. 4:30; Gen. 6:3).

The Four Fold Office of the Holy Spirit

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father"
(Romans 8:14, 15).

- I. The spirit of bondage.
 - 1. Before liberty usually bondage.
 - 2. He kills before He makes alive.
 - 3. He withers before He quickens.
 - 4. How men are bound by conviction.
 - 5. He gives a sense of punishment as our just recompense for sin.
 - 6. Creates a sense of helplessness.
 - 7. Breaks up all carnal trust and fleshly hope.
 - 8. The fear this bondage begets.
 - 9. While the elect have known something of the spirit of bondage, once having passed out of this they never again pass this way.
- II. The positive regarding spirit of adoption.
 - 1. Freedom liberty.
 - 2. Confidence to peace.
 - 3. Assurance and gratitude.
 - 4. Childlike love and obedience.
- III. The truly born cry—prayer.
 - 1. The child does not first say, "Abba, Father," it cries.
 - 2. This is natural to the twice born.
 - 3. Cry—appealing and familiar.
- IV. The spirit of witness.

1. Our spirit has conscious evidence.
2. The Holy Spirit witnesses to us through the Word.
3. By His work in us.
4. Then through us.

A Full and Free Salvation

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye buy, and eat; yea come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness" (Isaiah 55:1, 2).

- I. The article exhibited—or what the gospel is.
 1. Come ye to the waters.
 2. Buy wine and milk.
 3. Eat ye that which is good.
 4. Let thy soul delight in fatness.
- II. The article commended—or what the gospel does.
 1. The folly of foolish spendings (verse 2).
 2. The waste of fruitless labor (verse 2).
 3. The gospel satisfies soul thirst (verse 1).
 4. The gospel appeases heart hunger (verse 1).
 5. The gospel causes fatness in good things (verse 1).
- III. The article on sale—or how the gospel is secured.
 1. Preacher's difficulty as compared with salesman.

One labors to bring you *UP TO*, the other *DOWN TO* the price.
 2. Different people bring variety of things to secure salvation.
 3. Conclusion.
 - a. Incline your ear.
 - b. Come.
 - c. Hear.
 - d. Hearken.
 - e. Come unto Me.

The Greatest Work in the World—Prayer

1. Power of prayer (Matt. 28:18).
2. Possibilities (Phil. 4:6).
3. Plan (John 15:7).
4. Promise (Psalm 37:5).
5. Purpose (John 14:13).
6. Privilege (John 16:24).
7. Partnership (I John 3:21, 22).
8. Program (Matt. 9:38).

He Shall Be Great

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David"
(Luke 1:32).

- I. Great in His pre-existent glory.
- II. Great as Creator co-equal with God the Father.
- III. All great prophecies relate to this great One.
- IV. All great types relate to Him.
- V. His great coming to put away sin the greatest event up to date in world's history.
- VI. Greatest life character and example of all ages.
- VII. Great Saviour, great sacrifice, great salvation.
- VIII. Great in resurrection power.
- IX. Great in glory as mediator, advocate and intercessor.
- X. Great coming King and kingdom.

"He Shall Be Great"

"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink, and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb" (Luke 1:15).

Introduction: The text could only refer to One.

- I. Our sovereign Lord is great in all His glorious attributes.
 1. Wisdom.
 2. Power.
 3. Love.

- II. Great in His glorious personality.
- III. Great in His office as Saviour and Redeemer. "A great God and Saviour."
- IV. Great in His present power and glory. "God hath highly exalted Him."
- V. Great in His bestowment of grace.
 - 1. Mercy.
 - 2. Condescension.
 - 3. Sympathy.
- VI. Great in all heavenly riches.
- VII. Our great redeemer has great love for great sinners whom He saves with His great salvation.

The Holy Scriptures the Source of All Graces

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

- I. The patience of the Scriptures.
 - 1. Such as they teach.
 - a. Patience under every appointment of divine will.
 - b. Patience under all human persecution and Satanic opposition.
 - c. Patience when tried by weak and troublesome believers.
 - d. Patience while awaiting fulfillment of divine promises.
 - 2. Such as they exhibit in examples.
 - a. Job under affliction.
 - b. Patriarchs patiently waiting as sojourners.
 - c. Joseph patiently forgiving his unkind brethren and false accusations.
 - d. Daniel.
 - e. Paul.
 - f. Our Lord.

3. Such as they produce by their influence—**Scripture**.
 - a. As they call us to holiness they assure trial and suffering.
 - b. By revealing God's design and so sustaining us.
 - c. By declaring promises regarding ultimate victory.

II. The comfort of the Scriptures.

1. Such as they teach.
 - a. They bid us rise above fear.
 - b. They urge us to think little of transient things.
 - c. They stimulate us to endureances like saints of old.
 - d. They command us to find our joy in God.
2. Such as they exhibit.
 - a. Enoch comforted as he walked with God.
 - b. Abraham found God his shield and exceeding great reward.
 - c. Daniel prayed.
3. Such as they produce.
 - a. Used by Holy Spirit to comfort.
 - b. Their character adapts them to such an end.
 - c. Our experience proves all this.

How to Study the Bible

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

- I. Study the Bible—examine.
 1. Time required.
 2. Concentration, i.e. attention.
 3. Alone.
 4. Aloud.
- II. Meditation—mental eating.
- III. Memorize—best to do it chapter and verse.
- IV. Repeated reading.

- V. Method or system.
- VI. Prayer.
- VII. Now study the whole Bible, by chapters.
 - 1. What is the principle subject of chapter.
 - 2. Who are the principle persons in chapter.
 - 3. What is the leading lesson.
 - 4. What is the best verse.
 - 5. What does it say about Jesus Christ.
- VIII. Study comparatively. Get the treasury of Scripture knowledge.
- IX. Topically.
- X. Daily.
- XI. Prayerfully.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

- I. The fact (Rom. 14:10-12; II Cor. 5:10).
- II. The subjects—Christians (Rom. 14:8, 10; II Cor. 5:1, 2, 6-8, 10).
 - 1. Despite Rom. 8:1; John 5:24; yet Rom. 14:10-12; II Cor. 5:10.
 - 2. The Christian has been judged as a sinner (John 12:31).
 - a. He is being judged as a son (Heb. 12:5-11).
 - b. He will yet be judged as a servant (II Cor. 5:10).
- III. The character—"a bema," a reward seat (II Cor. 5:10).
 - 1. A "bema" not a "thronos" as in Rev. 20:11.
 - 2. Not to determine salvation—a present possession (John 3:16; 5:24). Saints who are already in heaven (II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23) are not to be brought before a tribunal to find out if they can get into heaven.
 - 3. The awards at the Bema are rewards for services rendered (I Cor. 3:12; Rev. 11:18; 22:12). Salvation is not a reward; it is a gift (John 4:10, 14; 10:28; Rom. 6:23).
 - 4. Stewardship is rewarded at the Bema (II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:11-15; 4:2)

My Witnesses

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me"

(Isaiah 43:10).

- I. The absolute essentials of a true witness.
 1. A knowledge of Christ and the power of His resurrection.
 2. A life and character clearly revealing a practical knowledge of Christ.
 3. Power—the Holy Spirit living in us.
 4. Loyal adherence to holy Scriptures.
- II. The sphere of Christ's true witnesses (Acts 1:8).
 1. At home.
 2. In the city.
 3. In one's own country.
 4. The uttermost parts.
- III. The great theme of all true witnesses is Christ.
 1. His incarnation.
 2. His life.
 3. His death.
 4. His resurrection.
 5. His ascension.
 6. His coronation.
 7. His coming and kingdom and everlasting dominion.

Our Lord Himself

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20).

- I. As our salvation.
 1. He gave Himself for me, for the Church.
 2. Who His own self bore our sins.
 3. Himself purged our sins.
 4. Put away sin by sacrifice of Himself.

- II. The object of true faith.
 - 1. Look unto Me.
 - 2. Come unto Me.
 - 3. He that cometh to Me.
- III. The substance of the gospel.
 - 1. Hast thou not known Me.
 - 2. He expounded out of the Old Testament concerning Himself.
 - 3. To Him gave all the prophets witness.
- IV. The one great subject of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. He shall glorify Me.
- V. Our one great theme.
 - 1. God forbid that I should glory, etc.
- VI. The object of our love.
 - 1. We love Him because. . . .
- VII. The source of all joy.
 - 1. In times of sorrow, it is He who took our infirmities and who comforts.
 - 2. He Himself hath suffered, able to succor.
 - 3. Jesus Himself stood in the midst.
- VIII. Our example—he that hath this hope—we shall be like Him.
- IX. Our eternal joy—with Him.

The Pillar of Cloud and Fire

Exodus 13:21, 22; 14:19, 20; I Corinthians 10:1-6

- I. The pillar of fire.
 - 1. Holy Spirit in His illuminating, warning, purifying and destroying ministry. (See Deut. 32:12.)
 - 2. This proves the pillar of fire was God the Holy Spirit. See also Ex. 3:14. Compare John 16:12, 13.

II. The pillar of cloud.

1. Holy Spirit as our rear guard (Ex. 14:19, 20).
 - a. Between us and our sins.
 - b. Between us and our troubles.
 - c. Between us and our whole life (Ex. 33:14; 14:24; Isa. 52:12; 58:8; Isa. 63:9-10).

III. The sun and shield of Psalm 84:11.

1. Here typified. Shield against all evil and harm by day.
2. Sun to preserve, protect and illuminate.
3. We are assured of grace and glory and every good thing by the way.

IV. Whither the pillar (Holy Spirit) leads.

1. Obedience (Ex. 14).
2. Place of testing (Ex. 15).
3. Place of triumph (Ex. 15).
4. On way to promised land.

V. The doctrine developed (Ex. 40:34-38; Num. 10:33-35; Lev. 26:11-13; II Cor. 6:15; I Cor. 3:16; John 14:17).

Precious Blood of Christ

"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:19).

Introduction: Gal. 3:13—We deal with its *Atoning Efficacy*—See Lev. 17:11—atonement. The Hebrew word "Kaphar"—to cover. See illustration in Ex. 12:13. New Testament word—*Reconciliation* or *Propitiation*—Rom. 3:25; 5:11.

I. The blood of Christ restores the believing sinner to divine favor.

1. Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20-21.

II. To make atonement—reconciliation.

1. Three things absolutely necessary:
 - a. A Mediator absolutely capable of making reconciliation—*Christ meets this case*, I Tim. 2:5. *His perfections*.

- b. That He satisfies one offended as well as offender—Christ does this *Godward—God well pleased, so believer.*
 - c. To make perfect reconciliation the Reconciler must provide *that offender sins no more—Christ does this.*
- III. Hence Christ's blood is precious.
- IV. This is the gospel committed to us.
II. Cor. 5:17-21.

The Supremacy of Obedience

Gen. 12:1-4; Matt. 7:16-29; John 14:21-24; John 15:14

1. Obedience the supreme importance for life (Deut. 4:1-10).
2. Obedience the supreme requirement of God (I Sam. 15:22, 23; Jer. 7:21-23).
3. Obedience the supreme value in the sight of God (Matt. 5:19).
4. Obedience the supreme proof of friendship with Christ (John 15:10-14).
5. Obedience the supreme requirement of loyalty (Acts 4:19, 20; 5:29).
6. Obedience the supreme response of discipleship (Acts 26:19-20).
7. Obedience supremely illustrated in Christ (Heb. 5:7-9).
8. Obedience the supreme feature in Abraham (Heb. 11:8).
9. Obedience the supreme evidence of true religion (James 1:22, 27).
10. Obedience the supreme secret of Christian assurance (I John 3:16-24).

The Triumph of the Holy Spirit

"Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts"
(Zechariah 4:6).

Introduction: God is jealous of His glory and power. He consequently uses things that are not (I Cor. 1:29).

- I. Triumphs for God not wrought by human might.
 1. The beginning of Christianity.
 2. History of missions.
 3. Experience of regenerate soul.
 4. The fact seen wherever true works of grace are accomplished.
- II. Human power oftentimes the real hindrance to Christian triumphs.
 1. Amalgamation of church and state.
 2. History of Papacy.
 3. Science apart from faith in God; evolution, inventions, discovery.
 4. Learning, eloquence, power.
- III. Triumphs for God wrought by the blessed Holy Spirit.
 1. Old Testament history.
 2. Old Testament saints.
 3. Our Lord's perfect work as man—filled with Holy Spirit.
 4. Pentecost, reformation, revivals.
 5. Holy lives, victorious faith—all the work of the blessed Holy Spirit.
- IV. The great need of today.
 1. Worship.
 2. Ministry.
 3. Service in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Victory Through the Blood

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdoms of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night" (Revelation 12:10).

Introduction: God's desire for us is *victory*.

- I. The grand old doctrine of victory through the blood.
 1. Adam, Cain and Abel, Abraham and Isaac, Israel.
- II. The world's great Waterloo of the ages was won by the blood of Calvary.
 1. In the life and death of Christ, we have a perfect man reconciling a lost world.
 2. How as a perfect man he was tested, tried, proven from every standpoint.
 3. Yet it was not His perfect, holy life that gained for us the victory.
 4. See, He comes to the greatest event in the world's history—Calvary!
Earth, hell, demons and man all combine against Him. Forsaken of God! What a six hour tragedy is this! Hark! It is finished, He has won the victory over all, alone. Hallelujah! Heaven rings; earth rejoices; demons flee; hell groans!
- III. The victor, the victory and the believer all in eternal glory through the blood.
 1. Believers are now safe through the blood.
 2. Safe for eternity through the blood.
 3. Boldness now through the blood.
 4. Our great song in heaven—the blood.

We are His Workmanship

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath ordained that we should walk in them"

(Ephesians 2:10).

- I. Christians are a new creation (II Cor. 5:17).
 1. By regeneration.
 2. By adoption and grace (Rom. 8:15; Eph. 2:11-13).
 3. By Father's good pleasure (Eph. 1:5).
- II. Evidence of divine workmanship is given, by:
 1. Doing as He did and would do.
 2. Fruit according to nature.
 3. "Good works," "walk."
 4. Creed and conduct.
 5. Upright character.
- III. God as workman, tools he uses.
 1. Holy Scriptures.
 2. Providences, station in life, incidents.
 3. Chastisements, bereavements.
 4. Godly ministry (Eph. 4:12, 13).
- IV. The article God turns out.
 1. A man fashioned into His own likeness as to moral character (Eph. 4:13).
 2. Epistles read and known.
 3. A true witness.
- V. The article the world needs today is such a man.



Reconciliation

"God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself" (II Cor. 5:19).

1. The reconciling work of God, reveals man's lost and helpless condition. Isa. 1:6; Rom. 3:12-18; Rom. 8:7.
2. The author of reconciliation. II Cor. 5:18; Rom. 5:10; John 15:16.
3. The need of reconciliation. Heb. 12:14; Matt. 5:8; Rev. 21:27.
4. The method of reconciliation. Rom. 5:6-8; Gal. 3:13; John 3:16; Isa. 53:5, 6; Gal. 4:4, 5.

The Word

1. Holding fast the Word (II Tim. 1:13).
2. Studying the Word (II Tim. 2:15)
3. Knowing the Word (II Tim. 3:15).
4. Preaching the Word (II Tim. 4:2).

Exhortations in Colossians

1. Let no man beguile you (Col. 2:18).
2. Let no man judge you (Col. 2:16).
3. Let the peace of God rule (Col. 3:15)
4. Let the word of Christ dwell (Col. 3:16).
5. Let your speech be always with salt (Col. 4:6).

Three Attitudes of the Heart in Connection with the Lord's Coming

1. The scoffer; who denies it altogether (II Pet. 3:4).
2. The unfaithful servant; who defers the fulfillment (Matt. 24:48).
3. The bride; who desires the immediate realization of her hope (Rev. 22:17-20).

Perilous Times

1. What men are (II Tim. 3).
2. What men do (Jude 3, 4).
3. What men teach (I Tim. 4:1).

The Law Demands

1. Practical obedience; not merely hearers, but doers.
2. Personal obedience; "every one."
3. Perfect obedience; "all things written."
4. Perpetual obedience; continueth (James 2:10).
5. Transgression entails cursing.

The Five Crowns

1. The crown of life (James 1:12; Rev. 2:19).
2. The crown of rejoicing (I Thess. 2:19).
3. The crown of glory (I Pet. 5:4).

4. The crown of righteousness (II Tim. 4:8).
5. The incorruptible crown (I Cor. 9:25).

The Believer's Possessions

1. All things pertaining to life and godliness (II Pet. 1:3).
2. All things pertaining to present life (Rom. 8:28).
3. All things needful for service (Phil. 4:18, 19).
4. All the fullness of God (Eph. 3:19).

Ye Belong to Christ

"For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward" (Mark 9:41).

1. By right of choice, call and purchase (Eph. 1:4; John 15:16; II Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 2:9; 1:18).
2. By willing surrender and obedience.
3. By loyal adherence to His holy Word.