

# Bulletin Articles of Henry Mahan For the Year 1981

## A New Year!

I'm sure that none of us look back over **1980** with complete satisfaction but we can look back with THANKSGIVING. The Lord Blessed this church in so many ways too numerous to list. But a few special blessings need to be recalled.

Bro. Jay Wimberly came to serve as our Assistant Pastor, the Preachers Class was started, we began a radio broadcast over WCKY which reaches over half the nation with the gospel of grace, and we began putting our Bible School lessons in booklet form, making them available to other churches.

I rejoice in the opportunities that the Lord has given us to minister the gospel all over the world. I do not know what 1981 has in store for us. I'm sure that no one can fully regard a new year with indifference but my heart can at least rest knowing that our Father is sovereign over all things and will make known His way and will to us as the days of 1981 unfold.

So we will put our hands and our hearts into those things He has given us to do for His glory! And we will, by His grace, be faithful to the task at hand and be always willing to move into other areas as His Spirit leads. As the hymn writer said:

"Ready to go, ready to stay  
Ready my place to fill,  
Ready for service lowly or great,  
Ready MY PLACE to fill."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Tillman, Charlie D. *Ready*. 1903. Also variously attributed to A.C. Palmer or Anonymous (S.E.L.). 1903.

# The Glory of God

*“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world”*

Galatians 6:14

It is far too easy for a church - any church - to be off on side roads, causing them to miss the main work that Christ has given it to do. And what is that work the Lord of the church has commissioned? Whatever it is, let it be that which occupies our minds, our hearts, our all!

At the center of all the work that the Lord's church does is THE GLORY OF GOD. Any other glory is sin and is the enemy of the cross of Christ. When such sin is discovered, it must be abandoned with all haste. Therefore, an eye must be kept alert to its invasion and it must be avoided at all cost. Whatever a church does, it must be all and only for God's glory.

Flowing from that center (the glory of God) is the Lord's great commission to His church to DECLARE THE GOSPEL (Matt. 28:19-20). He has kept our instruction very simple: WORSHIP GOD AND PREACH HIS GOSPEL!

Brother Barnard said that we don't need to EXPLAIN the gospel...we need to PROCLAIM the gospel! Now, there is our work: the gospel and the proclamation of the gospel!

Whatever a church may do that does not have preaching the gospel at the heart of it should be dropped so they won't be distracted from being busying themselves with the main work! Brethren, we have no other assignment! If the gospel is not our work, then our work has no right to exist in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Let us take caution, fellow believers in Christ, that we do not busy ourselves in that which neither worships Christ nor preaches His gospel.

A community does not need to know a church for its buildings, crowds, or even charitable deeds. But it most certainly needs to know a church for the gospel it preaches!

The people of a community may know a church's name, fellowship, or doctrine, and yet be lost. But what a difference it would make if the community knew the church's Christ!

The Lord once said to Mary and Joseph, "Didn't you know I would be about my Father's business?" (Lk.2:49). Oh, may we be found in the work of preaching the gospel!

## Act on the Promises and Commandments of Christ

Dear Mrs. Jones,

I received your letter in which you said, "I realize that I am a sinner, I do not lay claim to any goodness before God. I can say with David, 'My sins are ever before me.' I want to be forgiven of my sins, I want to be saved, and I want to live for God with peace in my heart and the knowledge that Christ is my Savior. I realize that SALVATION IS OF THE LORD but I also believe that something is expected of me in this matter — what is it?"

You are absolutely right, something is not only expected but required of you! If what you have stated is really the true feelings of your heart, and I believe it is, then I urge you to willingly, openly and sincerely ACT ON THE PROMISES AND COMMANDMENTS OF CHRIST.

1. BELIEVE the Word of God in regard to His mercy in Christ. "*He that believeth on the Son of God hath eternal life.*"

2. RECEIVE Christ Jesus as your Prophet, Priest, and King. "*To as many as received Him to them gave He the privilege to become the sons of God.*"

3. COMMIT your past, present, and future to the Lord Jesus. "*Cast all your care upon Him - He careth for you*

4. "COME TO CHRIST" - AS YOU ARE. "All the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him." Leave your idols and look to the Redeemer.

5. CONFESS CHRIST PUBLICLY before your family and friends by following Him in believers' baptism. He said, "*If you confess Me before men, I will confess you before My Father.*"

6. WORSHIP CHRIST with others like yourself, who lay no claim to merit, goodness, or works, but who find in Him all wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Our only claim to holiness is HIS HOLINESS! We are not without sin except IN HIM! We look to Christ and

find in Him our rest. "Lord, to whom shall we go Thou hast the words of eternal life" and sink or swim I go to Him.

Sincerely,  
Henry Mahan

## The Heart of the Gospel

*"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission"*

Hebrew 9:22

If I have any apology to make in reference to preaching about the blood of the Lord Jesus, it is that I don't preach it as often as I should. If a church is successful in removing the blood from their songs, prayers, and sermons, they have only succeeded in removing the HEART of the gospel, the POWER of the gospel, and the HOPE of the gospel. Without the shed blood of Christ there is no forgiveness, no atonement, and no way to God for the sinner.

"Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power;  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved to sin no more."<sup>2</sup>

## The Kingdom of God

In the kingdom of God:

the way up is down;  
the way to live is to die;  
the way to strength is weakness;  
to be wise is to become a fool;

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<sup>2</sup> Cowper, William. *Praise for the Fountain Opened or There Is a Fountain*. Conyer's Collection of Psalms and Hymns. London: 1772

to be clothed in His righteousness is to be stripped of my  
own;  
to receive is to give;  
and to reign is to serve.

If God does not turn my affections, interest, and love away from this world then I will perish with the world.

## **Grace Experienced**

Salvation by grace is a doctrine that's true; a doctrine that must be preached, and a doctrine that should be believed. But, like the doctrine of God's existence, just believing that salvation is of the Lord and by His grace does not save! This grace must be experienced in the heart and received by faith!

I'll never get across a river by simply believing that a certain bridge can take me across or that others have been successful in using the bridge. I must experience the bridge's deliverance and power for myself. Depravity is not a doctrine to the redeemed but it's an actual experience. So too is Christ the Saviour not just a doctrine to the redeemed but a person the redeemed encounter so that the redeemed can all say, "He is the One who has delivered us!"

## **Conflict but not Condemnation**

Psalm 51

All true believers struggle against sin and rejoice in complete justification at the same time. All true believers are in a state of conflict but not condemnation. Men of old wrestled with the nature of sin but they also rejoiced in forgiveness.

David said, "My sins are ever before me," but he also said, "In God is my salvation and my glory."

Job said, "I abhor myself," but he also said, "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

Isaiah said, "I am a man of unclean lips," but he also said, "by His stripes we are healed."

Romans 7 and 8 have been, is, and will be our experience as long as we live on earth.

## Truth and Love

2 John

Two words are prominent throughout the second epistle of John; TRUTH and LOVE. These two words are used nine times in the first six verses alone.

Truth without love is cold, stern, even cruel. Sound doctrine without a loving heart is not only useless but can do great harm. But it is also true that a form of love without truth is uncertain, unsettled, and unprofitable.

True faith lays hold upon both truth and love.

## The Preacher Whom God Delights to Bless

There are some men who would like to preach the gospel, serve a church, and even glorify God, so long as it can be done with due regard to their own comfort, interests, and on the field of their choosing. Spurgeon once said, "We are content to follow the Lord provided we are recognized, cared for, and content. We will give God the glory after we have sucked the juice out of it, but we must have the orange first."<sup>3</sup>

This attitude God will neither bless nor endure. He is not going to have a man's leftovers. He will have all the glory or none at all. If a man seeks to serve and honor himself and only looks out for the comfort and care of his own personal interests, GOD WILL NOT USE THAT MAN.

The hymn writer put it this way:

"Ready to go, ready to stay,

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<sup>3</sup> Spurgeon, Charles H. *The Soul-Winner*. Sermon #2 *Qualifications for Soul-Winning: Godward*. London: Passmore and Alabaster, 1903. Print.

Ready my place to fill.  
Ready for service lowly or great,  
ready to do His will!"<sup>4</sup>

A man (or woman) who desires to be used of God must be persuaded that what he is going to do is for the glory of God, without any other consideration, and he must labor and work from no other motive.

I know that we are human; that every human passion, family care and concern, desire for praise, honor, and comfort still lives in us, but we're also bond-slaves and a bond-slave belongs to his Master lock, stock, and barrel. He does not choose his own service, place of service, or length of service; this is the Master's prerogative.

If two angels came to earth, one to rule a nation for the glory of Christ and one to sweep the streets for the glory of Christ, it would make little difference to them who did which task.

"Must I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease?  
While others fought to win the prize  
And sailed through bloody seas?"<sup>5</sup>

## Preach with Love

A wise old man once said, "Gospel duties are to be performed with a gospel attitude and temper."

Therefore I endeavor to PREACH with love, GIVE willingly and cheerfully, WORSHIP with simplicity, PRAY with sincerity, SING with thanksgiving, and LIVE with integrity. The form of such things, without heart, is shameful.

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<sup>4</sup>Tillman, Charlie D. *Ready*. 1903. Variousy Attributed to A.C. Palmer or Anonymous (S.E.L.).

<sup>5</sup>Watts, Isaac. *Am I a Soldier of the Cross*. 1709. Written by Dr. Watts to follow a sermon on the text "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13).

# With the Mouth Confession is Made unto Salvation

*“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”*

Romans 10:10

This confession of Christ embraces the whole life. It is not only saying I believe in Christ, declaring in baptism my identification with Christ, but daily confessing by act, deed, and words my love for Him and the grace of God which, by His Spirit, dwells in my soul.

One tree does not make a forest and one profession of faith is not that confession which is unto salvation. Faith without works, love, and perseverance is a snare of the devil, from which we must flee.

## Mexico Trip 1981

The Lord gave me the privilege of preaching the gospel in nine different villages while I was in Mexico. I also spoke to the Native Preacher's School for two hours each Monday. Walter Groover translated for me. I spoke in Tekal, where Jose is pastor, Thabchibechen, where Gustavous is pastor, Seye, where Rogelio is pastor, Merida, where Alphonso is pastor, Techol, where Geruacio is pastor, Yobain, where Rutilio is pastor, Calcalchen, where Gilberto is pastor, and in Teye, where Maximo is pastor. All of these villages have church buildings and good congregations. I spoke to about 60 people in the backyard of Felipe's parents. This is a new village Walter has been visiting lately. The preachers' class has about 25 regular students. Several of the ladies were permitted to attend while I was there speaking.

Many of the native preachers are traveling to other villages holding meetings in homes and yards. We plan to purchase a motor bike for some who have been walking six hours one way to three villages.

I can't tell you how encouraged I am about Bro. Groover's work in the Yucatan. Interest and enthusiasm in the churches is high and the Native Preacher's School is proving to be the center point of the ministry

there. All of these churches are self-supporting, independent, Baptist churches holding services nearly every night under the leadership of the local pastors who study in the school. Bro. Groover visits them on a regular basis while also seeking to open new missions.

Walter needs additional support and the SCHOOL FUND NEEDS YOUR GIFTS. Inflation in Mexico is unbelievable, much greater than here. The cost of almost everything is one third higher than in our country. Pray for all of our missionaries and include your designated gifts as you feel led.

## By the Grace of God

*"But by the grace of God I am what I am"*

1 Corinthians 15:10

If I am elect my election is of grace.

If I am redeemed my redemption is of grace.

If I am called I am called by grace.

If I am preserved I am preserved by grace.

Whatever there is in me that is acceptable or gives my soul any comfort must be all of grace and grace alone.

John Newton used to say that for a believer in sovereign grace to be proud was the most inconsistent thing in the world for by his own profession he owns that he is what he is, knows what he knows, and has what he has only by the grace of God.

Perhaps we have worshipped with some friend, prayed with him, or even heard him preach and teach the Word. And he seemed to be a man of strong faith, deep conviction, and devout life. Then, all of a sudden, he is gone from the church, from the gospel, and from the fellowship of the saints. What do you feel at such a time? You feel a sadness and a broken heart for him as well as a fear for yourself as you are led to say with Paul, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am."*

Or perhaps you say with John Newton:

"When any turn from Zion's way,

Alas, what numbers do!  
I think I hear the Savior say,  
Will you forsake me too?  
Ah, Lord with such a heart as mine,  
Unless You hold me fast,  
I know I must, I shall decline,  
And prove like them at last."<sup>6</sup>

Let us all be warned against pride of heart and spirit and be ever reminded by the Word and our own experience that, "*But by the grace of God we are what we are.*"

## If Salvation is all of Grace, Why Not me?

*So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy"*

Romans 9:16

God does not save any man because there is anything in that man that deserves salvation but He saves sinners because He delights to show mercy. The reason for redemption is found in Him, not in us. His mercy planned salvation, His grace chose us, His love gave Christ to redeem us, and His power keeps us. "*So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.*"

If you have been looking for some reason in yourself why God should show mercy to you, you're looking in vain! If you have weighed your works and considered your contributions to the kingdom in order to merit God's favor, you'll only be disappointed in the end! The Lord saves whomsoever He will. His own declaration to Moses is, "*I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*"

Now then, if it be God's will to save sinners who have no good in them, those who do not merit or deserve His love; if He delights to show mercy to all who call upon Him, why should He not save me and you? I

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<sup>6</sup>Newton, John. *When Any Turn From Zion's Way (alt. Will You Also Go Away?)*. Olney Hymns. Vol. 1. No. 115. London: 1779

certainly qualify as the chief of sinners. If God is pleased to provide a full Saviour, I can provide an empty sinner. If Christ died for the ungodly then He certainly died for me! If Christ is the Friend of sinners, I lay claim to His friendship. This religion that requires merit and personal righteousness offers me no hope. But God's free grace to the undeserving, God's sovereign mercy to the ill-deserving, and Christ's effectual atonement for the helpless bring me to His Throne of Grace crying, "*God be merciful to me, the sinner.*"

If all the fitness He requires is to feel your need of Him then WHY NOT ME?

"Come ye sinners poor and needy  
Weak and wounded by the fall:  
Jesus ready stands to save you-  
Full of pity, love and power."<sup>7</sup>

## Support of the Ministry

I am grateful for your faithful and generous support of the ministry of this church. The Lord has been pleased to open so many doors for us to preach the gospel to the world by television, tapes, radio, missionaries, Bible conferences, printed material, and through the pastor, assistant pastor and our young ministers preaching in other areas. Your prayers for these efforts are coveted and your faithful support is deeply appreciated. When we cannot bear the glad tidings ourselves we can provide the material needs for those who do, and I can encourage you to believe that the person who provides for the messenger is as important in the body of Christ as the messenger.

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<sup>7</sup>Hart, Joseph. *Come Ye Sinners*. Hymns Composed on Various Subjects. London: 1759.

## **It's the Little Things**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"*

Galatians 5:22

It's often said, "It's the little things that count." It is certain that little things do have a way of revealing either the absence or presence of saving grace.

Consideration, kindness, thoughtfulness, forgiveness, words of appreciation, and an attitude of concern for others justifies our profession of faith much more effectively than our creeds and confessions. It is true that Christ alone is our salvation and sanctification and it is equally true that where the Spirit of Christ dwells the fruit of the Spirit will be manifested.

## **Better to Not Be Born at All**

*"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins"*

John. 8:24

Christ said, "If ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins." Better to die any death than to die in your sins. If you die in your sins, you will rise in your sins, you will stand at the judgment in your sins, and you will spend eternity in your sins! Better not to be born at all than to die in your sins!

# When is a Man Saved?

*But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace"*

Galatians 1:15

Some say we are saved when we are chosen to salvation by God's eternal grace. Some say a person is saved when sprinkled as an infant or when he makes a profession of faith or when he is baptized or when he learns the doctrine of grace. Some say we are not saved at all until we actually get to heaven. But what does the Scripture say?

1.) A man is saved WHEN IT PLEASES THE LORD (Gal. 1:15)! Salvation is of the Lord. It pleased God to make you His people, it pleased God to make Christ your surety, it pleased God to bruise Him, and it pleased God to reveal His Son in you! It is God who quickens, regenerates, calls, and justifies. We are born of God.

2.) A man is saved WHEN HE COMES UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (Rom. 10:9-10)! The Bible knows nothing of a doormat named Jesus or a fire escape called Christ. But it does teach the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Bible knows nothing of a salvation which allows a man to have Christ as his Savior and yet refuse to bow to Him as Lord.

3.) A man is saved WHEN HE SEES THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST (II Cor. 4:6). Job asked "*How can a man be just with God?*" "*How can God be just and justify the ungodly?*" Where can righteousness and peace meet? Where can mercy and truth kiss one another? Only at the cross. We see in the death of Christ both the wisdom and the power of God and His REDEMPITIVE glory!

4.) A man is saved when walking in the light of Divine revelation, HE RECEIVES AND CONFESSES JESUS CHRIST TO BE HIS LORD AND SAVIOR! (John 1:2; Matt. 10:32-33). The Lord has no secret disciples. He that believeth shall neither be ashamed nor be put to shame.

"I'm not ashamed to own my Lord

Or to defend His cause.

Maintain the honor of His Word

The glory of His cross."<sup>8</sup>

## The Lordship of Christ

*"These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also, saying that there is another king: ONE JESUS!"*

Acts 17:6-7

It was as Lord and King that He was REJECTED! *"We will not have this man reign over us."*

It was as Lord and King that He was brought before Pilate and ACCUSED! *"He said that He Himself is Christ, the King."*

It was as Lord and King that He was MOCKED BY THE SOLDIERS! *"Hail, King of the Jews."*

This is THE CHARGE written over His cross! *"Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."*

It was the issue then and it is the issue now! "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth JESUS TO BE LORD and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." The burning question is not who or what is your Saviour, but WHO IS YOUR LORD AND KING?

It is the royal claims of King Jesus that the gospel presses upon men. If He is not Lord of your life, He is not the Saviour of your soul!

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<sup>8</sup>Watts, Isaac. *I'm Not Ashamed to Own My Lord*. Hymns and Spiritual Songs. London: 1707.

# How to Avoid Times of Depression

*“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life”*

Jude 1:20-21

Someone asked, "How can I avoid these times of depression, indifference, and bad attitude toward others?"

First, there is no perfection in the flesh! While we do not approve of our infirmities, failures, evil thoughts, or backslidings, we are, nevertheless, aware of their source; the flesh. And, because of that, we are also aware of the fact that this conflict and warfare will be with us until death. However, the next time you are plagued with coldness of spirit, prolonged bad attitude, and a worldly spirit, check and see if you are not neglecting the means of grace and your fellowship with Christ.

I find that when I am walking with Christ in sweet communion, frequently engaging in private prayer, participating in worship services and Bible study, and reading the Word of God, it is easier to forgive others, easier to overcome pride, envy, and jealousy, and I am less interested in material things and more interested in that which is of the Spirit. But if I neglect these means of grace I suddenly become more interested in those things which I really despise and begin acting in a way that is not glorifying to God.

If we will learn the power of His precious blood, dwell in Him, feed upon His Word, and seek to occupy our thoughts with His gracious presence, then we will see our tempers controlled, our hearts filled with love for Him and others, and our feet and hands swift to do works of faith and labors of love.

# The Importance of Faith in Christ

*“So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief”*

Hebrews 3:19

There is nothing more important than true faith in the Lord Jesus. There is no sin greater than unbelief. Faith is the saving grace and unbelief is the damning sin. *“They could not enter in BECAUSE of unbelief.”*

The free grace of God is the FIRST AND MOVING CAUSE of our justification. The obedience and death of our Lord Jesus is the MERITORIOUS CAUSE of our justification. Faith is the INSTRUMENTAL CAUSE of our justification! *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned.”*

Faith in ITS PROPER PLACE is as necessary as the death of Christ. Paul said *“Christ IN YOU the hope of glory,”* not Christ in the manger, not Christ on the cross, nor even Christ in heaven, but Christ IN YOU!

Even though Christ has come in the flesh, died, and rose again yet, if we do not believe on Him, we shall die in our sins (John 8:24).

## The Greatest Sin of All

*“Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”*

Luke 18:10-14

Why did this man go to hell? Was he unjust? He said he wasn't! Was he an extortioner? He said he wasn't! Was he an adulterer? He said he wasn't!

Then why did he perish? Because of the greatest sin of all -the source of all sin—PRIDE and SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS! He thanked God he was not as other men are but now he finds himself cast out while those other men are saved.

We have examples of murderers, harlots, and great offenders being brought to Christ and forgiven but not one SELF-RIGHTEOUS MAN!

## Sovereign Mercy

In general, it can be said that every great revival to date has been marked by the preaching of SOVEREIGN MERCY. This was Paul's message, Augustine's message, Calvin's message, Luther's message, Owens message, Whitefield's message, Edward's message, Spurgeon's message, and Barnard's message. The preaching of sovereign grace breaks up the fallow ground, shuts the sinner's mouth, exalts the Lord God, and glorifies the Lord Jesus.

Today the seed is cast everywhere but on good ground! The urgent need is for preaching that will prepare the ground for the seed or the heart for the good news. We must preach the character of God, the

character of men, the sufficiency of Christ, and the efficacy of the Spirit's work.

But beware, my preacher friend, for I warn you that the truth that is least acceptable to the flesh is the very truth that God blesses to the saving of sinners. It is just here that the preacher must make his choice: shall I preach to please men or shall I preach the message of a sovereign Christ to a helpless, hopeless world? For it cannot be both!

## **Forgiveness Is Sweet**

An old Italian proverb says, "Revenge is sweet." The Mexicans find great satisfaction in "getting even." But neither the Italians or Mexicans have a corner on this sin - we all are acquainted with the feeling.

"Revenge is sweet" but not to the man who knows the Redeemer, for he says, "How can I talk about vengeance upon my neighbor when Christ has dealt in mercy with me and put away all my sins?"

No sir, FORGIVENESS IS SWEET! Just as God delights to show mercy those who know God rejoice to demonstrate His grace.

## **All of Grace**

Do you remember John Newton's story about three wonders in heaven? The first wonder was that we will see those in heaven we did not expect to see. The second wonder was that we will miss so many that we did expect to see. And the third wonder will be to find ourselves there conformed to His image.

When I hear professing believers sitting in judgment on other believers because they are not perfect or because they are not quite as holy as we think we are I have to think that, surely, if they knew what they are, what sin dwells in them, how they received what they have, then they wouldn't be so hard on others.

If there is anything that can cure our pride it is to discover that salvation is ALL OF GRACE. Let us continually sing:

“Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!”<sup>9</sup>

## A Present Help

*“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”*

Psalm 46:1

If you are in difficulty, commit your troubles to Him. His grace is amply sufficient for every trial that can arise.

You have committed your soul to Christ, then surely, you can trust Him with the rest for *“He is a very present help in time of trouble.”*

## Man at His Best State

*“Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.”*

Psalm 39:5

My brethren, when I preach our guilt, sinfulness, and utter depravity, I am not speaking as man speaks or seeing us as man sees. Compared to the ways of the flesh and in relationship to the general conduct of this world, most of you are to be commended for your conduct and conversation! But, before the holiness, righteousness, and glory of God, who can but feel his total wretchedness and corruption?

We are not to be judged by the opinions of men but by the perfect Law of God. In His sight man AT HIS BEST STATE is altogether vanity. A man will see his sinfulness only to the degree that he sees God's holiness (Isa. 6:1-5).

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<sup>9</sup> Robinson, Robert. *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. A Collection of Hymns Used by the Church of Christ in Angel Alley, Bishopgate. London: 1759.

## Faith is a Heart Work

*“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways”*

Proverbs 23:26

Worship, praise, prayer, and faith are all a HEART WORK, more than simply participating in ceremonies, rituals of religion, and the chanting of fundamental words and facts.

*“The sacrifices of God are a BROKEN HEART and contrite spirit”* (Ps. 51:17).

## Inward Grace

*“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”*

Rom. 8:9

INWARD grace and faith will always produce OUTWARD works of love and kindness. It is impossible to have one without the other.

Grace within produces grace without.

Love within is manifested in outward works.

Faith within is reflected in outward obedience.

Hope within leads to outward peace.

Gratitude within makes men generous to others.

Let us fear having a dead-letter, orthodox form of religion, denying the life-changing power of His grace.

## Conversion

Conversion is not changing churches, changing denominations, changing doctrines, or changing lifestyles: conversion is a change of MASTERS!

# How Can I Give Up the Gospel?

I could sooner die a thousand deaths than renounce the gospel I preach. How can we give up the gospel? It is our life, our soul, our all.

The Lord has created such a communion between the soul and the truth that the truth must hold us and we must hold the truth even to the point of death.

## Prosperity

Many can bear persecution without complaint but, when it comes to PROSPERITY, there are very few who have the grace to resist its vanities and snares.

Happy is the man who can truthfully say, "*None of these things move me.*"

## A True Minister of the Gospel

A true minister of the gospel is a creation of God. It is not in the power of the church or any man to make a minister. God alone ORDAINS ministers and all that the church can do is RECOGNIZE them (Acts 13:2-3).

We can encourage them, support them, pray for them, and advise them as God gives us wisdom, but God must call them, anoint them, and equip them for His divine service!

## Times of Danger

There are critical times of danger for the believer: times of PROSPERITY; times of POVERTY; times of HONOR AND RECOGNITION; and times of FLESHLY TEMPTATION. Satan knows where we are vulnerable!

## **Continue in the Faith**

I may be a strong believer in election but if I do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, I will perish.

I may believe in the security of the elect but if I do not continue in the faith, I will hear Him say, "I never knew you: depart from me."