

**JOHN G. LAKE
STUDY LESSONS**

PART FOUR

(LESSONS 29-34)

CONTENTS

LESSON 29	Results of Believing Prayer	3
LESSON 30	Reign As Kings	12
LESSON 31	Sanctification	20
LESSON 32	The Second Coming	26
LESSON 33	The Resurrection	36
LESSON 34	The Sabbath	45

29. RESULTS OF BELIEVING PRAYER

HEALED OF INSANITY

A woman holding the infant of Mrs LloydMcLaughlin was asked to stand.

Mr Lake: This baby is just one month old. When the baby was born the mother was given twilight sleep which resulted in insanity, as it often does. This Church has been praying for the dear woman. On Monday a group of our people went aside to particularly pray for this dear mother. I called them on the phone about five o'clock and asked one of the sisters, "What is the answer from heaven?" She replied, "Well, brother, we have the answer. Our hearts have the victory and we know the woman is healed." Yesterday morning the woman awoke, healed, praise the Lord.

CHILD HELPLESS AND DUMB HEALED

There is another case I want to present at this time, but the mother is delayed. This dear mother comes from Grangeville, Idaho. Her baby was injured in the birth due to the child being delivered by instruments. The principle object of instruments these days is the \$25 extra that is charged. God has had babies born for five thousand years without any of their accursed use. This little one had the usual thing that takes place in such cases. It was an injury so terrible that the child was never able to walk or speak. Apparently it was a partial detachment of the spinal chord from the brain. The mother testifies that the baby has begun to walk and talk now.

PARALYSIS IN PROCESS OF HEALING

A dear young businessman of the city, who has been paralysed from the neck down for six years, is walking now.

HEALED WHEN TOTALLY PARALYSED

Some of you will remember Mr Kelly who was totally paralysed from the shoulders down. He, his wife and their new baby were present in the meeting last night and he testified to his perfect healing.

MRS RAYMOND

We have had inquiries regarding Mrs Raymond, who was dying of tuberculosis. The day before yesterday she was outdoors for three and a half hours for the first time. Her mother says she is healed. She was delivered from very death.

ANOTHER DELIVERANCE

We have a dear mother in Wooster. Four years ago her son broke down and went out of his mind. We ministered to him and the Lord healed him. Recently, almost the same thing has taken place with the daughter. Here is a telegram asking us to pray for her. The daughter is greatly recovered since we prayed for her, but the mother says she still

suffers from bad dreams, fear of fire, and fear of death. (Rev. Thompson was asked to present this case to the Lord.)

SCRIPTURE READING WITH COMMENTS

“And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married ... and the Lord heard it.” Numbers 12.

A great many people lose the blessing that they might have had by sticking their nose into other people’s affairs. The Lord has been trying, from the very beginning, to get folks to learn this truth. This is one of the most severe lessons in the Word of God on the disadvantages of sticking your nose into other people’s affairs. The Lord somehow succeeds in looking after most people who put their confidence in Him and regulating them fairly well. You like to be governed by the Spirit of the Lord Himself, and so do I, so we must accord the same privilege to other people.

“Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.” Verse 3.

No other man in all history has so many reasons to get puffed up, if he had been puffable. The little fellow puffs up. The big fellow puffs down. No man ever listened to such words as the Lord spake to Moses. No one was ever dignified by the same commission that God gave to Moses. When God called Moses to His service and sent him to Egypt, He spoke these most startling words to him, “Thou shalt be as God.” He was endowed with all the authority of God and was sent with the commission to deliver His people from the hands of Pharaoh. His word became the Word of God. His action became the action of God. “Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.”

Aaron was the brother and Miriam the sister of Moses. When Moses was called at the burning bush, he began to make excuses because of his slowness of speech, and God gave him his brother Aaron, saying, “He will be thy spokesman unto the people.”

“Behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow. And Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.” Verse 10.

Some time ago I was called to minister to a leper in the state of Montana, ex-senator Willets, who had been confined several years. It was the first time since leaving Africa that I had a chance to examine a leper with care. So I went with him to his rooms and had him strip. The leprosy was as white as snow. His fingers were dead and swollen three times the normal size. When he would put wood on the fire he would burn his fingers and not know it. His feet were in the same condition. He wrote to me afterwards that the first evidence of healing he noticed was in his toes. The colour and feeling returned.

“The cloud departed off the tabernacle; and behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow, and Aaron said

unto Moses, 'Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not this sin upon us, wherein we have sinned' ... And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, 'Heal her now, O God I beseech thee.'"

Moses' prayer is characteristic of so many of the prayers of the Bible. It is brief. It contains only eight words, "Heal her now, O God I beseech thee." With Aaron's whole-hearted confession the heart of Moses was moved even as the heart of God.

LECTURE ON PRAYER

I want to talk to you a little about this subject of prayer. It seems to me that this prayer of Moses is a wonderful example of that remarkable teaching of Jesus on the subject of faith in the eleventh chapter of Mark. After cursing the fig tree Jesus utilised the instance to give voice to His marvellous teaching of faith in God.

He said, "Verily, verily." When an oriental used the words "Verily, verily," he raised his hand and it gave it the solemnity of an oath. "With the solemnity of an oath, I say unto you. What things soever ye desire, when ye pray." You are to do something. "When you pray, BELIEVE that ye RECEIVE them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:23-24). The Revised Version gives greater force to it. "When ye pray believe that ye HAVE received." When? "When you pray."

HEALING OF APPENDICITIS

Mrs Ferguson will you kindly stand? (Woman stands). A week ago Saturday, Brother Wiggins Doogan, Mrs Lake and myself were just leaving the healing rooms on our way to Forest Grove, Oregon when a gentleman came in and told us of this woman's suffering and begged us to come. We went and laid our hands on the woman and in one minute the Lord delivered her. I put my fingers into her side, holding the appendix between my fingers, to demonstrate the perfection of the healing. Observing how the Lord touched her body, she said, "Brother, I want to give my heart to God." So we called in her sons and the other man, a cousin, and our sister gave her heart to God. Last Sunday she became a member of the church and today is present to give public thanks to God for her salvation and healing.

"When ye pray, believe that ye receive, and ye shall have," or "believe that ye HAVE received," and you have it. That is what it means. We used to have a little Englishman in our evangelistic party who would say to the people when they were praying, "Now let us stop praying for five minutes and BELIEVE God and see what will happen." It is perfectly amazing the wonderful things that will happen when people believe God.

THE SOUL CRY OF A BROTHER

There is an attitude of faith, an opening of the soul to God, a divine laying hold in the Spirit. I can imagine the soul cry in the prayer of Moses under those circumstances. Miriam, his own sister, now smitten and leprous, "white as snow." What were the feelings of his heart? I have sometimes thought that there is no other circumstance in my own life that ever called out so much faith in God and determination of soul to see

God's will done as in the healing of a sister. One of my sisters was a little older but was my chum. The vision of Christ as the healer had just opened to my soul.

She was dying of an issue of blood. My mother called me one night and said, "John, if you want to see your sister alive you must come at once." When I arrived my mother said, "You are too late, she has gone." I stepped to her bedside and laid my hand on her forehead. It was cold and dead. I slipped my hand down over her heart, and the heart had ceased to beat. I picked up a small mirror and held it over her mouth but there was no discolouration. The breath was gone. I stood there stunned. Her husband knelt at the foot of the bed weeping. Her baby was asleep in a crib on the opposite side of the room. My old father and mother knelt sobbing at the side of the bed. They had seen eight of their children die. She was the ninth. My soul was in a storm.

Just a few weeks before, my wife had been healed when almost dead. My brother had also been healed after having been an invalid for twenty-two years. A short time before that my older sister, who had five cancers in her breast, been operated on five times and turned away to die, was healed. As I looked at my sister I said, "God, this is not the will of God and I cannot accept it. It is the will of the devil and darkness." "He that hath the power of death, that is the devil."

I discovered this fact. There are times when your spirit lays hold of the spirit of another and they just cannot get away from you. Somehow I just felt my spirit lay hold of the spirit of that woman. I prayed, "Dear Lord, she just cannot go." I walked up and down for some time. My spirit was crying out for somebody with faith in God that I could call on to help me. That was twenty-five years ago when the individual who trusted God for healing was considered almost insane by the church and the world. Bless God, it is different now. That is the advantage of having a group of people who trust God and walk out on His lines, come together, stay together, put their hands and hearts together, and carrying one another's load. It is the formation of a nucleus in society that has some force for God. I have no confidence or faith in these little efforts that people run after here and there. Most of them go up in vapour. If you want something done for God and humanity, put your hearts and your hands together and your souls together. Organise your effort.

That baby's mother (referring to the baby in the audience) would not have been healed except that a little nucleus, determined to pray until the woman was healed, stayed in prayer all day Monday. At five o'clock they had the victory. It took them all day. I wish we had spirituality and faith enough to look through the mists and see what was taking place all that day long, until the powers of darkness were dispelled and the healing came.

As I walked up and down my sister's room I could think of only one man that had faith on this line. That was John Alexander Dowie, six hundred miles away. I went to the phone and called Western Union and told them I wanted to get a telegram through to Mr Dowie, and an answer back as quickly as possible. I sent this wire:

"My sister has apparently died, but my spirit will not let her go. I believe if you will pray, God will heal her."

I received this answer back:

“Hold on to God. I am praying. She will live.”

Oh God, I have said a thousand times, what would it have meant if instead of that telegram of faith I had received one from a weakling preacher who might have said, “I am afraid you are on the wrong track,” or “Brother, you are excited,” or “the days of miracles are past.”

It was the strength of his faith that came over the wire that caused the lightnings of my soul to begin to flash and, while I stood there at the telephone and listened, the very lightnings of God began to flash in my spirit. I prayed, “This thing of hell can not be and it will not be. In the name of Jesus Christ I abolish death and sickness and she shall live.” As I finished praying I turned my eyes toward the bed and I saw her eyelids blink. I was so wrought up I said, “Maybe I deceived myself.” So I stood a little while at the telephone and the lightnings of God’s Spirit were still flashing from my soul. Presently I observed her husband get up and tip-toe to her head and I knew he had seen it. I said, “What is it, Peter?” He replied, “I thought I saw her eyelids move.” Just then they moved again. Five days later she came to father’s home and the Lake family sat down to Christmas dinner, the first time in their life when they were all well.

PERSISTENT PRAYER SOMETIMES NECESSARY

Beloved, it is not our long prayers, but believing God that gets the answer. However, I want to help somebody who finds persistent prayer a necessity, as we all do sometimes. We have not the least idea, Paul says, of the powers of darkness we are praying against.

“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against power, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12.

Sometimes you have to lay hold of God and stay before God, through the blackness and through the darkness and through the night of it, until the faith of God penetrates and the work is done.

DANIEL’S EXPERIENCE

Do you remember the experience of Daniel, one of the finest in the Book? He had to hear from heaven. He fasted and prayed for twenty-one days. On the twenty-first day an angel came to him right out of heaven and said, “Daniel, a man greatly beloved, from the first day thy prayer was heard.” Not the last time you prayed, but the very first.

“O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright, for unto thee am I now sent ... Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to

chasten thyself before God, thy words were heard, and I came for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days.” Daniel 10:11-14.

Michael is spoken of again as the warrior angel. He made way against the devil and cast him out of heaven. Get the circumstances. Daniel prayed and God heard his prayer and answered it by sending an angel messenger. However, the messenger himself was held up on the way by the power of darkness until reinforcements came. God dispatched Michael, one of the chief angels, to his help. I wonder what was necessary to be accomplished in the mind of those interested, before God could answer that prayer?

You are praying for somebody. You are praying for your friend, or your brother, or your son, or your daughter who needs your love and faith. Beloved, have you faith in God to stay and pray until the Spirit has a chance to work out the problem? That is the issue. Keep right down to it. Do not let go. It is the will of God. You have a right to an answer.

There is a ministry of intercession that comes from heaven. It is prayer by the Spirit of God. It is entering into the prayer spirit of the Holy Ghost. He prays, He prays for you, He prays for me, “with groanings that cannot be uttered.” With our spirit in union with His we enter into oneness of faith, reaching out into the ether of God and the love of His Spirit and taking that power of God and fashioning the power of God into the soul’s desire. A lot of folks stop when half through. You hold on to God and pray through.

Then there are times, like the one when my sister was restored, when the faith and power of God comes like the lightning flash, and to Moses when he prayed, “Heal her now O God, I beseech thee,” and the healing is instant.

There are times when it is only your humanity that prays. You know these times yourself, when your soul does not enter into your prayer, much less your spirit. There are times when your soul prays. People these days do not even have much conception of the realm of the SOUL, or psychic. It is a marvellous realm. People pray in the psychic. Then there is a prayer in the Spirit, that deeper quality of your life, deeper than the psychic, or soul. Oh, bless God, there is still a prayer where the spirit of man and the Spirit of God unite and become one.

Now one can imagine, as Moses prayed that day, how his soul must have been stirred. Here is his own sister, the woman that had stood by the riverside when he was a babe. She had put him in a basket, hid him in the bull-rushes and watched over his welfare. Don’t you think she was interested in him? Sometimes I have sympathised with Miriam. She had a sisterly and motherly affection for Moses. She wanted to keep him straight. She was afraid he had made a great mistake in his marriage.

Some of you are fathers or mothers or sisters or brothers and you have laid hold so tight on a loved one that you are afraid to leave them in the hands of God. That is one of the hardest things folks have to learn, to just take their hands off the other and let God have them. There is no record that God had any quarrel with Moses about his wife.

THE EXPERIENCE OF STEPHEN MERRITT

Stephen Merritt was a godly old undertaker in the City of New York.. His dear old wife and himself had lived a godly life. They had raised one son and if there was ever a reprobate it was that son Charley. Charley would get into some disreputable affair and the police would come and say, “Charley has done so and so. It will take so much money to get him out of the difficulty.” The next week another would come along with something else and so it went on and on. The two old grey heads were praying and pouring out their tears for that boy’s salvation. Stephen Merritt had a habit of receiving people into his office and helping them. John G. Wooley was one that he helped. He handed Wooley five dollars and said, “You meet me at such and such a camp ground.” Wooley was a drunkard. He had not been accustomed to being trusted with money and he met the old man there and found God.

One day, as he sat in his office praying about his son and the floor was wet with his tears, he heard the voice of God saying, “How long have you been trying to save Charley?” So many of us are trying to save Charley and we have gotten in the way of the Lord. He replied, “Lord, a long time.” The Lord said, “Now if you are through, I will undertake.” The old man considered and it worked out in his soul this way. The police came and said, “Charley did so and so.” He asked, “Who is Charley?” “Why he is your son.” “No, I have no son named Charley.” That day as he knelt there he said, “Lord, He is not my son any more. I give him over to you until he is saved.” So he told the police, “No, I have no son.” They looked at him and shook their heads. Then they sent another officer. It was no use to go to him any more. It looked as if the old man had gone crazy.

About nine months passed and one day an officer came and said, “Charley has jumped off the Brooklyn Bridge and is finished.” He wanted the old man to have the river dragged to obtain the body. But he said, “Oh, no, I have no son, Charley. Drag the river if you want to.” So they dragged the river, but the body they found was not Charley’s. Three more months passed and one day a clerk said, “There is one of your friends in the office.” When he came in it was Charley. He was beautifully dressed, clean faced and everything indicating the light of God. When the old father came in the son fell at his feet, kissed them, and asked his forgiveness. He said in explanation, “Three months ago I was saved in a mission but I did not want to come and see you until I came as a man.”

THE HUMAN GRIP

Not only is it so in your prayers for others, but in your prayers for yourself. Some of you are holding to your sickness or difficulty with such a grip, and are so everlastingly conscious of it, that God cannot get it out of your hands. You are in the very place

spiritually where old Stephen Merritt was. He was so determined to save his boy that he was just doing it himself and God was not getting a chance.

Open your hands. Let go of the old difficulty. I was praying for a woman who had appendicitis and as I prayed I saw she was holding on to it mentally so hard I had to do something. I told one of the craziest stories I ever told and finally she burst out laughing in spite of the pain. When she got through, the pain was gone. She just opened her grip.

Maybe you are holding on to sin with that same grip. Maybe you are holding on to disobedience to God with that same grip. Maybe it is your sickness. If there is something that is keeping you from being blessed, let clear go and let your hands and heart open..

When I was a boy I used to visit the Sealocks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, where my home was. One day a sailor up in the masts lost balance and shot over the ship into the water. Another sailor stood on the railing of the ship and watched him. He went down and came up and went down and came up again and everything was in foam around him. Still the fellow stood there. Then the chap went down the third time, limp, and just as he was disappearing he shot down into the water and came up with him. A couple of gentlemen were standing nearby. One remarked, "That fellow has taken men out of the water before." He just waited until the kick was all out of him, otherwise both might have drowned.

A lot of us have to thresh and struggle and fight until the kick is all out of us before we are ready to let God take us. As a young fellow I was as proud as Lucifer . Every Lake I ever knew was. Robert Burns wrote with his diamond on the window of a Highland Inn, "There's nothing here but Highland pride, Highland pride and poverty." It did not make any difference how poor they were.

The hardest thing I had to do was to make my surrender to God. I heard Riley tell the other night of having been a dope fiend and gambler and of how God saved him. I never knew anything about that kind of life. Never touched whisky in my life. Never used tobacco. Never committed an unholy act in the moral sense, but that proud heart of mine had to struggle like a drowning man until I was ready to say, "Lord, you save me." The final consummation came when I knelt behind an old elm tree and poured out my heart to God and made my surrender to Him. The light of heaven broke into my sou, and I arose from my knees a son of God, and I knew it.

Let God have you. Quit sweating and quit wrestling. About the most difficult class in the world to get healed is Christian Scientists. Why? It is because they are working at it so hard. They have been reading so many lessons and concentrating their mind on healing until almost exhausted. You have to lead them away from it all to a place where, "It is not TRY but TRUST." That is the secret of Christ's healing. That is the secret of Christ's salvation. It is trusting Him for it and believing HIM when He says he will do it. The mind relaxes and the soul comes to rest.

There is a wonderful help in disarming people. I read a story of the healing of Mr Leake. He had become a most notorious drunkard. He bought whisky and buried it

until he filled his whole lot with buried whisky. It was a mania. Everybody who tried to help him would say to him, "Leake, just make one promise, that you will not drink any more." Finally he went to a woman who was wiser than the others. Before he went out of the room she said, "I want you to promise one thing." He said, "I will promise you anything, except that I will not drink whisky. I'm nearly crazy for a drink now." She said, "I want you to promise that every time you feel like taking a drink of whisky you will do so." "Sure I will." Do you get the secret of that? She disarmed him right away. The thing he was clutching all the time was the fear that someone was going to make him promise not to drink whisky. One morning when he awoke he discovered that the cursed appetite was gone.

Dear hearts, let go! Open your grip! Let God take you. Let God have you, whether it is for your spirit, whether it is for your soul, whether it is for your body. No matter what, just let go. "It is not TRY, but TRUST." God bless you.

As rowers in a boat turn their backs to the shore and trust in the man at the helm whose eye is fixed upon it, so should we proceed in duty through life. Turn our backs from our anxious cares for the future and leave the guidance of them all to God who guides the helm.

We lie to God in prayer if we do not rely upon Him after prayer.

The nearer the soul is to God the less its perturbations, as the point nearest the centre of a circle is subject to the least motion.

"For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest." Hebrews 4:10-11.

Have you entered that rest?

30. REIGN AS KINGS

I want to bring you a message that came to me today. For years I have been on the verge of this message, but never did I receive it until this morning. In the fifth chapter of Romans and the seventeenth verse, in another translation there is a remarkable rendering:

“For if by the trespass of the one, death reigned as king through the one, much more shall they who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign as kings in the realm of life, through Jesus Christ.”

That means that the moment you accept Jesus Christ, God becomes your righteousness. That is the “gift of righteousness.” Let me read it again, “For if by the trespass of the one, death reigned as king through the one, much more shall they who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign as kings in the realm of life through Jesus Christ.” It means every one of us who have been born again comes into a kingly and queenly state, and we are accepted by God to reign as kings and queens in the realm of life.

We have reigned as servants in the realm of spiritual death. We have passed out of death (Satan’s realm) into the realm of life and into the realm of the supernatural, or the spiritual, or the heavenlies.

Here are some significant facts. Man was never made a slave. He was never made for slavery. He was made to reign as king under God. If you noticed, I showed you this - the kingly being that was created was created in the image and likeness of God. He was created on terms of equality with God so he could stand in the presence of God without any consciousness of inferiority.

I’m quoting to you from the eighth Psalm in which this expression is used:

“What is man that thou art mindful of Him? And the son of man, that Thou visitest Him? For Thou hast made him but a little lower than God; and crownest him with glory and honour.”

(In Psalm 8:4-5 the word “angel” is from the Hebrew “Elohim” and is the name of God in the first five chapters of Genesis.)

What does it mean? It means that God has made us as near like Himself as it is possible for God to make a being. He made you in His image. He made you in His likeness. He made you the same class of being that He is Himself.

He made Adam with an intellect of such calibre that he was able to name every animal, every vegetable and every fruit and give them names that would fit and describe their characteristics. When God could do that with man, that man belonged to the realm of God.

Adam had such vitality in his body that even after he sinned and became mortal he lived nearly a thousand years. He lived 930 years before mortality got in its work and put him on his death bed. Methuselah lived 969 years. Life was so abundant, so tremendous in their minds and spirits that it conquered century after century.

Jesus said:

“I am come that ye might have life, and that ye might have it abundantly.”

More abundantly! Jesus made the declaration: “I am come that ye might have life.”

The thing that was forfeited in the garden was regained. God gave man dominion over the works of His hand. God made him His understudy, His king, to rule over everything that had life. Man was master. Man lived in the realm of God. He lived on terms of equality with God. God was a faith God. All God had to do was to believe that the sun was and it was. All God had to do was to believe that the planets would be, and they were. Man belonged to God’s class of being. He was a faith man. He lived in the creative realm of God. Friends, if you believe what I am preaching, it is going to end your impotence and weakness and you will swing out into a power such as you have never known in your life.

Man lost his place by high treason against God. He lost his dominion in the fall. With the fall went his dominion of spirit over soul. But universal man ever yearned for the return of his dominion.

Brother, do you hear me? Here is one of the most tremendous facts that we have to face. There has never been a single primitive people ever found that has not yearned for dominion. Not a single primitive people found that did not have a golden past where they had dominion and a golden future where dominion is going to be restored. That is the tradition of universal man.

Man has craved dominion. Man has shrunk from bondage. Man has rebelled against it. Man has yearned to gain the mastery again over physical loss, over mind loss, and over the loss of spirit. This age-old desire to gain the lost dominion is seen in his offerings, in his drinking blood and in his priesthood that he has appointed.

I want to enter this a little bit with you. Darwin foolishly said that the reason man drank blood was because the blood was salty and he craved salt. Friends, human blood was never desirable to any people. Why did they drink it? They drank it in order that they might be like God. They drank it that they might become eternal, immortal.

The desire of immortality of the physical body lies latent in the heart of universal man. And for that reason they drank it, believing if they drank it they would be like God. They took the animal or man and laid it upon the altar of their god or gods, believing that the offering became identified with their god. Then they said, “If we drink the blood of the man or animal, we drink the blood of God and if we drink enough of it, we will be God.”

How far is that removed from the communion table? Do you see the analogy? The communion table is practically unknown as yet to the majority of Christians.

Now the ancients believed this, and the people of Africa, and it caused them to become cannibals. It was not because they loved human blood, but they believed if they could eat the flesh and drink the blood that was given to their god, they would be like God. You will find it all through the legends and poetry of the old world.

Universal man feels that lost dominion can be regained. They have a conviction that it is going to be regained. This faith of universal man, reaching God-ward, finally challenged God to make it a possibility. Man believes that union with God will give him this dominion. He hates defeat. He wants to conquer death. He dreams of immortality. He fears death and disease.

Let me recapitulate. This universal man has believed that somehow God was going to give him this lost dominion. He believed that dominion would come through His union with God, if that union could be effected. Can you understand now? It was the universal knowledge and the universal need and the universal cry of man for union with Deity that caused the incarnation.

Let me come a step closer. On the ground of what Jesus Christ did, the substitutionary sacrifice, God is able to redeem us from our sins. He is able to impart to us His very nature. He is able to give us eternal life and take us into His own family, so that we can call Him, "Father." Not by adoption only, but by an actual birth of our spirit, so we come into actual relationship and union with God. The age-old cry of universal man has been fulfilled. Do you see? The new birth has brought us into vital union with Jesus Christ.

This thing I am teaching you about our union with God is not known in the great body of Christians. All they have is forgiveness of sin. There is no actual union with God. They do not know that the new birth is a real incarnation. They do not know that they are as much the sons and daughters of God Almighty as Jesus is. The great body of the Christian church has no dominion. They do not know it. They have the most befogged concept of what God has done and what God is to them and what they are to God.

Another step. The incarnation that God has given through the new birth has bestowed upon us the lost authority of the garden of Eden. Only here and there has a man known it or preached it or dared to assume it.

Let me break in here. J. Hudson Taylor, after his first visit to China, was walking in England and a voice said, "If you will walk with Me, we will evangelise inland China." He looked and there was no one there. An unseen angel had spoken to him. His heart caught the vision and said, "Lord, we will do it." He was the founder of the great Inland China Mission.

Taylor was returning on a sailing vessel and they were going through the Yellow Sea. It was in the area where the seven winds come at eventide, but from a certain hour in the day until evening there is no wind. One afternoon the captain said to Mr Taylor, "Take these." He took the glasses and looked. He could see they were nearing land.

The Captain said, "The worst pirates in all this awful part of the ocean are there. Our vessel is in the clutches of the tide and in three hours will strike the rocks and there is no hope of saving it." J. Hudson said, "Are you a Christian?" He said, "I am." Taylor asked, "Are there any other Christians here?" He said, "Yes, the cook and the carpenter and another man are Christians." Taylor said, "Call them, and let's go pray." He called them and the five or six of them went to their respective places. They had not been praying but a little while when he heard commands being given on board and men rushing about. He came up and he could see the wind breaking on the sea that had been so glassy. In a few minutes the wind had filled the sails three hours before nature would have sent it.

In my own experience I have seen God many times set aside natural law. I told you one day about a miracle. We were putting a roof on one of our buildings. A storm came up. The boys had unwisely torn off too many shingles for us to cover before the storm reached us. I saw that storm go around us and leave ten or fifteen acres where the rain did not fall for more than half an hour and the water flowed down the gutters past our buildings. Those boys worked and sang and shouted. When the last shingle was in place the water fell on it and we were drenched to the skin. I have seen God perform His wonders in answer to believing prayer. What God does for one He will do for another.

This inferiority complex that makes men seek God and create religions and priesthoods is a relic of the fall and comes because man is conscious that once, somewhere he had power, he had dominion, and he galls under it. Like a mighty athlete that feels his strength leaving him until, by and by, he becomes helpless as a little child. Oh, the agony of the thing!

Every man has within him the entire history of every man. That cry of agony of the athlete, that cry of agony of the man that once had physical and mental health, is the universal cry of man for the lost authority and dominion he once enjoyed.

He seeks, through rites, a new birth, a re-creation that does not come. How many lodges and secret societies have a rite, a symbol of the new birth? I cannot mention them, but you have a look. People are initiated into these organisations. I can name four that have a new birth rite. It is latent in universal man.

Every religion has some kind of re-creation. Why? Every man has a consciousness (I am speaking of men who think) inside them. There is something that cries out against death, against sickness, against sorrow, against defeat, against failure. There is something that revolts against the bondage of fear and that cries for rebirth, a re-creation that will give them dominion and mastery over the forces that have held them in bondage.

Our redemption is God's answer to this universal hunger. We saw God's hunger creating man. Now you see man's hunger bringing God to recreate him. Can't you understand it? Hunger in the heart of God drove Him, forced Him, until He spoke a world into being for the home of His love project, man. It has driven Him to create universes to hold this world by the law of attraction and make it a safe place for man.

When man fell and lost his standing and became a slave and subject to Satan, this universal cry went up until the very heart of God bled for this broken human. Then He made provision whereby this man He had created, who had sinned and de-created, might come back into fellowship with Him as a higher, holier sort than he had lost at the beginning.

I want to take you through some scriptures. Go with me to Romans 5:17:

“For if by the trespass of one, death reigned as king, through the one, much more shall they who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness, reign as kings in the realm of life through Jesus Christ.”

By the new birth you have passed out of Satan’s dominion and Satan’s power and you have come over into God’s dominion. You have come into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

Pardon me, but I have this consciousness when I am preaching of a wave of a kind of stultified unbelief coming from the congregation. Do you know where it comes from? It comes from all the years you have sat under false teachers. You have been taught that to be humble you have got to say you are a sinner, you are no good and you don’t amount to anything. You sing:

“Weak and sickly, vile and full of sin I am.”

I do not like to preach one thing and Charles Wesley another. If you are born again you are a son of God. For you to tear yourself out of your sonship, your relationship and the righteousness of God and put yourself over in the realm of death, telling God you are dirty and unclean, that His blood has not cleansed you, and His life has not been delivered you, it is a monstrous thing. It is all right to sing all that as an unregenerate, but it is not the experience of the sons and daughters of God.

Here is your position through Jesus Christ. God has become your righteousness. You have become His very sons and daughters and then you go and sing and talk and pray weakness, and sing and talk and pray unbelief, and you go out and live it. You are like that good old woman. She said: “I do love that doctrine of falling from grace and I practice it all the time.” Another man said, “Brother, I believe in the dual nature. I believe that when I would do good, evil is always present with me, and I thank God that evil is always there.” You live it and believe it, and God cannot do anything with you. You magnify failure and deify failure until, to the majority of you, the devil is bigger than God. You are more afraid of the devil than of God. You have more reverence for the devil than for God. It is absolutely true. If any saint would dare to say, “I am done with disease and sickness. I will never be sick again,” ninety percent of you would say, “Keep your eyes on that person. He will be sick in a week. The devil sure will get him.” You believe the devil is bigger than God. Your God is about one and a half inches high and the devil is one and a half feet high. What you need to do is to change gods and change gods quick. There have been only a few folks that had a good-sized God.

You go over to Genesis and you see the size of God. It is a full-sized photograph. You see Jesus Christ rising from the dead and you have seen the God-sized photograph of redemption. We “reign as kings in the realm of life.” What is the reaction in you? You say, “That is all right and I wish that was true in my case. I would like to reign as king.” You think this moment how you are defeated and you think how you have been overcome and how weak you are and how you will be defeated all the next week. You reckon on the strength of the devil and on your own sickness and you say, “If he had what I have he wouldn’t talk like that.” How can the potter of God come through such a mess of unbelief? How can God get near? Ninety percent of those who have received the Spirit have made God a little bit of a side issue, a sort of court of last resort. When you get where the devil can do no more, you say, “God, catch me. The devil has finished his work.” God is simply a life insurance company that pays the premium at death.

Turn with me to Ephesians 1:7.

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”

For months and months that scripture has been burning its way into my soul. “In whom we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,” and it is “according to the riches of his grace.” It is illustrated in Israel coming out of Egypt with the Red Sea before them and vast desert stretching its burning waste between them and their promised land. We do not have any such redemption in our religion. I’ll tell you what we need. Have you been to Canada? Do you know when we went to Canada for the first time there was one thing that struck me particularly. The signs read, “John Brown Limited.” I saw that sign everywhere. That is a Scotsman’s caution. I was holding meetings in the old St. Andrews Church in Sidney. I asked them one night why they did not put their national symbol on their churches. They wondered what I meant. I said, “Every other business house is ‘LTD.’ Why don’t you put it over the church?” An old Scotsman said, “We don’t have to. Everybody knows it.” Limited? Sure it is limited. Limit God, limit ourselves, limit His grace, limit the word. Sure, our God is a little bit of a god. Most of us could carry Him in our vest pocket and it wouldn’t bulge the pocket. Our God with the “LTD” on him.

Brother, sister, the challenge comes to us today to let God loose. There are a few places where they have let God have His way and O how the blessings have come.

“In whom we have our redemption.”

Have you? If you have your redemption it means that, to you, Satan has been defeated. Jesus conquered the devil as a Jew before He died. Then He let the devil conquer Him on the cross and send Him down to the place of suffering with our burden and guilt upon Him. But after He satisfied the claims of justice, Jesus met the devil in his own throne room and He stripped him of his authority and dominion. When He arose He said:

“I am He that liveth, and was dead: and, behold, I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of hell and of death.” Revelation 1:18

He went into the throne room and took Satan’s badge of dominion and authority that Adam had given him in the garden of Eden. Every man that accepts Jesus Christ was identified with Him when He did it. He did it for you. He did it for me. He died as our substitute and representative. When He put his heel on Satan’s neck, He did it for you and you were in Christ. To you who believe, Satan is conquered and defeated. He can holler and bellow as much as he wants to but you withstand him in the faith of Jesus Christ.

I saw a picture this morning. I was reading an article. I saw a company of men walk out and I saw all the diseases and all the crimes and agonies. I saw cancers and tumours and tuberculosis and I saw a company of men and women walk down in the midst of it. I heard them say, “Here come the sons of God. Here come the conquerors.” and the sons of God said to diseases, “In the name of Jesus, depart,” and diseases fled. They fled as they did before the Son of God. They obeyed because the Son of God sent people out and gave them His name as authority. I saw the company of men enter into the lost dominion. They put upon them the garments of their authority and dominion and walked out conquerors over death and hell and the grave. They were masters. They were rulers.

Then I saw another picture. I saw David in the old cave of Adullam. I saw men coming down that were broken and in distress and in debt and men that were in awful physical condition. They gathered four hundred strong around David. Out of that crowd David developed and trained the most invincible army that was ever seen. Then my mind passed over a few years of struggle and I saw from that company some mighty men come forth. I saw one man come forth and go where there were thousands and thousands of Philistines. Men who were shoulders above him, men who wore shields. I saw that man go among those giants and he slew hundreds of them. I piled them up in hundreds until I had piled eight hundred.

Every one of those mighty men of David were simple men of extraordinary ability. There was no mark to indicate that they were more than common Jews, 5’ 11”, but they knocked down men 6’ 6” and 6’ 8”. They conquered them because they were blood covenant men.

That is the type of the church of Jesus Christ. I said, “Where are God’s mighty men today?” Then I saw a picture. David sat there a little way from the spring of Bethlehem and the Philistines had got control of the water. David said, “Oh, that I had a drink.” Those three men came forth. He said, “Where are you going, boys?” They just waved him off and those three men conquered the whole company of the Philistines, filled their pitchers with water, and set them down at David’s feet.

I cried, “My God, my God, where are the mighty men of valour of today, the men that can assail the forces of Satan?” God says they are coming out of you. They are going to arrive. God has in training some men and women that are going to do exploits for Him. Will you not come up and live in your realm?

This is the trouble with most of you. You live up in the faith realm but you have gone down the back stairs into the reason realm and a lot of you are hugging your old devilish reason right now.

God help you, this afternoon, to throw out your reason that has led you into all kinds of doubt and fear. Throw it to the wind and say, "God, here goes. We trust in your omnipotence to put us over."

31. SANCTIFICATION

Reading Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5.

Beloved, the thought that is in my spirit tonight is the truth from the words we have just read. The sanctification of spirit, soul and body. Paul says,

“I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that called you who also will do it.”

Most of us in our reading of the scriptures have the difficulty, and it is a perfectly natural one, of recognising body and soul only. Man is generally spoken of as a duality of body and soul. However, the scriptures do not recognise man as a dual being, but a triune being, like God Himself.

Therefore, the Apostle says, “I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

One difficulty we have in the study of this subject is that in the common translation of our English Bible there is very little distinction made between soul and spirit. It is one of the most difficult things in the world to express the common truths we teach in another language. Paul coined seventeen distinct words in his letter to the Ephesians to express the fine distinctions of soul and spirit.

Paul declares in the book of Hebrews the possibility of dividing the soul and spirit. He says:

“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12.

Beloved, the spirit of man is a great unknown realm in the lives of the most men. My judgement is that the spirit lies dormant in most men until quickened by the living Spirit of God and fertilised by the real Spirit of Jesus Christ. When touched by the Spirit of God a quickening takes place. The spirit of man comes into activity and begins to operate within him. It not only discerns things in this life, like the spirit of another, or in another, but it reaches way beyond this present life and becomes that medium by which we touch God Himself and by which we know and comprehend heavenly things.

In my judgement, the spirit of man is the most amazing instrument of God that there is in the whole world. We have this declaration in the book of Job concerning man's spirit:

“There is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding.”

When a soul comes to God and surrenders his life to Him we say he is converted. By that we mean he is changed, born again of God. The common things which were evident in life as a fleshly being fell away and were gone and the spiritual life appeared in him. In the truest sense he began his walk as a child of God

I believe a real conversion is the awakening of the spirit of man to the consciousness of the Fatherhood of God through Jesus Christ. In order to be aware of that consciousness of union with God it is necessary that everything that hides that consciousness and dims the knowledge of God be removed.

Sin is that peculiar thing in the life of man that dims the consciousness of man so he cannot comprehend God. When sin is removed the veil over the soul of man is gone and the spirit of man looks into the face of God and recognises that He is his Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. The spirit of man, ascending into union with God, brings into our soul the consciousness that God is our all and in all.

The SOUL of man is that intermediate quality between body and spirit. In other words, the soul comprehends all the action of our mental powers, the natural mind. The soul of man is that which reaches out and takes possession of the knowledge that the spirit has attained and expresses that knowledge through the outer man. The soul of man is the governing power in the constitution of man.

I feel in my heart that one of the things we need to learn very much is this, that the soul of man, not the spirit, has a marvellous power.

If I were to endeavour to define it in terms that people would understand, I would speak of the action of the soul of man as that which is commonly spoken of by students as the subconsciousness. As you read the writings of psychic authors, you will observe that the actions and powers they define are not the powers of the spirit in union with God but the action of the soul of man. The soul of man is the real ego. When the word of God speaks of the salvation of the soul, it speaks in truly scientific language. For unless the soul, the mind of man, is redeemed from his own self into the spirit of God, that man is, in my judgement, still an unredeemed man.

Sanctification is calculated to apply to the needs of all our nature, first of the spirit, second of the soul, third of the body. Over and over again I have repeated those blessed words of John Wesley in his definition of sanctification. He said, “Sanctification is possessing the mind of Christ, and all the mind of Christ.”

The ultimate of complete sanctification would comprehend all the mind of Christ. Christians are usually very weak in this department of their nature. Perhaps less pains have been taken by Christians to develop their mind in God than almost anything else.

We pay attention particularly to one thing only, the spirit. We do not comprehend the fact that God purposed that the things God’s Spirit brings to us should be applied in a practical manner to the needs of our present life.

I was absolutely shocked the other day beyond anything I think my spirit ever received. A dear lady who professes not only to live a holy life but to possess the real baptism of the Holy Ghost, and who discusses the subject a great deal, was guilty of saying one of the vilest things I ever heard concerning another. I said in my own soul, that individual has not even discerned the outer fringes of what sanctification by the Spirit of God means. I do not believe there is even an evidence of sanctification in that life. Certainly a mind that could repeat such a damning thing gives no evidence whatever of anything but a very superficial knowledge of God, very superficial indeed.

It shows us one thing. People are placing their dependence in the fact that in their spirit they know God, that they have been saved from sin and are going to heaven when they die, but they are living like the devil in this present life, talking like the devil. It is an abomination. It spells a tremendous degree of ignorance. It shows that the individual does not comprehend the first principles of the breadth of salvation as Jesus taught it to the world - a holy mind, a sanctified spirit.

Beloved, I tell you with all candour, a holy mind cannot repeat a vile thing, let alone be the creator of the vile suggestion. It is an unholy mind that is capable of such an act. I say with Paul, "mark such a person". Put your finger on him. Make a note of it. He can talk, but he does not know God. He does not comprehend the power of his salvation.

But here is the hope. Here is the strength. Here is the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The power of God unto salvation, applied to the mind of man, sanctifies the soul of man and makes the mind of man like the mind of Christ.

Who could imagine from the lips of Jesus an unholy suggestion that would jar the spirit of another? His mind could not conceive of such a thing. It can only conceive from God the outflow of a holy life, quickening his mind, infilling it with love and purity and peace and power.

Beloved, we leave the impress of our thoughts in our home, in our life, in our office, wherever we are. If our thoughts are pure and holy like Christ, people will walk into that atmosphere and instantly discover it.

PRAYER

I pray that the power of God will come upon the Christian people, that they may feel, O God, the necessity of submitting the wicked, accursed, vile mind of man to the living God to be purged and cleansed and remoulded, that it may become, in deed and in truth, the mind of Christ.

If there is any particular place in Christians' lives where, as a rule, they are weak, it is in the consecration of their minds. Christians seem to feel that they are not to exercise any control over the mind and so it seems to run at random, just like the mind of the world.

Real Christianity is marked by the pureness, the holiness of the thoughts of man. If your kind of Christianity does not produce in your mind real holiness, real purity, real sweetness and real truth, then it is a poor brand. Change it right away.

Beloved, there is relief for such. There is a way of salvation. It is in the submission of that mind to the Lord Jesus to be remoulded by the Holy Spirit so that it becomes the pure channel of a holy nature.

Beloved, surely we, who profess to know the living God and live in union with Him, ought to present to the world that attitude of mind, that pureness of mind, that holiness of mind that needs no recommendation. The people know it. They feel it. They smell it. They know it is the mind of Christ. I love that definition of John Wesley's that says, "possessing the mind of Christ and ALL the mind of Christ."

PRAYER

Oh God, I ask You that You will help me, and the souls of these people, to submit our minds to God so that they may be remoulded in love and sweetness and purity and holiness so that, in the name of Jesus, they are the minds of Christ.

Beloved, we are going a step further to see the effect of a pure mind on the body of man and in the flesh of man. Do you know that the sins of vileness in men's lives originate in the mind? A man's life will be of the character of his thoughts. If he thinks evil he is evil. If he thinks holy, he will be holy. His outward life will be as the inner impulse is. Jesus said,

"From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness; all these evil things come from within, and defile the man." Mark 7:21-23.

The Pharisees and Scribes were troubled because Jesus and the disciples were eating and drinking from dishes that were not ceremonially cleansed. Jesus was trying to teach the great lesson of the deep and inner life. He said, "Out of the heart cometh evil things." "That which goes into the mouth cannot defile a man."

Beloved, our minds need to be stayed on Christ, kept by the power of God, in-filled with the Holy Spirit of Christ so that we reflect his beauty, we show forth his love, we manifest His sweetness and evidence His power.

Long ago I learned this splendid lesson. One night I was in a strange city and was sick. I wanted somebody to pray for me. A person was present and they suggested that they would pray. I knelt by a chair on the floor and they put their hands on me and I arose from that chair with one of the most tremendous passions in my nature, one of the most terrible conditions of sensuousness in me. It was days before I felt that I got back again to where I was pure and holy in the sight of God. I did not understand it at the

time, but afterward that individual came to me with the confession of the character of his life and then I understood. I received the condition of that nature and, in my receptive attitude, I received of the vileness of that person in my nature. It seemed my soul was soiled for days as a consequence.

That taught me to be careful about who laid their hands on me. After that, I waited until the Spirit of the living God indicated in my soul that the person who offered to perform such a ministry was pure.

Isn't it marvellous, beautiful and wonderful to realise that mankind can receive into his nature and being the power and Spirit of the living Christ which contains the purging power to drive forth from the being every particle of evil. It can drive out every sensuous thing in the thought and nature so that the man becomes what Jesus was. That is what the blood of Jesus Christ is calculated to do. That is what the spirit of Christ has purposed to do in the soul of a man. He cleanses the nature from the power and dominion of sin.

Beloved, the inflow of His holy life into our body **MUST PRODUCE** holiness in the body, just as it does in the soul. We cannot even think beautiful thoughts or holy thoughts without them leaving their impression in our nature, in our very flesh.

That same divine power in us dissolves disease and restores diseased tissue. Our flesh is purged by the divine power being transmitted from our spirit, through our soul, into our body.

I have always loved to think of the holy flesh of Jesus. It was not just His beautiful, pure mind or His pure spirit, but His flesh was cleansed and purified until His very body, His hands, His feet, His person were just as pure by the Spirit of God. Is it not blessed and sweet to contemplate?

That is why Jesus was the wonderful channel He was. The Spirit of God could flow through Him just as freely, fully, and powerfully as it was possible for it to flow through a holy, purified personality.

I like to contemplate the Lord Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration and think of the radiant glory that came through his flesh. It was not just the illumination of His Spirit, but the holy glory emanating through His flesh, until He became white and glistening. His clothes were white and his face shown as the light. It is that radiant purity of God that my soul covets. It is that radiant power, evidenced in the pureness of my spirit, my mind, my very flesh that I long for.

So, beloved, when something impure, of the character of disease, appears on our flesh and we feel we are being soiled by an unholy touch, our spirit reaches up in the name of Jesus and rebukes that devilish condition. We stand, by the Spirit of the living God, believing that the Holy Spirit of God will flow through the spirit, through the soul and through the flesh and remedy and heal that difficulty that is in us.

An old Baptist brother was in to see me about his wife. As I sat reasoning with him, I said, "Brother, I would just as soon have my brother commit a sin as to have sickness

in his person. One is the evidence of an impure mind and the other is the evidence of an impure body. The salvation of Jesus was intended to make him pure in spirit, in soul and body.”

“I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you who also will do it.”

There is a stream of life that God permits to flow from your nature and mine to all men everywhere. That blessed stream will be either sweet and pure as the stream that flows from the throne of God, or it will be soiled and foul, according to the condition of our nature. The value of the precious blood of Jesus Christ to you and me is that through it that life stream that flows from us may be made holy, that same holy living life stream that causes the Tree of Life to bloom.

Of all the pictures that the Word of God contains, the one described in the 22nd of Revelation is the most beautiful:

“He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb ...” Verses 1-21.

Beloved, if your life has not been satisfactory, if you have not recognised the holy character that Christ expects from a real Christian, then this call of the Spirit comes to your soul. “The Spirit and the Bride say come.” Come up, come into the real life, the high life, the life hid with Christ in God.

“I will be within thee a well of water, springing up into everlasting life.”

32. THE SECOND COMING

Reading: Revelation 5

PRAYER

O God, we call the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon our souls today, to quicken every instinct of our being that by Your grace we may comprehend the power of Your word and the might of Your Spirit. We pray that the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ may be present in every heart, that we may realise, O God, not only the elevation and crowning of our Lord and Saviour, but our own elevation and crowning with Him as sons of God.

SERMON

Somehow the minds of men all over the world have been concentrated on the cross of Christ. One of the strangest things to me in all Christian life has been the manner in which the souls of men cling to the cross of Calvary. I have sometimes felt that it is one of the great reasons why there has been so little progress made in the higher Christian life.

While we revere the cross of Calvary and while the souls of men will ever love to think of Him who gave His life for us, yet I believe the triumph of the Christ, which began at the cross, ends only **WHEN THE RACE, LIKE HIMSELF, HAS RECEIVED FROM GOD THE FATHER, THROUGH HIM, THE GRACE, POWER AND GLORY OF GOD THAT MAKES THEM SONS OF GOD LIKE HIMSELF.**

It is a long way from the cross of Calvary to the throne of God, but that is the way that Jesus travelled and that is the course for every other soul of man. I am glad that God is never in a hurry. He has plenty of time. A few years may make much difference in this life, but God has plenty of time for the elevation of the soul. He has plenty of time for the perfect tuition of each heart until it comes into such complete and perfect unison that the nature of a man is absolutely changed into the nature of Christ.

The triumph of Jesus, as we see it outlined in the scripture I have just read, has always been a splendid inspiration for my own soul. If we had not been permitted to have that preview of the final triumph of the Son of God, there may have been a conception in the minds of many that His life and death was not the perfect triumph it ought to have been. It seems, therefore, that no-one can have the highest appreciation of the real Christian life or the consciousness it brings, unless they see the triumph of the Christ.

Yes, no-one. It is only as we become possessors of that consciousness and as the knowledge of his triumph grows in our souls and takes possession of our hearts that we are able to comprehend what Christianity really is.

If we stop to think that one-half of the Christian world is still carrying a little crucifix representing a dead Christ, we will realise how the mind of man is yet chained to the cross of Calvary, to a dead Christ, to a tomb that is not empty, a tomb that contains the One they love.

Beloved, that is not Christianity. Christianity is the singing triumph that began on the morning of the resurrection and ends when the race of man has come to the understanding, knowledge and consciousness of God Himself.

Christianity is not a dreary outlook. Christianity is the singing, splendid triumph of the mind of God. Christianity is the blessed victory that the individual feels in his own heart of the consciousness of the presence and power of God within his soul. That victory makes man the master now and gives him the consciousness of mastery over the powers of sickness and death. Yes, the greater consciousness by which the soul of man comprehends the life eternal because the forces of darkness and sin and death have been conquered in his own heart through the presence and power of the Lord Jesus Christ in him. Bless God.

I have always wondered how a Christian could be anything less than an optimist. It is a sad thing when you hear Christians with a groan in them. When I meet the groaner I say in my heart, "God, move the man on into the place where he comprehends what Christianity is."

The Christian with a groan in him never moved this world except to groans. In a divine healing meeting some months ago, as I was teaching, I tried to develop the thought that as a man thinks in his heart, so is he. I was endeavouring to show the people that the spirit of victory in Christ Jesus in one's heart not only affects the attitude of one's mind, but also his soul. In fact, through the nervous system, man's mental attitudes are transmitted right through his body.

The attitude of our soul has not only a lot to do with our mental and spiritual life, but also our physical health. Indeed, it seems to me, that as the spirit of man is tuned with God, all the outgrowth of his life will be in harmony with his spirit. The attitude of his mind will be in accordance with his spirit and the condition of his body will be a revelation of the attitude of his mind. That is why I have always endeavoured in my preaching to bring before the mind of men the consciousness of triumph, the consciousness of victory, the power of mastery. It seems to me there is a great deal of superficial endeavour in the world to pump oneself up to a certain state of consciousness, which is similar to man taking himself by the bootstraps and trying to lift himself over the fence.

Beloved, the secret of Christianity is the secret of the Christ possessing the heart of man. It is our being yielded to Him so that His victory, His consciousness and His power possess our spirit and mind. Then, bless God, we are kings, not because we say we are kings, but because we know we are kings and we feel we are kings by the grace of God and His in-working power.

We speak of mastery, not because we are endeavouring, by mere speech, to lift our consciousness into the place where we can possibly conceive of mastery, but because the spirit of mastery is born within the heart. The real Christian is a royal fighter. He is the one who loves to enter into the contest with his whole soul and take the situation captive for the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a story told of an old time English officer. He was a very important individual and it would never do for him to speak out his commands so they could be understood. He had a new Irishman who he was endeavouring to break in. They were engaged in a sham battle. Presently the officer let out a certain kind of roar and the Irishman broke down from the ranks toward the supposed enemy. He grabbed a man by the neck and brought him with him. The officer said, "Hold on. What are you doing?" "Well," he said, "I did not know what you said, but it felt as if you wanted me to go for him, so I did."

When the Lord Jesus Christ is indeed born in our soul and, by the grace and power of the Son of God you and I yield ourselves to God until our nature becomes the possession of that Spirit that is in Christ, then we begin to realise the spirit of mastery that Jesus possessed when He said,

"I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive forevermore, and have the keys of hell and of death."

That is the reason I do not spend much time in talking about the devil. The Lord took care of him! The Lord Jesus Christ has the keys of hell and of death and He has mastered that individual and that condition once and for all. If you and I had as much faith to believe it as we have to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour, we would have mighty little trouble with the devil or his power while we walk through this old world. It is not worthwhile talking about a man after he is defeated.

It is a hard thing for the Christian mind to conceive that the power of evil is really a vanquished power. When I think of examples of Christian triumph my mind very frequently reverts to a minister I have spoken to you about many times. He was a great soul. The consciousness of Christ's dominion seemed to dwell in the man's heart intensely.

I was with him on one occasion when he was called to a dying man down in the slums. It was late at night. It was always interesting to me to watch the sparkle of his eye and to note here and there the splendid flash of his spirit. We were walking through the streets and I said to him, "Do you know anything about this man's condition?" "Well," he replied, "the message told me the man was in a state of great suffering and likely to die, but he is not going to die." I said, Amen."

You see. There was the ring of conscious mastery in his soul that made it possible for such a splendid burst of confidence to come forth from his spirit. I said to myself that night, "There is not going to be much difficulty tonight. The fellow has the victory in his soul in advance." When we finally knelt by the man's side and he put his hands on him and called on the mighty God to deliver him, I felt the flash of his spirit and I knew before I arose from my knees that the man was healed, and he was.

Beloved, you and I have bowed our heads before a vanquished enemy. We have failed, through lack of faith, to comprehend that the Christ is the master. He who dares, by the grace of God, to look into the face of the Lord Jesus Christ knows within his own soul the divine mastery that the Christ of God is exercising now.

The power of God through which men are blessed is not an individual anointing that belongs to you or to me. It is the conscious presence of the living, risen Son of God dwelling in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which causes us to know that the power of God is equal to every emergency and great enough for the deliverance of every soul from every oppression.

There are times when it seems to me it is not fitting even to pray. There is a life of praise. Once while in conversation with Dr Myland, the pastor of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church at Columbus, Ohio, I happened to mention the fact that I had not prayed concerning a certain personal matter. Turning to me he said. "I have not prayed for myself for four years." That sounded very strange to me at the time. I did not understand. He said, "No, I passed beyond the place of praying, brother, into the place where I am ready to accept what the Lord Jesus Christ has wrought. I am ready to receive the power of His Spirit in my life so that the thing He has wrought for me should become evident through me." And that man had walked for four years in the conscious victory.

The Spirit of the Lord says within my soul that he who trusts in the living God shall never be confounded. Yes, according to the Word of God, he shall mount up on wings as eagles. He shall run and not be weary. He shall walk and not faint.

Bless God, there is a place of strength, of security, of victory - a life of triumph.

An hour of consternation came to the prophet John as the mighty God unfolded to him that which was to occur in the future. A book appears, a marvellous book, sealed with seven seals. An angel with a trumpet voice proceeds to utter a proclamation, "Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof?" Mankind stood dumbfounded. No-one in heaven or on earth was able to loose the seals or to open the book. It seemed to the prophet as if a great disappointment was at hand. He said, "I wept much." But presently the angel guide said to him, "Weep not. Behold, the LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, the root of David. He hath prevailed to open the book." John said, "I looked and behold as if were a Lamb." Blessed be God. The real overcomer does not always evidence his overcoming power with much noise. In this case, His overcoming was in the consciousness that was in his heart. He was as a lamb, gentle, sweet, loving, tender and true.

But the consciousness of power was all the Christ. When others stood dumbfounded and baffled, the Christ appeared. He took the book, opened the seals and discussed its contents. Beloved, the triumph of the Christ of God is not the triumph of loud shouting. It is the triumph of what you know is your own soul. The victory of the Christ and the victory of the soul is in the knowledge of the relationship between your soul and the soul of the Christ.

He, into whose heart the Spirit of the living God has come, has within himself the consciousness of the One who has overcome and who is sat down at the right hand of God. The One who is triumphant over every power of sickness and death and hell. Beloved, the triumph of the gospel is enough to make any man the wildest kind of an enthusiastic optimist.

It is said of Napoleon Bonapart that when he was the first Counsel of France he proceeded to proclaim himself Emperor of France. One day, one of the statesmen came and asked him, "By what authority do you proclaim yourself Emperor of France?" He replied, "By the divine right of ability to govern." The consciousness of power was in the soul of the man. He knew in his own soul that he was qualified to govern.

The Christian has the consciousness of that character of soul. Within the soul of the real Christian there is born the consciousness of the capacity to govern. The first place to apply it is in his own life, for no man ever successfully governed another life until he was first able to govern himself. "Greater is he that rules his own spirit than he that takes a city." The poise of the father of the household will be revealed in the mind of every child of his family. The attitude of the mother's mind will be evidence in everyone of the household.

A dear brother came to me recently and said, "I do not know what the trouble is. I have worked so hard and I am not able to accomplish the thing I am trying to do." I replied, "My friend, the difficulty is in your own soul. You have not attained the mastery of that condition in your own heart. The same condition of confusion that is in your soul is being evidenced in the soul of others about you. It is transmitted from you to them."

How often have you and I walked into the presence of a man whose calmness gave instant strength? How often in life when the minds of men were driven to confusion, have we seen a single soul maintain his poise in God and become a balancing power in society. History records that at the death of Lincoln, when the news of his assassination became known in New York, the city was almost on the point of breaking up into a mob. Three men lay dead on the streets when James A. Garfield appeared on the veranda of one of the hotels. Raising his hands, he spoke these simple words "God is our King and the government at Washington still lives." It brought a calm to the whole mob and the whole city and was transformed. There flowed over the nation the calm of poise in God

It is said at the time of the Great Chicago fire that the following day two hundred men committed suicide in the city. The old Chicago Tribune came out with a big, red-letter headline, "Any coward can suicide, but it takes a man to live under these conditions." The whole thing stopped. There were no more suicides. That wave of cowardice was broken up. The consciousness of one real soul who had the poise of God within his heart was able, by the grace of God, to transmit it to other lives.

The success of your life as a child of God will be in exact accordance with the consciousness of the Christ and the power of God that is in your heart. The old prophet arrested the great wave of human despair that was sweeping over the nation, on one occasion, with these magnetic words, "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Bless God. The truth was the nation was not going to pieces. The world was not going to ruin, for underneath were the everlasting arms in which the souls of men could rest down with confidence and God brought the victory.

When the souls of men learn to rest in confidence upon the living God, peace will so possess this world that it will be like the Kingdom of God. It will be heaven on earth.

Most of our difficulties are the difficulties that we anticipate or fear will come tomorrow. How many people are worrying about the things of today? The world is in consternation concerning tomorrow, or the next day, or the next. Jesus said, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Do not worry about tomorrow. Rest down in God. The mighty arms of the living God will be underneath tomorrow, just as they are today.

The Spirit of God says within my heart that the Kingdom of Christ, for which every child of God looks, is characterised by the peace of God possessing the souls of men, so that worry and care cease to be because we trust in His arms.

If I could bring to you today one blessing greater than any other, it would be the consciousness of trust in God. "Fear not, neither be thou afraid, for I the Lord Thy God is with thee whither-so-ever thou goest."

A little woman came into the healing rooms recently, weeping so that I could hardly talk to her. She said, "I am the mother of three children. I am afraid I am going to die. The doctor said so-and-so. There is no hope for me. I must leave my husband and my children."

I said, "The doctor is a liar." That woman is sitting in the audience today, a well woman. Beloved, she might have been dead. We might have been celebrating another funeral, but confidence in the living God brought the confidence of power over the thing that was crushing the life out of that soul and it went by the grace of God. No case is too hopeless.

Last night in the Healing Rooms, at six o'clock, I was visited by a woman who I had met four or five months ago in the Deaconess Hospital. The dear lady had been given up to die. She had been examined by x-ray and a large cancer in the stomach was discovered. They told her there was nothing to be done for her so the dear husband sent for me to speak a kindly word to his supposedly dying wife. I did not understand what his intention was so when I got to the dear soul I supposed I had been called to pray the prayer of faith for healing.

I said, "Dear mother, you do not have to die." "But," she said, "the doctor says so. The x-ray shows such a sized cancer. I guess, brother, I will have to die." I said, "It is a lie. You do not have to die." For two or three months we battled against the condition in the woman's soul. The Spirit of God would come upon her every time we prayed. Her pains would disappear. She would go to sleep and so on, but she was not really healed. That went on week after week and month after month until I was almost worn out before her soul raised to take the victory. But last night she walked into the Healing Rooms. She told me that she weighed only seventy-five pounds when I met her and that now she weighs one hundred and twenty pounds. She went to the hospital this week and had the same physician x-ray her. When they saw the pictures they said, "There must be some mistake." And they got the original and examined it. They could not understand it.

She said, "Doctor, I found a new physician, the Great Physician, the Christ of God, and I do not care about your plates. I know the cancer is gone." But the plates showed

it was gone. The woman has gone back home a happy woman. Beloved, the victory only came when the consciousness of the power of the living Christ took possession of that woman's heart. Blessed be God.

Not a dead Jesus, but a living Christ! Not a sepulchre with a dead man in it, but the glorious, risen, present Christ in your heart and mine. The Christ lives not only at the right hand of God, but in your soul and mine. The victory that He attained is evidenced not alone by the declaration, "I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive forevermore;" but by the consciousness that the Christ lives and reigns and that by the power of God, sin, darkness and death and hell become obedient to the Christian through the Christ that is in him.

TESTIMONY OF MRS PETERSON

"I was healed when dying. I was in a state of death forty minutes. My womb and ovaries had been removed in an operation and at my healing God restored them and I am a normal woman."

I want to give some of you folks a conception of what a battle for a life means. This soul kept up the fight for her life until her forces weakened and she lapsed into unconsciousness. The last thing she said to Brother Westwood was, "I can fight no more. You have got to do it for me or I will die."

God Almighty healed her through and through and she stands before the world today a marvel of the power of God because she refused to be beaten. This is a miracle, not a healing only. The work of God in her was creative. To one is given by the Spirit the gifts of healing, to another the working of miracles.

The conception of the Lord Jesus Christ that we are battling against in these days is that which the poet has framed in these beautiful words, and I say this with all reverence:

"Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, look upon a little child."

In that child-thought of Jesus there is no conception of the triumphant Son of God who entered into death and took the victory and established eternal life in the souls of men. Bless God for the Christ who dared to enter into the very jaws of death and to grapple with the enemy that no man had ever dared to tackle and come forth the victor. He took him captive and broke his power and bound him in chains and declared liberty to a world that was crushed and bound by the consciousness of the power of death.

That is the reason that John saw in his vision of the Revelation a day of triumph, when all that were in the earth, the sea and under the sea, when heaven, earth and hell united to send forth a shout of triumph that will ring through the eternities, because the Christ of God had become the acknowledged Master, Ruler, Prince and King of the race.

If the blessed Spirit of God keeps on revealing the mighty power of the living Christ in the souls of men we will have to have a new hymn book. We will have to have a new

class of poet in the world. It will come too, as sure as you are born. They used to sing dreary old hymns in the little Scottish church when I was a boy and I remember one particular hymn.

Hark! From the tomb a doleful sound,
Mine ear, attend the cry.
Ye living men come view the ground
Where You must shortly lie. Ah.

Afterward I learned that “ah” was Amen, but I did not know it then.

Oh, bless God for the revelation of the living Christ in the souls of men that lifts their consciousness from the place of defeat into the place of the exultant, present, mighty power of the living God.

One Sunday afternoon a tall Englishman walked into my church in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was six feet, two and a half inches high and twenty-six inches across the shoulders. He had a crop of red hair that made him as conspicuous as a lion. He walked up the aisle and took a seat quite near the front. My old preaching partner was endeavouring to explain the mighty power of the living Christ as best he could and this man was listening. Presently he rose saying, “Old man, if the things you are talking about are right, I am your candidate.”

He said, “I used to be a Christian. I came from Port St. Mary’s, Isle of Man and I was a Christian boy. I came to Africa and lived the usual African life. The result is that for three years I have been unable to do anything. My physicians say I am incurable. If you mean what you are talking about, tell me what to do.”

My old partner said, “John, what shall we do?” I said, “Call him up. We will pray for him right now.” We stepped off the platform, put our hands on William T. Dugan, and instantly, just like a flash of lightning blasting a tree or rock, the power of God went through the man’s being and the Lord Jesus Christ made him well.

A few days later he came to my house in the middle of the day and said, “Lake, I want you to show me how to get a clean heart.” I took the Word of God and went through it with him to show him the mighty cleansing, sanctifying power of the living God in a man’s heart. Before he left he knelt by a chair and consecrated his life to God. Raising his hands to heaven he said, “Lord God, I receive into my life the sanctifying power of God to dissolve every condition in my nature that is adverse to the living God.” Bless God, he received it from heaven, just as he received his healing.

Three months passed. One day he called and said, “Lake, I have had a call from God.” I knew it was. There was no mistaking it. The wonder of it was in his soul. He went down into the country where a great epidemic of fever was on. Some weeks afterward I began to receive word that people were being healed. Hundreds of them. Bless God. So one day I concluded I would go down and join in the same work a couple of hundred miles from where he was. Somehow the news travelled that I was at Potgristersrust and he came there. The next afternoon we were called to the home of a man who said his wife was sick with diabetes. We prayed for the wife and several other

persons who were present. Then the man stepped out into the kitchen and said, "Would you pray for a woman like this?" When I looked at her I saw she had club feet. The right foot was on an angle at forty-five degrees and the left one at right angles.

Dugan replied, "Yes, we pray for anybody." He said to her, "Sit down," and taking the club foot in his hands he said, "In the name of Jesus Christ become natural." And I want to tell you, that man is in the glorious presence of God today. I am going to stand there some day with him. Before I had a chance to take a second breath that foot commenced to move and the next instant that foot was straight.

Then he took the other foot up, saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ become natural." Beloved, it was not only the voice of the man, or the confidence of his soul, but the mighty divine life of Jesus Christ flashed through him and it melted that foot into softness, and it instantly became normal by the power of God.

Beloved, we have not known to touch even the fringes of the knowledge of the power of God. However, I want to encourage your hearts. I know your soul and my soul is hungering after the living God. I am glad we can say, what perhaps has never been said in the Christian world from the days of the apostles to the present time, that since the opening of this work in Spokane about sixteen months ago, ten thousand people have been healed by the power of God.

Is Jesus dead? No, bless God. Is He alive? Is He alive in glory? Is He alive in your heart? Bless God. That is the place to crown the Christ. That is the place, in your soul and in my soul.

We are just beginning to grow up. The old prophet was so big in his soul, so gigantic in his spirit life that when a poor soul sinned, or the whole nation sinned, he removed his clothes, shaved his head, and put sackcloth on his body and ashes on his head and went down before God. He cried, "Lord God, I have sinned. We have sinned." And he poured out his soul before God until the nation returned in repentance and love to the feet of the Holy God. I trust one day we will grow up big enough in God that we can do things like that.

Some three or four years ago, when one of the marvellous anointings of the Holy Ghost was on my life, a man came into my Healing Room one day to tell me how he was in a dying state, and hopeless. As I put my hands on him and prayed I was conscious of the Spirit of God going through him like a stream of light and presently he jumped up vibrating under the power of God until his teeth rattled.

When his surprise was over, I said to him, "Brother, how about your pain?" That was the first he had thought about it. He said, "My pain is gone." I said, "Did you feel the power of God?" He said, "It went through me like buck shot."

Beloved, one of the sorrows of my soul is that though we rejoice in the fact God is healing a multitude of people, even in this city, and now they are coming to this city from all quarters of the land, yet some of them have not been healed at all and they should have been healed. Some have had to come to the Healing Rooms twenty times instead of once. But there is a day coming when the power of God will come upon

your soul and mine mightily, so it will be like it was with Christ. They will not have to come back a second time. At the touch of Jesus the mighty power of God will flash through their life until the disease in them is gone forever. Blessed be His precious name. I do not want to give you an idea that there are not people who are instantly healed. There are lots of them, but not all.

MR GREENFIELD COMES ON THE PLATFORM

Mr Greenfield was in the hands of physicians for tuberculosis of his kidneys. He was compelled to leave his work. He was a poor man and it meant that he would become dependant on his family instead of being the support of the house. When he came to the Healing Rooms he talked this over a little. He said, "The doctors say I must die." I said, "Greenfield, don't you believe it. There is a God in heaven." After I laid my hands on him and prayed, I said, "Greenfield, go back to your work." Bless God, he did and he does not look much like a man dying of tuberculosis now.

O hallelujah! There is a living Christ. There is a triumphant Son of God. There is a living Spirit of the living God that will flow through the soul of a man just as it flowed through the soul of Jesus. The trouble is with the soul of man. The trouble I am having is with the soul of this man. The prayer of my life every day and hour is, "Mighty God, purify the soul of this man like the soul of Jesus was pure, and give my soul the consciousness of faith in God like the soul of Jesus possessed." Then, beloved, you and I can say in deed and in truth, we are Sons of God. Blessed be His name.

All that Jesus was to the world He purposed that the Church of Christ should be. Firstly, He blessed the world through His own physical personality. Secondly, He established a physical body, composed of many members, joined in one by the Spirit of God.

When He established the second body, the church, He never intended that it should be a lesser authority or of lesser power than the first. It was His real purpose that the second body, the church, should exercise and fully accomplish all that the first had done.

33. THE RESURRECTION

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the greatest event in the human history, without any doubt. I believe that every sane man, every man who is accustomed to think about the great issues of life, wants to believe that Jesus rose from the dead. I cannot believe that any man who is accustomed to weigh evidence can be happy as a sceptic.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ furnishes a solution of the human problem. By the human problem I mean man's being here. We may say what we will, but the fact that man IS, is tremendous. His ultimate end, the reason for His being reaches up and grips our minds and holds us in deadly embrace. If Jesus is not the Son of God there is no solution for the human problem. It is an enigma.

If Jesus rose from the dead the human problem is solved. We understand it. It solves the sin problem and that is the paramount problem. The universal man is conscious of the guilt of sin. I know by the altars that are built all over the earth, by its universal priesthood. There are thirty million priests in India. Why? Because India, with the rest of mankind, is conscious of guilt. Man's consciousness of guilt has made him formulate religions.

These are weighty matters I am bringing you tonight, gentlemen. These are the great basic problems of life. This is the solution of the sin problem. No religion among the religions of the world has ever offered a solution for the sin problem. Jesus Christ alone has brought the solution.

There is another problem that Jesus answers. Universal man has craved union with God. He has not only wants to get rid of the sin problem and the sin burden and the sin guilt, but he wants to be able to partake of the life and nature of God.

Man became a blood drinker. We call them cannibals. He became a blood drinker because he believed that if he would drink the blood of the victim who lay on his altar, he would partake of the God-nature and never die. You can see the Lord's table behind that, can't you?

The reaching out of man after God is among the saddest of all the facts of human life. Man is God-hungry. Jesus is the solution of that problem. Through Jesus Christ we become partakers of the divine nature.

If Jesus rose from the dead, then redemption is a fact. If Jesus rose from the dead, man can go to heaven. At first that may not seem much to you, but you know, whether you have thought it through or not, believe in the life beyond the grave. Human religion has never had an adequate conception or hope.

What do I mean by human religion? The religions of India, Hinduism, Brahmanism and Buddhism are all human religions. Christian Science is a human religion, purely based upon philosophy. The very first step is to destroy the personal God, the conviction and concept of a personal God. I want to say with all candour that I believe that the men and women who have written against Christian Science, New Thought and Unity, have

made the greatest mistake that was ever made in the world of apologetics. They have ridiculed it, but they have missed the crux of the matter.

Christian Science is built upon atheism. The communism of Russia has been atheistic. Christian Science as a religion is atheistic. The very first step is the destruction of the personal God. God is a person. They destroy that utterly, and when they destroy that, aren't they atheists? If some man would write a book proving that Christian Science is atheism, it would destroy Christian Science in a great measure.

I am going to carry you through some facts that I want you to study with me tonight. If you are going to have a bone-fide resurrection it is necessary that you have an absolute death. You cannot have a genuine resurrection without a genuine death. I remember that Mr Anderson, who was a disciple of Mr Ingersol, wrote a book. I found it one day on the desk in one of my students rooms. In it Mr Anderson made this assertion: Jesus did not die. He was in a state of coma. I want to refute it.

Turn to the nineteenth chapter of John. Firstly, the Jewish Sanhedrin accepted the verdict of the Roman government that Jesus was dead. The Roman government pronounced Jesus dead and the Jewish Sanhedrin that had caused the death of Jesus, accepted the verdict of the Roman government. But I want to give you something else.

John 19:31 Jesus is on the cross.

“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”

It was customary when they wanted death to come quickly to a crucified man, they would break his legs. The jar upon the nervous system would act upon the heart so that they would die suddenly.

“Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs; but one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.”

Let us get the picture clearly. Jesus is hanging on that cross. He has been there on the cross since three in the afternoon. It is now almost sunset. The Roman soldiers come, and the two men who were crucified with Jesus are not dead. They are hanging there moaning and the soldiers break their legs. Death comes mercifully. One of the soldiers comes to Jesus and His head is hanging forward. The body is cold and stiffened and the soldier stands there looking up at Him and then takes his spear and pierces the left side (not the right side that all the artists paint). Then he lifts on it. That spearhead, which is 4 to 6 inches wide and sharp as a razor, penetrates the side of Jesus. It goes up into the body, pierces the sack that holds the heart and the miracle happens. Water

flows out, and from that wide wound, 4 to 6 inches across, rolls great clots of coagulated blood. What happens? Jesus dies of a ruptured heart. That last cry is the death agony cry. His heart has ruptured, and when it ruptures the blood comes pouring in from every part of the body to the heart and fills it. As the body begins to grow cold, this blood gathered there separates. The red corpuscles come to the top and the white serum settles to the bottom. When that soldier pierced the body and reached the heart sack, the water poured out first, and that is what John saw then - the blood.

Jesus was dead. His heart had been ruptured. The prophesy of the 22nd Psalm had been fulfilled. It was written a thousand years before Jesus died and it is the most graphic picture ever written. I want you to note now that Jesus was dead.

Read the last part of this chapter beginning with verse 38.

“And after this Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus which at first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then they took the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.”

What was the custom of the Jews? The wealthy Jews followed the processes that they had learned in Egypt. All of the wealthier Jews had slaves that had learned the art of embalming the human body. It was not the total process.

So they took the body of Jesus from the cross. Joseph of Arimathea was wealthy. Nicodemus was wealthy. They washed that precious body then they took the linen cloth and they tore it up into strips, one and a half to two inches wide. They took a sticky substance, a hundred pounds weight, and they smeared that cloth as you would a salve. Then they took a toe and wrapped it. Then the foot, then the leg, then the fingers and hands and arms. Then the body was wrapped round and round until they used one hundred pounds of that sticky substance. They used enough linen cloth to use one hundred pounds. Jesus weighed likely 200 pounds before His crucifixion. He must have been a perfect man, six feet, broad of shoulders, deep chest. He was God's crown of creation, the master man, and He stood a king and peer among men.

If He weighed 200 hundred pounds, he must have shrunk twenty pounds at the crucifixion. He would be one hundred and eighty pounds plus one hundred pounds. Jesus body would weigh two hundred and eighty to three hundred pounds. The body was hermetically sealed. Across the chest it must have been three inches thick, perhaps more. One hundred pounds smeared like that over the body would be over one inch thick.

The entire body was covered except the face. That was left for loving hands to embalm, and the women came down to finish the embalming. If Jesus had not died of a ruptured heart, and had not died of the spear thrust, after the body had been covered as

I have indicated by that substance, hermetically sealed, so no air could get to it, He would not have lived four hours. I want you to know that Jesus was dead. Rome pronounced Him dead. The Sanhedrin pronounced Him dead. The spear had found a ruptured heart. Blood and water had flowed out of it. He is now hermetically sealed and put in a tomb, and that tomb is as dry as it is around Los Angeles in the summer time. That body put in that place would only take a little while until the grave clothes would harden. You know that cloth would shrink more or less and tighten on the body.

Jesus is dead, in Joseph's tomb, and his body is hermetically sealed and just that little place around the face is uncovered.

Turn with me now to the twentieth chapter of John. Do you know anything about the value of narrative evidence before a jury or judge? Suppose a man has been killed down here on the street in a brawl and the trial has come. Here is the value of narrative evidence. The trial goes on and finally a little newsboy goes on the witness stand. He is fearless in the presence of the judge. He knew the judge. He knew the lawyers. He had sold them papers. He stands there unabashed in the presence of the judge and presently the prosecuting attorney says, "Tell us what you saw." In the vernacular of the street he begins to tell. He says, "I saw that guy over there and the man that was killed quarrelling. Mickey and I were shooting craps and we heard the scrap and we saw that fellow there, judge. I saw him pull out a knife and stab and then run."

What do they do with that kind of evidence? That is narrative evidence. The boy describes it exactly as he saw it. The judge sits and listens, the jury sits and listens, and the court draws out of that child the whole picture. You cannot bring any kind of rebuttal. That boy's story has been the evidence. The boy saw it. That settles it. He saw it.

Here is narrative evidence. Here is the type of evidence that has been overlooked by people trying to prove the deity of Jesus.

"The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, 'They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid Him.' Peter therefore went forth and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together, and the other disciple did outrun Peter and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, and the napkin, that was about His head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also

*that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre,
and he saw, and believed.” John 20:1-8*

Now what was it John saw that made him believe in the resurrection? “For as yet they knew not the scripture that He must rise again from the dead.” Not one of the disciples believed that Jesus was going to rise from the dead. Even after He rose from the dead they doubted it and Jesus upbraided them for their unbelief.

Now what was it that made John believe? Let us go back and look at the story. Mary and the other women came down to finish the embalming of Jesus. Three days had gone by and, before the face lost its beauty to them, they were going to cover it like the rest of the body. A napkin had been lying on the face, but when Mary arrived she found someone had been there and opened the sepulchre. She did not stop to look in. Filled with anger and indignation, for to the Jew the dead is sacred, she started back to the city to tell Peter and John. Down through the city she ran, burst into the room where they were, and said, “They have taken away the body of the Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter, who had gone through hell for three days and three nights because he had denied Jesus in the face of the Sanhedrin, said, “John, let’s go.” Peter is large and heavy of body and as they run John outruns him. He came to the sepulchre hewn out. The big stone that had been rolled against it to seal it was away now. John dropped on his knees and looked in. He has in him that refinement that you can feel through his writings.

But when Peter came, he was a coarser type. He ducked his head and went into the sepulchre. When John reverently followed him, he SAW something that made him believe. When God revealed this thing to me, He revealed it to a sceptic. I had been preaching for years, but in my secret heart I had questions about the resurrection of Jesus.

Come now, we will step inside the sepulchre. If John, when he went in, had seen that someone had come and ripped down that thing he would not have believed. If he had seen that some wild animal had torn those grave clothes to shreds, would he have believed? No! Well, had John gone in and seen the grave clothes intact and that Jesus had come out of that cocoon without destroying the rest of it, what would John have done? What would you have done? You would have believed.

I want to tell you what I did when I saw that empty cocoon and saw that the broad shoulders of Jesus had come out of that aperture for His face. Out of a cocoon that had hardened like a board. I slipped off my chair on to my knees, and I said what Thomas said, “My Lord and my God!” I knew Jesus had risen from the dead. I submit this to you. This is perfectly in harmony with the Jewish custom of burying. It is within reason.

Josephus tells us there were more than a million visitors in Jerusalem. It was one of the cycle years when the Jews came from all over the world to make their sacrifices. Outside the city booths were built. Jews who were commercial travellers had come to their old home in Jerusalem. There was one thing that filled the air - the story of Jesus. Thousands, tens of thousands had gone out and had seen the dead body of Jesus

hanging on the cross. He was crucified early in the morning and the city was shaken to the foundation. Everybody was talking about it.

When Peter and John came down over the hillside to the cemetery where Jesus was buried, what do you think they did? What do you think impulsive, warm-hearted Peter did? Did he keep it quiet? Peter rushing down to the first man he met, what do you suppose he said? What do you suppose John said? I know what you would say, I know what I would say. "He is risen!" You would not have needed to say "Jesus is risen."

In an hour's time the whole city of Jerusalem was stirred to its foundations. It stirred under the impulse of the new miracle. What did they do? Do you suppose they stood and talked, or do you think they made a rush for the sepulchre? You can see them going. If it had been in Portland, a hundred thousand people would have visited it that day. A hundred thousand Jews visited that hillside and smote their breast and tore their hair and went back to tell it. All that day the empty cocoon preached and told the story that Jesus had risen from the dead. It went on day after day and week after week until forty-nine days, less three. For forty-seven days the clothes on the hillside preached and countless thousands of men were stirred and shaken to the foundation.

And then after that forty days, John says, "I saw Him!" Peter says, "I saw Him," and 500 men followed Him to Olivet and saw Him ascend. What do you suppose the 500 men told the multitude of visitors? There was no other subject talked about. That goes without arguing.

Then fifty days later another staggering thing happened. Early in the morning they heard the rushing, mighty wind, like a thousand aeroplanes over the town. God had planned the drama.

One hundred and twenty men and women in that great square filled with people who heard those men and women speaking in tongues and glorifying God, telling of the resurrection of Jesus. Every man and woman heard in his own language. Every man heard the first message of Jesus in his own tongue and from the lips of Galilean fisherman. Some laugh, but others were serious. It was the climax that for fifty days had rocked Jerusalem and staggered the Jewish nation.

Peter stood forth. In the presence of whom? The Sanhedrin, the Senate, and the elders of Israel. Who was Peter? He was a humble fisherman. He was an untutored man. He had the same reverence for the high priest that the Roman Catholics have for the Pope. The Sanhedrin was sacred to him. He bowed before it. He feared it. The High Priest was sacred to him.

Yet, Peter stood out there in the presence of the Sanhedrin, and he indicted first the Roman governor as having murdered the Son of God. Secondly, he indicted the Sanhedrin, then the Senate and priesthood as murderers of the Son of God. His indictment is the most severe, the most amazing ever uttered.

Peter spoke only about 25 or 30 minutes, not longer than that, and what happened? Three thousand Jews broke with Judaism and accepted Jesus Christ of Nazareth as the Son of God and were baptised.

Where did he preach that sermon? Within the very shadow of that cross. Within ten or twelve minutes of where Jesus hung stark naked one day, crowned with thorns, as an outcast and three thousand Jews broke with Judaism. Every Jew who accepted Jesus Christ indicted the Sanhedrin, the Senate and the Roman government with the murder of Jesus.

That was the most dramatic thing that ever happened in history. There is nothing like it. Now, if it was not true, all Ananias or Caiaphas had to do was to stop it - raise his hand and say, "Gentlemen, we know where the body of Jesus is. It has not been raised." But Caiaphas never raised his voice. Caiaphas knew Jesus had risen from the dead. The Sanhedrin could have wiped out the whole thing in one day, but they dared not move, until finally two thousand more Jews accepted Christ Jesus. In the next two or three days five thousand and a large company of the priesthood swung into line.

They had Peter and John arrested because they healed a man. I want to read to you from Acts 4:5:

"And Annas the high priest was there and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest."

This was the same crowd that crucified Jesus. Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them:

"Ye rulers of the people, and elders, if we this day are examined concerning a good deed done unto an impotent man, by what means this man is made whole; be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even in him doth this man stand here before you whole. He is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is made the head of the corner."

If we have been arrested and locked up for healing a tramp, a beggar, an outcast, for a good deed, be it known unto you and to all the people of Israel, that in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom YE crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even in him doth this man stand here before you whole.

That is the most masculine piece of frenzy ever used in the world.

"And in none other is there salvation; for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, whereby we must be saved."

And when they heard it, they could say nothing against it. They sent them out, and said:

“That indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all that dwell in Jerusalem; and we can not deny it. But that it spread not further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, and that they speak henceforth to no man in THIS NAME.”

You can preach anything you want to, but don't preach in THE NAME. The Name has dynamite in it. The name will raise the dead, heal the sick, cast out devils. The Name - it is Jesus again on earth.

What are you going to do with that kind of evidence? Did Jesus rise from the dead? Before Jesus died He said something that would forever brand Him as an impostor. He said, “After I am gone I am going to give you legal right to the use of my name,” and “Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, I will do it.”

No other human being ever dared to talk like that. When a man was dead, he was dead. But here was a man that was going to do bigger things after He died than when He was alive. He was going to give us the legal right to use His Name. “Just whisper my Name, and whatsoever you say, it will be done.” That was the most staggering thing that was ever said. That brands Jesus as the very Son of God or as an impostor.

What happened? Did His Name have power after He was dead? Jesus is the Son of God. I think I have made my case, haven't I?

I believe, gentlemen, that this thing is only a little fragment out of the body of truth. I believe that if it were given to the world that 90% of our scepticism would cease to be.

I want to make a few deductions. What are the implications if Jesus Christ rose from the dead? What then? Here are three things. We know He is the Son of God. We know that “He died for our sins, according to the scriptures, and rose again for our justification.” We know that every man who accepts Jesus Christ, is redeemed by God and we know that Romans 3:26 is true:

“That He might be righteous, and the righteousness of him who has faith in Jesus.”(margin)

God automatically, when you confess Jesus and accept Him as your Lord, becomes your righteousness. The moment God becomes your righteousness, your standing is like the standing of the Son of God.

For years I hunted for this thing I have given you tonight. That sense of unfitness and unworthiness (or as they call it in psychology, that inferiority complex) swamped me. But when I saw that God became my righteousness, I said, “I want you to know, Satan, that you have lost your case.” I know what I am now.

“Him that knew no sin he made to be sin for us; that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

You, by the new birth, have become the righteousness of God, and God has become your righteousness. God could not make it any stronger than that.

I say to you reverently, friends, that if you have accepted Jesus Christ and are born again, you are standing in the presence of the great eternal Father God as Jesus is. You have just as much right to step into the presence of God Almighty as Jesus has. Don't you see what that means? It means that Satan cannot stand before you any more than he can stand before Jesus. Not only that. Jesus gave you the legal right to use His Name and the first thing He tells you to do is to cast out demons. The first thing He told the twelve to do was to cast out demons. When He sent the seventy out, He told them to cast out demons. When He gave the great commission He said, "They that believe shall cast out demons." This is the first thing. Why?

The devil is the opposer and as long as the devil reigns over the sinner, the sinner cannot do anything. It is your business to break his power. Can't you see sickness is called sin in the flesh, and "God has condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Your sickness has been condemned, indicted, and found guilty before the high court of God. It has no more right in your body than I have a right to be in some other man's house or store that is locked up. If I am found there, I will be arrested. Similarly, that disease has no right in your body and you have no right to leave it there, to sympathise with it, or to harbour it, or to console it. You are consoling the enemy of God that is under indictment and condemnation. It is a serious thing I am bringing, gentlemen. Jesus Christ has absolutely redeemed you for He rose from the dead, and disease has no right in your body and no power to stay there if you take sides with Jesus. You have a right to your healing, to redemption, to victory. You have a right to prayer. You have a right to your Father's fellowship.

34. THE SABBATH

During the conference I was asked by the brethren to deliver a discourse on the subject of the Sabbath day for the guidance of the workers.

It is not my purpose to deal with the subject in an argumentative manner, but rather in the form of a pronouncement of the position of the church.

The Word of God is sufficiently clear. It has already defined the position for the Christian in the most emphatic way. The second chapter of Colossians is perhaps as clear a portion of scripture on this particular issue as any. It seems most difficult for Christians to understand and realise that, in our entrance into Christ Jesus by the reception of the Spirit of God who abides within, our Christian experience has been moved into a different place from that in which we lived before.

I have tried, at different times, to define the operation of the Spirit of God in the different dispensations to give us a clear basis on which to rest. I will review that this morning in a word.

THE PATRIARCHAL DISPENSATION

In the Patriarchal dispensation God seems to have been approaching man from this standpoint - God was endeavouring to reveal Himself to man who was far removed from Him. Abraham probably provides the best example in the Word. God appeared to him twice. He appeared once, there was a lapse of twenty years in which Abraham heard nothing from God, then God spoke to him again. That is the best example of revelation from God to man that is given to us in the Patriarchal dispensation. It seems as if the position was, "God revealing Himself to man".

THE MOSAIC DISPENSATION

The Mosaic Dispensation was different. It was a fuller revelation. It did not destroy any of the revelation of God that the Patriarchs had known. God was present with the Jewish people in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire and the Shekinah over the mercy seat. Here He was an ever-present God.

When the temple was built the Lord abode in the holy of holies. In it there was no artificial light. The holy place was lit by candles but in the holy of holies there was neither window nor door, no artificial light of any kind. The presence of God illuminated the holy of holies. The continuous presence of God was with man.

THE CHRISTIAN DISPENSATION

Patriarchal revelation was "God to man," and the Mosaic revelation was "God with man". The Christian revelation, however, was greater than both. Jesus said in His own words, "He dwelleth with you and shall be IN you." The revelation of God to the Christian is "Christ within you" by the Holy Ghost. Not TO man or WITH man but IN man. Man becoming the embodiment of God.

It will be readily seen then, that our conception and standard of Christian life must be in accordance with the revelation that God gave to us. The Christian cannot base his standard of life upon the Mosaic law in any way. Jesus lifted us up above that standard, as high as the heavens are above the earth.

When the Christian endeavours to go back, from living in communion with Christ Jesus, to the control of the law, he has descended from the standard of the Spirit of God abiding within and has placed himself in the same position as the Mosaic people.

THE GREAT WARNING

Over and over again Paul warns us about this thing. To the Galatians in particular he gives this wonderful warning “that having begun in the Spirit they were now going to return to the flesh.” That is the danger with many Christians these days. Having begun in the Holy Ghost, they return to obedience of commandments.

THE LORD JESUS RAISED THE STANDARD FOR THE CHRISTIAN DISPENSATION

Someone says, “What about the commandments?” We can see what Jesus says of them in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5. Jesus said, “It was said by them of old time, “Thou shalt not kill.” (He lifted that standard miles above where Moses placed it and said,) “But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause is in danger of the judgment.” That is to say, he is a murderer. (1 John 3:15)

Under the Mosaic law they had to commit an act in order to be guilty. Under the law of Christ the presence in the heart of the desire is sufficient to condemn. So in every instance the Lord raised the standard.

The commandment says, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” Jesus says, “whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her, hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Jesus took it out of the regime of commandments into the regime of the heart experience, and, “as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9.

THE GREAT DEBATE

The greatest debate that has come through these fifty years, between those who contend for the observance of the Sabbath Day (the Seventh) and we who accept the Christian Sabbath, has ever been on that one point. Are we still bound by the law or has Christ made the Christian free from the force of the commandment? It seems to me that the Word of God makes this as clear as daylight. The Word places our feet emphatically on this ground - to us who are in the Holy Ghost the law has become a dead thing.

Indeed, it has been spoken of as blotted out (Colossians 2:14), even that which was written on stone (2 Corinthians 3:7-17).

The first chapter of Colossians deals with the history of the fact of the indwelling of Christ. After establishing this fact Paul goes on to review the subject of our relationship to the law. Commencing with the 13th verse of the 2nd chapter, we have the declaration of the expulsion of the law. "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days; which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."

Thus far, the interpretation is given of the destruction, by Christ, of the ordinances and laws that were contrary to us. He has established in us His own indwelling by the Holy Ghost. Now we are sons of God and joint heirs with Him, so if He has been Lord of the Sabbath, we too, in Him, will also enter into that place of dominion where we become Lords of the Sabbath and every other commandment. Blessed be God!

THE NEW COVENANT

The 16th verse: Last Thursday, among the questions that were asked, was this one: "Do we advocate the partaking of a meal in connection with the Lord's Supper?" In this thing once again we see the Christian's failure to separate between the old and new dispensations. When Jesus partook officially of the last Passover supper that was ever given to mankind, and by that act forever closed the Jewish dispensation, there was nothing further to do but make the sacrifice on the cross. The instant after the closing of that supper the Lord instituted a new ceremony, the one we observe today, the communion of the Lord's supper. No longer the Passover feast and Passover Lamb, but the Christ of God, who now pledges Himself to shed His own blood for the salvation of the world.

Between these two acts there is as great a distance just as there is between East and West. The one was the mark and stamp of that which was old and ready to decay (Hebrews 8:13), and the other was the birth of mankind through the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ.

So, beloved, when the Christian undertakes that his life shall be governed by commandments, he is going back again into this old life, into the old realm, forgetting his state with Jesus Christ.

It does not mean we have turned into anarchists and that to us there is no law, but rather that we are now obedient to the higher law by the Son of God.

THE SABBATH DAY

On the subject of the Sabbath itself, all the other commandments are spoken of in the New Testament and reiterated, but the Sabbath commandment not. That is, no doubt, for this reason - all along the prophecies had pointed to the Son of God who was Himself the fulfilment of the law. "I came not to destroy the law, but to fulfil it"

(Matthew 5:17). “For the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ.” When we got to Christ we were beyond the sphere of the law. The law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). Blessed be His Name.

So it is with the Sabbath. Christ Himself is the Eternal Rest into which the Christian enters. He is not to abide on the Sabbath Day, but to abide always, every day, and forever in Him. He is our Sabbath alone.

When we live in the Son of God we have come beyond the sphere of commandment, for the law was made for the unlawful and unholy, for murderers of fathers and mothers, for whoremongers, and so on. (1 Timothy 1:9-10). Upon our statute books today there are probably a thousand laws that you and I know nothing about, and we don’t care less. Why? They are of no interest to us. We hardly pay any attention to the law of murder, nor do we know the details of it because, being sons of God, we are living in love and are not interested in what the law says of murder. There is no murder in our hearts. Blessed be God! We have passed on.

And so the Christian, who has entered into Christ Jesus and is abiding in Him and is a possessor of the Holy Ghost, has moved beyond the regime of the law and commandments. They are of no value to him. He lives in obedience to one law and one commandment, the Eleventh. This includes all the rest in one: “That ye love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12) Blessed be His Name.

AN APT ILLUSTRATION

Henry Drummond, in his book, “Greatest Thing in the World”, gave an illustration that is so fitting. He said that he visited a friend’s home. He found that he and his wife had lived together in the most beautiful unity for many years. However, a friend of his was anxious that he should be a strict observer of the law and he sat down and wrote a code of rules for the government of this man and wife who had always lived together in unity. He said, “Thou shalt not kill her. Thou shalt not bear false witness against her. Thou shalt not steal from her” and so on through the other commandments. He took it up and laughed. Of what value is such a code to him? Had he not for all the past years been giving to his wife his heart’s affection that made it impossible for such things to enter his soul?

There is just that much difference between the Christian standard and the standard of the law. May God help us that we shall not take backward steps but realise our positions as sons of God. We shall live in Him and abide in the Holy Ghost and realise the freedom of sons, not the bondage of servants. Blessed be His Name. Nevertheless, to the man outside Christ the commandment still stands. As on our statute books today the law of murder applies to the man who commits murder, but the man in Christ has passed beyond that sphere. “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days; which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.” Blessed be His Name! Blessed be His Name!

OUR HIGH CHRISTIAN PRIVILEGE

Now we will never get the force of the 1st chapter of Ephesians where the Word portrays the exaltation of the Son of God, even to the sitting down at the right hand of the Father in the heavenly places far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named (Ephesians 1:19-23), and the second chapter of Colossians portraying our lifting up out of the regime of death and sin into the same exaltation of the Son of God, until we realise our high privileges in Christ Jesus.

Indeed I have this in my heart. The low state of Christian experience that is common among men is mostly accounted for by this one fact. Christians have failed to grasp the exalted place into which Jesus Christ puts us when we have been made sons of God. May God write it deep in our souls so that we do not keep the seventh day (which was a shadow of good things to come, but the BODY IS OF MUST), or the commandments but, by holy Christian privilege, keep one day sacred to God, and that without any commandment at all, but out of the gladness of the Christian heart. Blessed be His Name! One day is set aside in commemoration of His resurrection. However, with the Christian, and in the life in Christ Jesus, every day is as holy as every other day and there is no distinction of days whatever, for the life is in Him (in the Son of God) and He is the same every day. Blessed be His Name.

THE FIRST DAY

But, beloved, have we not cause to rejoice that in Christianity there has been established a day of commemoration of His resurrection and that altogether the Christian world unites in exalting the Son of God by keeping that day holy? May we not let down on our reverence for the first day of the week, but may we as Christians exalt the day, not by obedience to commandments, but, as Jesus Himself did, by making it a day when His life was given forth for the benefit of others and I know God will bless us.

Now, I hope that this question is settled forever in our hearts. That, so far as our church is concerned, God has helped us to come together to recognise the fact that every man has the privilege of being led by the Spirit, not to observe all the law, but to be led by His Spirit.

THE SABBATH

“The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord’s doings; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice in it and be glad.” Psalm 118:22-24.

When did the rejected stone become the head of the corner? When Jesus rose from the dead on that wonderful resurrection morning. This is the day the Lord hath made. We

will rejoice in it and be glad. This is one reason we worship on the day of His resurrection. It is the Sabbath of the New Covenant.