

# **CHRIST IS THE ANSWER**

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## **FOREWORD**

Many thoughts expressed in this series of talks are not original with me. They have been culled from here and there as I have read widely through the years. Somehow, a good thought expressed tersely, is easily assimilated into one's own vocabulary.

Then, too, if a quotation appears with no due credit given, it is only because its source has long since been forgotten.

I pray that as these talks are presented they might draw many to Him who is the answer to our every need.

“Christ is the answer to my every need,  
Christ is the answer, He is my Friend indeed.  
Problems of life my spirit may assail  
With Christ my Savior I shall never fail,  
For Christ is the answer to my need.”

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Have faith in GOD

Have faith in God, and in His blessed Son;  
Have faith in God, till life's brief race is run;  
Have faith in God, for soon the victory's won;  
Have faith, dear friend, in God.

## **CHRIST, Good Man or God Man?**

A question has come to us from one of our friends. It is such an important question that I would like to share it with you. It is not a new question; indeed it is probable that many of you have already given it serious consideration. In any case, here it is. Was Jesus of Nazareth merely a good man, or was He a God man?

The belief that Jesus is the Son of God is the basic difference between Christianity and all other religions. Other religions are all based upon the teachings and wisdom of men who left behind them systems of ethics but provided neither the way nor the power to translate them into the pattern of life. Christianity, on the other hand, professes to supply a moral power, a power that will give us the victory over sin and death, and ultimately give us a place in the glory land. This power is found in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, for He is more than a good man. He is the Son of God. Consequently our hope for future happiness is based upon an infinitely more sure foundation than the ethics of men.

Now let us deal with the point "Can we be certain that Jesus was in fact the Son of God?" The answer to this question is vital to Christianity. If Christ is not the Son of God then how can we account for His virgin birth, His incarnation, the miracles He wrought, the life He lived, His resurrection, the very claims He made for Himself, and the testimony of His friends?

Our questioner says that the principles of Christ are unquestionably sound. Very well then, if Jesus gave the purest principles and expounded the highest ethics so that even His enemies said, "Never man spoke like this man," and "He taught them as one having authority," it would be difficult to believe that He was an impostor, or that His mind was so perverted that He intended to deceive; nor could we believe that He was self-deceived.

Let us now notice the claims He makes for Himself. Some of these are amazing, and would be preposterous if they were not true. Listen to these affirmations: "Before Abraham was, I am." John 8: 58. "Moses wrote of Me." John 5: 46. "I came down from heaven." John 6: 38. "O Father, glorify Thou Me with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was. For Thou loved Me before the foundation of the world." John 17:5,24. Here Jesus claims pre-existence with the Father; but more than this, He claims to be the Son of God. To the man who was born blind, whom He bade go and wash in the pool of Siloam, He said, "Does thou believe, on the Son of God?" The blind man who had received his sight answered, and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I might believe on Him?" And Jesus said unto him, "Thou has both seen Him, and it is He that talks with thee." (John 9: 35, 37.)

It was for such claims as these that the Jews took up stone to kill Him. He said to them, "Many good works have I showed you from My Father; for which of those works do you stone Me? The Jews answered Him, saying, For a good work we stone Thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that Thou, being a man, makes Thyself God." John 10: 32, 33. Then Jesus said, "Say you of Him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of My Father, believe Me not. But if I do, though you believe not Me, believe the works: that you may know, and believe, that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." John 10: 36-38. This is not the testimony of His disciples concerning His deity, but it is His own appraisal of Himself. Such an audacious statement, given with such confidence and assurance, and yet coming from a heart so humble, meek, and lowly, almost staggers us by its truth. And further, as Son of God, Jesus expected and even demanded worship. What mere man could say with any hope of success that he would accept fidelity and love only when it exceeded that of a mother for her son, for did He not say, "He that loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me"? Matthew 10:37. These words from a lesser man would outrage our feelings. Only the Savior, the Holy One, could make such claims upon His fellow men.

Then, too, no other man ever said it was a sin not to believe on him (John 16:9), nor declared that those who did not believe on him would be condemned; yet Jesus of Nazareth claimed such allegiance. Listen to His words: "If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin." "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak [or excuse] for their sin." John 15: 24, 22. And because He was just what He professed to be, He spoke the truth from guileless lips. At all times He was absolutely certain and sure of Himself. Those who were most closely associated with Him declared that He was full of grace and truth (John 1:14), that guile was not found in His mouth (1 Peter 2: 22), while He Himself said, "I am the truth," "and if I say the truth, why do you not believe Me?" (John 14: 6; 8: 46.) The Apostle Peter declared that He did no sin; and while Jesus stood before the people in conscious innocence, He challenged them with the question, "Which of you convinces Me of sin?" No other man has sustained such close scrutiny at the hands of His friends and even His enemies, and yet had no fault found in him. His sinless life places Him above His fellows and proclaims Him to be indeed the Son of God.

And now we come to the miracles of Jesus. Where have we heard of another man who took the meager lunch of a boy and divided it among five thousand hungry souls? What other man has controlled the elements, stilled the storm with His lips, and quieted the raging of the sea? What other man has claimed power to raise the dead and then demonstrated that power, and during such demonstrations declared that the hour was coming when all that are in the grave should hear His voice, and that those who believed in Him should receive endless life in that day? And yet this extraordinary wise man, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose principles are unquestionably sound, made such claims as these and proved them by His deeds.

Now let us see what the Bible prophets had to say concerning Him. The prophet Isaiah who wrote some seven hundred years before Christ was born, declared to the house of David: "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel," which means God with us. (Isaiah 7: 14.) You may say that a virgin conceives and bears a son by natural birth. Yes, that is true, my friends, but that would never constitute a sign. It would be no sign at all if a child were born by natural birth of natural parents, but Isaiah tells us there would be a great sign—a son would be born miraculously. And the New Testament declares that Jesus was born on this wise, horn of a virgin, according to prophecy.

Has any other man in this world had such evidence of prophecy concerning himself? Did anyone else in this world have the place of his birth advertised seven hundred years before he was born? When Herod resolved to destroy this supposed child-rival to his kingship, he "gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, and demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet." (Matthew 2: 44) "But thou, Bethlehem, out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2.)

Has any other man in this world had his death notice published centuries before his birth? The prophets give their united voice concerning Him that He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver, that a potters' field would be purchased with the blood money (Zechariah 11:12,13), that the people would look and stare upon Him, that His hands and feet would be pierced, that lots would be cast with the dice for His robe (Psalm 22: 16-18), that He would be offered sour wine, that He would die of heart rupture (Psalm 69: 20, 21), that He would be numbered with transgressors, that He would be buried in a wealthy man's grave (Isaiah 53: 9, 12). Yet all this was written of Jesus of Nazareth at least seven hundred years before He was laid as a babe in Bethlehem's manger.

What further evidence do we require that Jesus is the Son of God? Yet there is more, much more, and we now present the wondrous part of His own resurrection. There have- been others who asserted that

they would be raised within three days of their death, but no one except Jesus has been able to demonstrate it, for on the third day after His crucifixion He arose triumphant over death and the grave. This great fact changed, mightily changed, the attitude of the disciples toward Him and His mission. Before the resurrection they were vacillating, cowardly, fearful men, who at the cross forsook Him and fled. They denied, doubted, and failed Him in the crisis hour. And yet after the cross they became daring men, ready to brave the storms of opposition, hatred, and scorn, ready to face death itself to advance the claims of their resurrected Lord. The Apostle Peter, who formerly denied his Lord, now stands before thousands on the day of Pentecost. Strong in the certainty of his message, and with confidence in his mission, he says: "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses." Nothing could now deter Peter and his associates. Neither obstacles nor perils could discourage them. They went everywhere, preaching the great message of the evangelist that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

In the light of the claims that Jesus made for Himself, in the light of the humility of His self-effacing nature, in the light of the testimony of His friends, in the light of the sinless life that He lived, in the light of the miracles that He wrought, in the light of the testimony of the prophets concerning this unique man, and in the light of His resurrection, we must surely acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and upon this great fact the hope of our salvation depends. And yet there is one more overwhelming fact that we must acknowledge before the life of Jesus can affect us, and that is His atonement, the offering of His life for guilty men, the giving of His blood as a sacrifice for sin.

Through long ages the tragic lesson had been taught that the innocent must suffer for the guilty. In the Jewish ritual a slain lamb expressed the faith of the suppliant in Jesus the coming "Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world." Through His atoning blood we, too, may receive forgiveness of sin. We, the guilty, may be set free. He became sin for us who knew no sin. It is His blood that saves. It is by His grace we receive forgiveness. It is His Spirit that gives us power to obey.

Over in the little village of Lidice in Europe, during the last war two German airmen were killed. The German High Command were so incensed about this that they decreed the ruthless destruction of the whole village. Every man, woman, and child, old and young-everybody was to die as a reprisal for the death of these two airmen. Finally the fatal day arrived. Bombs began to fall, spreading ruin and desolation everywhere, and then after the bombs came the soldiers to complete their deadly work of destruction.

One man, hearing that the Nazis were coming, hurried home to his little family, and going to the back of the yard killed the young goat that had been a pet of the household. Hastily he caught the blood of the dying creature in a basin, and hurrying back inside the house began to splash the blood upon the walls, over the floor and right up the stairway until finally there was blood everywhere. Leaving the door open where the lower floor was in shambles, he followed his family up the stairs and very quietly waited. The Nazis were coming down the street destroying every living thing in their path, leaving nothing alive; but when they came to his house they saw the blood-blood on the walls, blood on the floor, blood on the stairs-and they said, "We are too late. Someone has been here before us. Let us go on." They left the home with the inmate's safe-the one home saved in all that village. They were saved by the blood.

Ah, friends, we too may be saved by the blood-the atoning blood of Christ. It is the blood, the blood of the divine Son of God, that makes an atonement for the soul; and because He loved us, He gave His blood that we might be reconciled to God. Thank God He does not plan to leave us in this old world surrounded by the tragedy of sin much longer. He is coming soon as King of kings, and Lord of lords, to take us to the glory land. May we be ready in that great day, is my prayer, for His name's sake.

“He died! And with Him perished all that men hold dear;  
Hope lay beside Him in the sepulchre;  
Love grew coarse, cold, and all things beautiful beside  
Died when He died.

“He rose! And with Him hope rose, and life, and light.  
Men said, Not Christ, but Death died last night;  
And joy, and truth, and all things victorious –  
Rose when He rose,”

Author unknown

## **Christianity’s Strongest Argument**

Someone has said that “the strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.”

The Apostle John declares, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him.” 1 John 3: 2.

What a wonderful witness it would be for the cause of Christ if all of His professed followers were really like Him! We should share in His love for the lost and His zeal to save. We should be like Him in the exercise of faith and in purity of life. We should pray for His fearlessness in meeting opposition and in dealing with sin. And in addition to all this, we should have His courage. The prophet Isaiah says of Him: “He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth.” Isaiah 42: 4.

Thank God for that! My friends, there were many things that came into, and surrounded, the life of Jesus, that might have tended to discourage Him. He had more reason for discouragement than any other man that has ever lived upon this earth. For instance, there was the stigma that rested on Him because of His birth. Again and again His enemies confronted Him with the insinuation that He was an illegitimate child. In their attempts to discourage and humiliate Him, they said, “We be not born of fornication.” (John 8: 41.) But those slurs and evil insinuations did not deter Him for a moment. He lived above them, and proved His enemies wrong. Possibly there are some listening in at this moment who have felt that they could not succeed because they cannot rise above the stigma of their family connections! Listen, friends, Jesus knew all about such temptations to discouragement, but He was never discouraged, and He knows how to succor those who are so situated.

Let us consider for a moment the poverty of Jesus. While upon this earth He had no wealth. Though He was the King of heaven, He emptied Himself and became so poor that He was homeless. He spoke of His poverty in these terms: “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head.” Matthew 8: 20. There may be some who are feeling discouraged because they have none of the fine things that others have. Have you repeatedly had a case of the blues because the wolf is frequently at the door? Do not let poverty get you down, friend. Do not let it discourage you. Remember that Jesus refused to let it discourage Him. In fact, He chose to be poor that we, through His poverty, might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8: 9.)

Another thing that might have discouraged Jesus was the way He was treated by the people in His home town. After His baptism, when He came back to Nazareth, He went to the church, and there was asked to read from the Scriptures and to pass some comments on the portion read. The words He uttered that day struck home to the hearts of His hearers like a two edged sword. Instead of being humbled by the truthfulness of His words, the congregation rose up in anger. They cast Him out of the synagogue; they led Him up to the brow of a hill, and sought to destroy Him. Ah! it is the same old story! Have you ever tried to lift your voice against sin and wicked indulgences, and found that some of the people in the home church did not appreciate it, that they tried to suppress you? Well, do not be discouraged. Jesus

had a similar experience, but He would not let any ill-treatment discourage Him.

My friends let me ask you this question: Were you ever misjudged? Was your good ever "evil spoken of," as was the experience of Jesus day after day? Did you ever become discouraged, and quit in the struggle for right because you were not appreciated?

Jesus did not. He was lied about more than any man. More false reports were circulated about Him than about any other son or daughter of Adam, but He would not let it discourage Him. Ever ringing in His heart and mind were the words, "I must not fail nor be discouraged."

Did you ever have your immediate friends betray you? In an hour of need desert you? Jesus knew what it meant to be betrayed by His friends. He was betrayed with a kiss by one He had befriended, by one for whom He had great hopes. He knew what it was like to have a close friend deny Him with cursing and swearing, and He also knew, by experience, what it meant to be humiliated, and to bear the burdens of others without any appreciation whatsoever. And yet, in spite of all this, "In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment. Amid the greatest opposition and most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage."

You know, someone has said that "discouragement is the devil's anesthetic that he applies just before he carves out your heart." How true this is! A discouraged man is a defeated man, for he has lost his vision. We should be like the Christian who said; "I will not gratify the devil by being discouraged." Friends, I am fully convinced that discouragement is the choicest and most successful weapon that the devil uses in his warfare against mankind.

The philosophy of the old Cornish preacher, Billy Bray, appeals to me. He had the habit of talking back when the devil whispered discouraging thoughts to him. On one such occasion Billy said to the devil: "What an old fool thee art now; I have been battling with thee for twenty-eight years, and I have always beat thee, and I always shall."

And then again when his potato crop was very poor, Satan tempted him to believe that God did not love him, else He would have given him a better potato crop. Billy recognized this as a temptation from the devil, and he said, "Why, I've got your written character home to my house; and it do say, sir, that you be a liar from the beginning. And listen, when I served you, I did not have ANY 'tatures.'"

Another time when things were going hard for Billy, the devil whispered the suggestion: "The Lord is a pretty hard taskmaster. Perhaps if you would give up this preaching business and tend to some other line of work, things would go better for you." And old Billy shouted at the devil, called him a liar, and said: "You had a good job with the Lord once and you lost it, and now you want me to lose my job." Ah, friends, Billy Bray would not allow himself to listen to the voice of the evil one.

There are two reasons why Jesus did not become discouraged. First of all He believed in His son ship. You will be surprised, as you read through the Gospels, to see how many times Jesus referred to His Father. Satan tempted Him, and put doubts in His mind as to His son ship, but Jesus would not harbor these thoughts. Time and time again He replied to Satan's temptation with a "Thus said the Lord."

Oft times Christians are assailed with doubts as to their spiritual experience. Satan would have them look at their failures, their faults, their weaknesses. He emphasizes their inconsistencies, and then says, "Surely you cannot be a child of God." In that hour, friends, we need to say: "Now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him." 1 John 3:2. At such times we should quote the promise of God's Word. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of. God." John 1:12. We cannot afford to question our son ship, lest we fall before the temptation and yield to discouragement. .

The second reason why Jesus did not become discouraged is that He believed in His mission and its success. Repeatedly He made mention of the work He had to do. He said, at the age of twelve, "Know you not that I must be about My Father's business?" Luke 2:49. Again He said: "I must work the works of Him that sent Me." John 9:4. Again: "The Son of man is come to save that which was lost." Matthew 18:11. Nothing could turn Him aside from the pathway of service. He would not allow any hindrance to stand in the way. He refused to be discouraged.

We must recognize that God has a work for us to do, that "not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God." We, too, must be about our Father's business. We too must finish the work He has given us to do. Though the days and months and years of preparation may seem long, let us not become discouraged. I often think of Moses, who spent forty years in the wilderness in preparation for the service that God had for him to perform. -The more delicate the piece of work, the more careful is God in the preparation to see that we are ready for the task He has for us.

Our business is to be encouragers. It says in Isaiah 41:6: "They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage." And now I would like to state seven reasons why we should be of good courage. First, the Bible is true and its promises are sure. Second, God loves us. Third, we have a sin-pardoning Savior. Fourth, we see in the storm clouds that gather about us the omens of a brighter day. Fifth, God is leading. Sixth, the resurrection day will soon give us back our loved ones. And finally, the trials and tribulations we encounter are working for us, perfecting in us a character that will enable us to stand in that day, "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." And so, knowing that all these things work together for our good, why should not we be of good courage? (Romans 8: 28.)

Let us ever remember those wonderful words given to Joshua just before the people of Israel were led into the Promised Land: "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of good courage: for unto this people shall thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous that thou may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou may prosper whither so ever thou goes. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed? For the Lord thy God is with thee wither so ever thou goes." Joshua 1:5-9.

Friends, we are nearing home. The land of our heart's delight is not far distant. The heavenly Canaan is almost in sight. We must not lose our conviction, our faith, our way, by discouragement. Our hope must shine brighter, our faith must ring clearer, that we fail not of receiving the eternal inheritance prepared for those that love Him. In the words of the poet we say:

"I don't look back; God knows the fruitless efforts,  
The wasted hours, the sinning, the regrets;  
I leave them all with Him who blots the record,  
And mercifully forgives, and then forgets.

"I don't look forward, God sees all the future,  
The road that, short or long, will lead me home,  
And He will face with me its every trial,  
And bear for me the burdens that may come.

"I don't look round me; then would fears assail me,  
So wild the tumult of earth's restless seas,  
So dark the world, so filled with woe and evil,

So vain the hope of comfort or of ease.

“I don’t look in, for then I am most wretched;  
Myself has naught on which to stay my trust,  
Nothing I see save failures and shortcomings,  
And weak endeavors crumbling into dust.

“But I look up-into the face of Jesus,  
For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled;  
And there is joy, and love, and light for darkness,  
And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.”

## **With You in the Shadows**

We wish to draw your attention today to one of the most encouraging texts in the Bible. It is found in Romans 8:28, and reads: “We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Now, here is a precious verse, yet I suppose it is one of the most difficult in all the Word of God to fully appreciate. But listen! If your faith can really encompass this text, then you will experience such peace of mind and contentment of spirit that you will amaze yourself and your friends.

In this verse Paul declares that every detail of the believer’s life is ordered by the One who is all-loving, all-wise, and all powerful. Listen while we read it again: “We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Now, did you notice that the text states ALL things work together for good? I believe that if it stated SOME things work together for good, or MOST things work together for good, it would be more readily believed and understood. But it does not say that, it says ALL things, and you know that little word “all” makes a great difference.

During the years of my ministry I have often been called upon to comfort God’s people in trouble; some of the cases with which I have had to do have been most distressing. In some instances the circumstances have been so tragic that they have been beyond human understanding, and I am afraid I have been unable to offer any satisfactory explanation to those who have asked the reason why. You see, it is difficult to explain to a young mother why her first three babies should be stillborn; to assure a young widow that there must have been some good reason why God allowed the tragedy that robbed her of a most promising and happy married life. But I have repeatedly said, and continue to believe, that someday we will learn that the mysteries that pained and disappointed us here, were among our greatest blessings.

This text that we are reviewing today teaches that all our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and grief, in short, all things, work together for our best good because we love God. It takes a lot of faith to endure trial, to resist temptation, and bear up under disappointment. Possibly there is someone listening in today who is passing through great trouble at the moment, and is saying right now: “But surely the distressing circumstances surrounding my life are not working for my good! I can’t discern the love of God in my experience.”

My friend, the answer of God found in Romans 8:28 is, “Yes, My child, all things. The bitter and the sweet are indeed working together for your best good. So, have faith in Me, and know that I will not permit any experience to touch your life but that which will ultimately enrich it and make you a blessing to some other soul. You must trust Me and believe that all will ultimately work out for the best. I want you to know that I love you more than you understand, and all that hurts you hurts Me, too. It is



because you are very precious in My sight that I am allowing this experience to touch your life. Never doubt My leading; never question My purpose. Trust implicitly in My methods, whether it be pain or health, sunshine or cloud, flowers or thorns, uphill or downhill, bitter or sweet. Just remember that this thing is from Me, and some day, My child, you will understand."

Friends, if we could just see the hand of God working for our good in all the trials and experiences of life, and if we could learn to trust where we cannot see, then I am sure we would find rest and comfort in God. This is the only way, for an attempt to find some other reason for the loss, the pain, the disappointments, the shame, the humiliation, the tears, that have been our lot, would only end in confusion of mind.

I am sure that Moses, that great man of God, could not understand or explain at the time the reason for those long, weary, and seemingly wasted years in the desert, but he no doubt realized in after life that God was getting him ready to answer the prayers of millions of His people who were praying for deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Then, too, think of the trials and strain that he endured while leading God's people into the promised land. His was a most unenviable job of leading a multitude of people who were often discontented and critical of the actions of their leader. He no doubt was tempted many times to give up. But the Scripture says, "He endured, as seeing Him who is invisible." He pressed on, and those trials and difficulties that he endured are not now to be compared with the glories of heaven which he has been privileged to enjoy since the day of his special resurrection.

Think, too, of Job. When he tried to reason out the cause of the calamities that fell with lightning rapidity into the midst of a single day, he could only say: "I am full of confusion." Job 10:15. But his faith pierced the sorrow and loss of his discouraging experience, and he cried in triumph: "Though He slay, me, yet will I trust in Him."

Paul's life was not an easy one. He suffered much for Christ. But despite this he was so resigned to God's will that he thanked God for the lessons learned through suffering, and wrote: "All things work together for good." Friends, every trial, every disappointment, should be regarded as another proof of God's interest in us--another opportunity to grow more like the Master.

You know, so many of us have been trying to get along without God. We make our plans. We build a fortress, and set ourselves within to defend all that we claim to be ours. But our plans are frustrated and our fortress crumbles into ruins. That to many of us is a moment of disillusionment, of self-derision, of despair. But there is only one thing we can do: acknowledge the supremacy of Him whose loving interest in our time of trouble claims our devotion and service, and surrender to His will--then all will be well.

At times I visit folk in hospital, and frequently am impressed with the calmness of some patient facing a major operation. The question is asked: "How is it that you are so calm and unperturbed?" and back comes the answer: "I'm resigned; I've given up worrying." There has been a surrender, you see. He has seen the futility of worry; he has felt so hopeless and so helpless about it all that he has come to the conclusion that there is only one thing for him to do--he must give himself humbly into the hands of God and stop worrying. And when he reached that place, his soul was flooded with peace and he heard a still small voice saying: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. When thou passes through the waters, I will be with thee," and if it be the dreaded dark valley of the shadow, I will be with thee even there.

So, friend, if the trouble through which you are at present passing will only bring you to the place of complete surrender to God, and will cause you to place your life in His hands unreservedly, then you will know the meaning of the text that all things work together for good for them that love God.

I don't know what your particular problem might be. There is no need for me to know. Whatever it be, I suggest that you bring it to the Lord in prayer, and wait for His guidance. In the words of the old hymn,

we would remind you of

“What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and grief to bear;  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer.

“O, what peace we often forfeit,  
O, what needless pain we bear;  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer.”

And just one final thought. The threads of God’s loom are of many colors, dark as well as bright.

“Some are threads of pleasure,  
Some are threads of pain,  
Threads of loss are there  
As well as threads of gain.”

The trouble through which you are passing just now will undoubtedly be woven into God’s as yet unfinished scheme, so trust Him whose love is not for a summer’s day, but for ever and ever. You will discover in this life, and in the life to come, that He gathers all the threads into His hands and finds a place for all the loose ends and broken pieces that were often our sorrow and despair. So be content to take God at His word. Remember, He knows some things that our minds cannot comprehend. Do not try to reason out the deep things of God, for in so doing you may allow doubt to creep into your heart; just have faith in God and believe in His Book, the Bible. Within its pages shine His unfailing promises for all who love and serve Him. May they dispel your loneliness and master the dark for you. Amen.

## He Does Care

“Does Jesus care when my way is dark  
With a nameless dread and fear?  
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,  
Does He care enough to be near?

“Does Jesus care when I’ve said, ‘Good-bye;  
To the dearest on earth to me;  
When my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks.  
Is it ought to Him? Does He see?”

NO doubt many of my listeners have asked the question found in this lovely old hymn, and we sincerely pray that if you have been pondering the question, “Does Jesus care?” you will discover this very day that He does care, and that He loves you with an everlasting love.

During the past few weeks we have been reviewing the life of Jesus. We remember that He visited this sin-darkened world nearly two thousand years ago, to reveal the loving and kind character of God to the children of men. No one is more intimately acquainted with the tragedies that befall the human race than our blessed Lord. When He was here upon this earth He preached good tidings to men. He healed the sick; He lived a life of flawless beauty and perfection, and it must have been heaven for those who were privileged to be in His presence. At last on Calvary’s hill there came a sudden and tragic end to His wonderful ministry. But this was quickly followed by His triumphant resurrection from the dead. Later,

when He left this world for His father's throne, some no doubt thought that from henceforth He would forsake His disciples, that He would withdraw from them His sympathy and affection, and that He would transfer His love and tender regard to the sinless inhabitants of heaven, who appreciate Him and delight to do His bidding. But Jesus, who knew the hearts of all men, and who understood the doubts that would assail them after His departure, sent forth this comforting message to His disciples of all ages: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Friends, when David Livingstone returned to his native land after spending sixteen long years in the dark continent of Africa, he was given many honors, for the story of his explorations, of his trials and triumphs for Christ, had stirred the hearts of thousands. Speaking to the students and teachers of the Glasgow University, when the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him, he told the secret of his indomitable courage and perseverance in these words: "Shall I tell you what supported me through all those years of exile among a people whose language I could not understand, and whose attitude toward me was always uncertain and often hostile? It was the words of Jesus, 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.'"

Those who believe this promise of our Lord's, entertain no fears concerning the future. They know that Jesus is in heaven, that they have a Friend at the heavenly court, that in His name they can present their requests to the Father, and that in harmony with His promise He is coming again some day soon to take His people to dwell in the mansions that He has gone to prepare for them. He is just as anxious as we are to see all the, tragedies and troubles of life ended for ever.

You know, we have a beautiful picture of the love of Jesus for His brethren in John, the eleventh chapter. Standing by the grave of His friend Lazarus, the compassionate, sympathizing Jesus looked forward in prophetic view to the end of time. He saw each breaking heart and each falling tear, and when He wept by the grave of Lazarus, I do not think He wept so much for Mary and Martha who mourned the loss of their brother, for Jesus knew Lazarus would soon live again, but He wept for all the mourners who would live to the end of time. He wept for you, dear friend, and He wept for me. This record of the weeping of Christ is a fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah's picture of Him, for he wrote many years before our Lord came to this earth, "Surely He hath borne our grief, and carried our sorrows." Isaiah 53:4.

And then in His immortal Sermon on the Mount, He said, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Friends, the Christian religion is the only one that brings comfort to the mourner, and in this fact lies the evidence of its heavenly origin, its sufficiency for every need. It brightens the tomb and points to the Father above who shall wipe away all tears, and who promises a new heaven and a new earth wherein there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, and in which there shall be no more pain.

How often in the sorrow filled hour we are led to doubt the love and care of God! My friends, Jesus came into this world to manifest to us the infinite love of our heavenly Father, rightly to represent the nature of God and His love for fallen man. He would have us know that it is our enemy, Satan, who has brought upon the human family heartache and loss. Repeatedly in His teachings Jesus showed that the sickness, the pain, the heartaches, and all the woes that come to us have come because of sin. Though we may not understand why some of these things are permitted, and though like Job of old, we may at times be full of confusion yet may it be said of us as it was said of the faithful patriarch when he was bereft of children and property all in a single day, "In all this job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."

The Christian faith does not promise immunity from the troubles that afflict mankind. If we think it does, then we will be sadly disappointed. But Christians do find in Christ the means by which they are enabled to transcend these obstacles. We cannot dodge life's tragedies, but we certainly find in our faith a

means of triumphing over them. In his book, "Freedom in the Modern World," John McMurray expresses this idea so nicely in the following statement: "To the man who is afraid of poverty the religion of Christ does not say, 'God will save you from losing your money.' It says, 'Suppose you do lose your money, what is there to be afraid of in that?' If it is fear of suffering and death that haunts you, real religion says, 'Yes, of course you will suffer, and of course you will die, but there is nothing to be afraid of in that.' Christianity does not say, as all false religions and false idealism does in effect, 'Shut your eyes to things you are afraid of. They may happen to other people, but God will see to it that they don't happen to you.' On the contrary, true religion says, 'Look the facts you are afraid of in the face. See them in all their brutality and ugliness, and you will find not. that they are unreal, but that they are not to be feared.'" Every foe, including death, is a defeated foe, defeated by the Lord and Master we serve, and He said, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16: 33.

Well, I am sure that we all recognize that we dwell in a land of sorrow, that for long centuries the gateway into the valley of dark shadows has opened and closed in endless succession, that the grim reaper has shown no favoritism, and that untold millions have passed into that dark unknown-the valley of the shadow of death. Death is the heritage of all mankind, and the Scriptures clearly indicate that this has been the lot of humanity since the days of Adam, by the statement, "As in Adam all die." But thank God the text does not end on that note of doom. It goes on to bring hope to our burdened heart, by declaring, "Even so in Christ shall all be made alive." That, praise God, is our comfort in the hour of sorrow. He came forth from the tomb with the victorious cry, "I am He that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:18.

The resurrection of our loved ones, the hope of meeting and knowing them again, is therefore the cornerstone of the Christian faith. It is the polestar of our hope. It is the rainbow that pierces the dark cloud of despair. It is the climax of the gospel.

"On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,  
And the glory of His resurrection share;  
When His chosen ones shall gather in their home beyond the skies,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there."

What a glorious morning the resurrection morning will be! Can you not picture the glad procession coming up, a multitude whom no man can number? In their robes of white I see them coming, with crowns of everlasting joy on their heads, and with palms of victory in their hands. I hear their shouts of victory when they cry, "Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that bath redeemed us." And then "we shall clasp our own again, free from sorrow, sin, and pain. We shall wish no more in vain, some sweet day."

It was this confidence in the resurrection that caused prophets, apostles, and martyrs to go to the stake or the dungeon with a prayer in their hearts and a song on their lips. Their triumphant cry was, "I shall live again." Now, the resurrection, of course, is always connected with the second coming of Jesus. Without His second advent there would be no breaking of the bonds of death. We read in 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17: "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." In that glad day mortality shall put on immortality, and corruption shall be changed to incorruption. Then shall death hear its final note of doom. This is what the disciples called the "blessed hope" of the church. I never tire of speaking about it. It is a glorious prospect, and no wonder the Apostle John exclaimed when he thought of all that the second coming of Jesus will mean to the church of God, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Yes, friends, Jesus is coming again, and He is coming soon. Many great lines of prophecy focus on our

day. The signs of the times are rapidly being fulfilled. The consummation of God's plan for full and complete redemption is at hand. May this blessed hope comfort your troubled hearts, dry your falling tears, and cause you to rejoice in the thought of that glad reunion day. We are on the verge of entering the home to which our Master referred when He said, "Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:1-3. And there shall be in that goodly land "no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain," says the prophet John, "for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4. Yes, friends, Jesus does care.

## **Why We Need Not Fear Death**

DO you know what is the word that God never intended men to pronounce? The word that reduces all men to the same rank? The word that man would rather not pronounce, and yet must? The word that none is too young to lisp and none too old or too weary to whisper? The word that frustrates ambition and disappoints hope, and yet has the power to solve all problems and heal all the wounds of life? The word that men one day shrink from, and yet on another day and in different circumstances, desire and seek after more than hid treasure? The word that men fear, and yet which, if they will listen to its voice, can teach them the meaning of all other words in life? Maybe you have guessed aright. It is the word "death."

The Scripture states, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Hebrews 9:27. And, because of this inevitable end to which all men are travelling, the prophet Amos admonishes us in these words, "prepare to meet thy God." We are being continually reminded by the happenings of every day that, while in the midst of life, we are certainly in the midst of death. None of us can tell just when the end for us may come. Every passing moment someone somewhere lays down his life. If time should last for another forty years the majority of our adult friends will all have passed away. That is indeed a sobering thought.

Undoubtedly there are many in this world who have determined not to give the matter of death a thought. We read somewhere that Louis XV, King of France, foolishly ordered that death was never to be spoken of in his presence. Nothing that could in any way remind him of death was to be mentioned or displayed, and he sought to avoid every place and sign and monument that in any way suggested death.

Carlyle said of him: "It is the resource of the ostrich who, hard hunted, sticks his foolish head in the ground and would faint forget that his foolish body is not unseen, too." There is no reason why a brave and unselfish man should not face all the facts of life; and one of these, the ultimate fact so far as this world is concerned, is the fact of death. So, never let death take you by surprise.

Of the many thousands of religions in the world, the only one that throws light on the subject of death, and dispels the gloom of the grave is the religion of Christ. He alone of all the sons of men can sympathize with, and bring comfort to, the mourner, for He has demonstrated His power over death and the grave.

No wonder the apostle wrote to the believers in Christ, "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." Nothing in all this world brings greater sorrow to the human heart than the loss of a loved one. In no other experience does man stand so helpless as he does in the face of death. The apostle knew this, and wrote the text we have just quoted to comfort and assure our troubled hearts. He writes further in 1

Corinthians 15:22, "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." How this blessed hope should thrill us through and through! It is comfort for our sorrow, hope for our despair, and it brings peace to our troubled hearts. Praise God for the statement found in Jeremiah 31:16, which declares that death is not the end of all things to the child of God, but that he "shall come again from the land of the enemy," and the land of the enemy is the grave. Friends, the Christian religion is the only one with a resurrected Savior, and the only one that provides the means whereby one can rise again from the tomb.

No Christian man or woman need fear death. As we read God's Word we cannot help but be impressed with the fact that the Lord wishes His people to understand the mystery of death as being a sleep out of which we are to be awakened on the resurrection morning. When Jesus was discussing with His disciples the death of their mutual friend, Lazarus, He said, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." John 11:11. Ah, friends, the day is coming, according to the Lord Jesus, when all the sleeping saints "shall hear His voice, and shall come forth." (John 5:28, 29.) When viewed in this light, death loses its sting, for after all "it is but a nap from which we awaken rested and refreshed, and a sleep from which we spring up like children tumbling out of bed ready to frolic through another world." What a wonderful thing it will be for the aged to awaken in that glad day, and say, "Why, I was an old man [or an old lady] yesterday, but now I am a youth."

I have often tried to picture some of the great meetings of the past. I have thought of Elijah standing there on Mount Carmel, surrounded by those Baal worshippers, a lone sentinel for God. What a privilege it would have been to be there to witness the power of God manifested on that momentous occasion. I have often pictured, too, the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, the waters parting and rolling back while the people passed dry shod over the sea bed. Then, too, there was the occasion when God came down from the courts above and proclaimed His law from Mount Sinai. What a wonderful display of glory and power was witnessed by God's people when He wrote His law upon tables of stone and handed them to His servant Moses!

These are a few of the great meetings of God's people in the long ago. But the greatest meeting of all is in the future, and it is a meeting in which you and I can have a part. It is the glorious resurrection morning. Think of it! In that day fathers and mothers will clasp to their breasts children whom they have long lost in death. Husbands and wives, separated many years, fall again into each others' arms. "We shall clasp our own again, free from sorrow, sin, and pain. We shall wish no more in vain, some sweet day." How thrilling it is to visualize these reunions. No one comes alone or empty-handed, but all come with arms full, filled with treasures which the grave and the sea have buried, and which now are all restored forever through the infinite plan of God.

Friend, when you come to the end of life's journey, will it be light for you? Will you be able to say with the psalmist of old, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with Me"? Psalm 23:4. If Christ is your friend and Savior, then all will be well with you in that day, and you will have no regrets.

Dr. Landale of New York tells of a devoted Christian business man, who was struck by a car and hurried to the hospital. He was informed that he had only about two hours to live. His faith in the goodness of God and in the future life was implicit. He was confident of a great awakening on the resurrection morning. He had his family called, and then addressed them: "Wife, you have been to me the greatest woman in the world. Through sunshine and shadow we have walked together. You have been my inspiration in everything I have undertaken. Especially has this been true in reference to my religious life. Many times I have seen the Spirit of God shining in your face. I love you far more than I did the day you became my bride. Good night dear, I'll see you in the morning. Good night."

“Mary, you are our first-born. What a joy you have been to your father! How glad I am that you have looked so much like your mother! In face and spirit you have always reminded me of her. I see in you the sweet, beautiful young woman who left her home to become the builder of mine. What a Christian you are! Mary, you will never forget how your father has loved you. Good night, Mary, good night.”

He then turned to his eldest son. “Will, your coming to our home has been an unmixed blessing. You were a manly boy. You have become an exemplary man. You love God and His church. How proud I am of such a son! You will continue to grow in every Christian grace and virtue. You have your father’s love and blessing. Good night, Will, good night.”

Charlie was the next. Charlie had fallen under evil influences, had grievously disappointed his father and mother. The dying man skipped him and spoke to the youngest child, a beautiful young girl. “Grace, your coming was like the breaking of a new day in our home. You have been a song of gladness, a ray of light. You have filled our hearts with music. When not long ago you surrendered your life to Christ, your father’s cup of happiness was full to overflowing. Good night, little girl, good night.”

He then called Charlie to his side. “Charlie, what a fine promising boy you were. Your father and mother believed you would develop into a great and noble man. We gave you all the opportunities we have to the other children. If there has been any difference, you yourself must admit that the difference has been in your favor. We have done the best we could for you, Charlie, but you have disappointed us. You have followed the broad and downward way. You have not heeded the warning of God’s Holy Word. You have not hearkened to the call of the Savior, but I have always loved you, Charlie, and I love you still. God only knows how much I love you. Good-bye, Charlie, good-bye, good-bye.”

Charley seized his father’s hand, and between his sobs, cried out, “Father, why have you said ‘good night’ to the others and ‘good-bye’ to me?”

“For the simple reason, Charlie, that I will meet the other members of the family ‘in the morning’; but by all the promises that assure us of a reunion, and give me hope of having them with me again, by those statements in God’s Word I can have no hope of seeing you ‘over there.’ It’s good-bye, Charlie, goodbye.”

Charlie fell on his knees by his dying father’s bed, and cried out in the agony of his soul, praying God to forgive his sins and allow him the hope of meeting his father again.

“Do you mean it, Charlie? Are you in earnest?”

“God knows I am,” said the heartbroken young man.

“Then God will hear you and save you, Charlie, and it is not good-bye, but good night. Good night, Charlie, good night. I am so grateful to God that it is not good-bye, but only good night. Good night, my boy.” And he was gone.

Charlie is now a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and is looking forward to the time when he shall hear his sainted father exclaim: “Good morning, Charlie. I’m so glad the night is done, and the day of resurrection has dawned. Is it not a glad, great hour?”

Oh, members of the same home circles--husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, loved ones, you who are bound not only by ties of blood, but by stronger cords of a love that is sweeter than life, the day is ending, the morning is coming. They are making for you a home yonder in God’s glory land where there will be no more parting. When the shadows fall and you go to sleep, to those who love you, will it be “good bye” or a short “good night”? May your faith in Christ the Life-giver be such that you will come forth triumphant on the resurrection morn.

## His Eye Is On the Sparrow

Our text is found in Genesis 8:22. "While the earth remains, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." My friends, in spite of war and trouble, in spite of the chaos we witness in every phase of life today, there are many things that testify to the existence of God, and to the fact that He loves us-many things which prove that His plans and purposes for the children of men are carried out. Nothing can hinder them. We would remind you that never once since the world began has the sun ever stopped shining.

"His face very often we could not see,  
And we grumbled at his inconsistency,  
But the clouds were really to blame, not he,  
For behind them he was shining.

"God's love is always shining.  
We veil it at times with our faithless fears,  
And darken our sight with our foolish tears,  
But, in time, the atmosphere always clears,  
For His love is always shining."

And God would have us know again, by the regularity of the things of His creation, the coming and passing of the seasons. Spring, with its buds and blossoms; Summer, with its glory and ripeness. Autumn, that funeral season of nature, when everything dies in bright colors; and Winter, with its chilling frosts, that He has a loving interest in, and a great care for, the things of His creation.

Let us consider for a moment a tiny grain of wheat. This, I believe, is one symbol of God's love and care for the children of men. Were we to place beside a grain of wheat another one modeled in gold, and then ask you to choose which you would have, you, no doubt, would choose the model of gold, and so would I. But, were I to inform you that this was the only grain of wheat in the whole wide world, you would, no doubt, desire to obtain it, for you would realize that wrapped up in that little grain of wheat was the promise of thousands of sacks of flour, of thousands of loaves of bread, that therein lay the hope of your future sustenance. Scientists have stated that the average total of the world's wheat harvest has been, through the years, sufficient for fifteen months' consumption. That being so, every year the whole world comes within three months of starvation. Lack of bread in some parts of the world has usually been the result of the short-sighted and foolish policies of men, but never has the world as a whole lacked bread, for God has kept His promise made to Noah over four thousand years ago that seedtime and harvest would come and go without interruption.

In Matthew the sixth chapter, verses 25 and 26, we find God's message addressed to those who are afraid to entrust themselves to His care. He says, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor yet for your body, what you shall put on. Is not the life more than meat and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they?" And again in Matthew the tenth chapter, verses 29-31, God draws our attention to the loving watch care He has for the little feathered creatures of His creation. He says, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear you not therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows." Friends, we see these little feathered creatures all about us-on the highways, in the fields, and in the bush. Sometimes we have seen them dying, often we have seen them dead, and yet, in all the world, and in all the years, not one has fallen and suffered without the notice, sympathy, and sorrow of our



heavenly Father. His message to you and to me today is: "You are of more value than many sparrows."

Yes God's eye is on the sparrow. May this knowledge help you to appreciate the fact that He has a loving watch care over your life. We learn from the many letters that we receive from you, dear friends, of the doubts that sometimes assail you. I know many have meditated upon the questions, "Does God see me?" "Does He know about the trouble through which I am passing?" "Does He care?" "Is He able to help?" I want to assure you that He does know. If His eye discerns the broken wing of a little bird, if He notices the disturbed feathers, and His ear can tell when the song of each little feathered creature has been interrupted by tragedy, then, friends, He knows when the tears have flowed in the secret chamber of your life, of the crushing load that you have carried so bravely through the years. So, however the pain may rage, whatever may be your peculiar sorrow, let me assure you that God is fully aware of it. Better than anyone else He understands, and more than anyone else, He cares. And, above all others, He is able to help.

If you feel that God is far away, go out into your garden in the quietness of the evening hour, and you cannot help but appreciate the statement of the poet that "One is nearer to God in a garden than anywhere else on earth." Or take a walk into the forest, and study the trees. Of all man's works of art, a cathedral has been proclaimed his greatest, but a vast majestic tree is greater than that. "Trees. How I love them! To me they seem so fatherly, so motherly, as they stretch forth their arms in welcome, and open their cozy bosoms to house the little creatures of the woodland." Thanks be to God for making trees. We think today of a particular tree that grew in a forest glade:

"And to that forest there came one day  
A man who took this tree away,  
And fashioned it with saw and plane  
Till naught of its beauty did remain.

"Then pondering not to think of loss,  
He fashioned it into a cross.  
Oh did he but know what he had done;  
A cross on which to nail God's Son.

"God made that tree with wondrous grace;  
Man fashioned it to mean disgrace;  
God meant that it should useful be;  
Man made that cross for Calvary.

'Tis ever thus man spoils God's plan,  
And turns a blessing to a ban;  
And heeding not how great the loss  
Will turn a tree into a cross.

"I look again, and, lo! I see God turns that cross into a tree,  
A tree of life whose leaves does heal;  
It is of His great love the seal  
A tree of life for you and me.  
Man makes a Cross-God makes a Tree."

There is so much in God's creation to remind us of His love. Think of the lovely flowers; of the little mauve violet. Could you have invented anything so rich in color, so perfect in shape? That little flower

originated in the mind of God. He did not copy it. It was His own creation. The violet is one of the tangible thoughts of God. Then, friends, what beautiful thoughts God must have! Well, the things of God's creation that we admire here are not to be compared with the glories of the hereafter. Soon, if we are faithful, our eyes shall behold in the kingdom to come; flowers, and shrubs, and trees, upon which there will never be seen the touch of frost or the pale hand of decay. There, in that beautiful land, every eye shall sparkle with the fullness of the joy that reigns within. There, on every cheek will be seen the bloom of eternal youth and everlasting health. God grant that we might all find a place at last in that beautiful land through the merits of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

"Said the Sparrow to the Robin,  
I should really like to know  
What makes these anxious human beings  
Rush about and worry so.

"Said the Robin to the Sparrow  
Friend, I think that it must be,  
That they have no heavenly Father  
Such as cares for you and me."

## **With Him No One Is Too Bad**

Pastor, you have awakened in me an interest in spiritual things. I would love to have the assurance that is yours of good things to come, but somehow I think I'm beyond the pale of redemption. I've left it a bit too late. I'm too far gone." The foregoing is representative of scores of people who have wandered far off from God. But, friends, I pray that as we consider the immortal story of the prodigal son again, none will harbor such thoughts any longer.

The parable of the prodigal son or the Wonderful Father, as some term it, is recorded in Luke the fifteenth chapter, and reads as follows: "And He said, A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me. And he divided unto them his living.

"And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would faint have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

"And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

"And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him. And put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry."

Now, the young man of this parable, like hundreds of thousands of other young men in our world today, had a false idea of life, and when a man has a false idea of life it is very difficult for his father or mother

or any of his friends to help him.

You will notice the story opens with the young man in earnest conversation with his father. He was talking of leaving home. It is hardly likely that this was the first time they had conversed on this subject. Undoubtedly, for many months past the father had noticed a restive and discontented spirit in his boy. It seems that the lad had become tired of the restraints of home, and longed for the so-called pleasures of the world. Like many other lads, he was self-willed, and determined to have his own way, and this was the day of his big decision.

Approaching his father, the lad makes a very unusual demand. "Give me my portion of the farm in cash, and divide the stock, and let me get away," he said. While he expected an unhappy decision from his boy, the father was nonplussed by what he heard. He had an idea the boy was planning to leave home, but it was hard to believe that the day, and the decision he had long dreaded, had at last come. There seemed nothing else to do but let the lad go. It was a difficult decision to make, but there was nothing more he could do to prevent him from making shipwreck of his life. He knew his boy's heart was in a far country. It appears that his great urge was to get away from his father's prayers and influence, and get into a foreign land where he could do as he pleased.

Young men, and, yes, young women, too, I want you to notice that prodigals grow gradually. They are first of all prodigals in heart, and it is usually not very long before they are prodigals in fact. However, the journey to the far country is a quick one, for the simple reason that it is a down-hill journey.

I have often tried to picture that prodigal leaving home. I think he found it really difficult to make the break. As he bade farewell to his father, something told him that he was doing wrong, and when he saw his father's eyes moist with tears I am sure that for a moment he almost relented, but, no, he hurriedly shook hands, broke away from his father's embrace, and started on his journey with the last words of his dear old dad ringing in his ears: "Well, so long, son. Don't forget, if ever you want to come back home there'll be a vacant chair for you, and the door will never be locked while you are away." I think that is what most fathers would say.

Friends, can you see that boy the first night he is away from home, camped by the side of the road? Can you picture him settling down for the night without any thought of God? Of course, he had long since stopped praying, but it is not so easy to forget the things of God as one might imagine. His conscience smites him; he tosses and turns all night, and with the first streaks of the gray dawn he is up and on his way again, continuing his journey into the far country.

The week quickly passes by and he comes to his first Sabbath away from home. But he is determined he will not rest this day, and keeps on saying to himself: "I am finished with religion, and all that pertains to it." Oh, if he had only turned his back that first night when his conscience smote him, or on that first Sabbath, he would have saved himself and others a great deal of sorrow and trouble. You see, each day it was becoming more difficult for him to turn back, for the further one travels away, the longer it takes to return.

Well, the Scripture indicates that he soon reached the far country, and the very first thing we hear of him down there is that he is in bad company. The record says he began to waste his substance in riotous living. That, of course, was only natural, for I have never known a young man who treated his father or mother unkindly who did not finally end up in bad company. This young man got tangled up in all kinds of vice. He was naturally a popular fellow because he had plenty of money. Yes, money will purchase popularity for a time, but the Bible says, "A fool and his money are soon parted." And that is just what happened to this young man.

It was not long before he lost all his money, and he began to be in want. He sold his belongings until he

had nothing left but the few tattered rags that clothed his body. When he was penniless, friendless, and homeless, a physical, moral, and spiritual wreck, the Scripture says, "He came to himself." He had to reach the pigsty before he began to see life in its right perspective. Well, it is a grand thing to see a man coming to himself, for as soon as he does there is hope for him. This young man had been beside himself. He could not think straight. Possibly like many people of our day, he thought that those who worshipped God were queer. Friends, there is not a drunkard, a thief, or a gambler but thinks that Christians are mad. They call us fanatics. But Solomon says concerning the wicked, "Madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead." Ecclesiastes 9:3.

Well, at last the prodigal began to reason rationally. He realized the foolishness of the course he had chosen. He began to see that through his actions he had wronged his father, disgraced his good name, and wrecked his own character. He realized now that this all happened because he thought he could play with sin. When he left home he was full of pride and conceit, and if anyone had warned him of what he was coming to he would have laughed them to scorn.

I have seen it many times. Once a man starts on the downward track, he sinks lower and lower unless by the grace of God he turns from sin to righteousness. Never forget, the first lie told, the first drink taken, the first petty theft, are all steps in the wrong direction. The first step in the wrong direction is the hardest one to take, but once taken, the succeeding steps are easy.

As this young man sat in the pigsty, meditating on all the things he had lost, and as he went over again his sad and tragic experience, he realized that there was at least one thing that was left to him, one thing that he had not lost, and that was his father's love. And as he thought of his own plight, he said, "If I stay here much longer I will surely starve to death, and possibly they will bury me like a pauper. What a fool I've been! Here I am perishing with hunger, while my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare."

But, friends, before he actually decided to return home I am sure he had a terrible battle with his pride. You know, it is not easy to turn back and ask forgiveness of those we have wronged.

Finally, he worked out just what he was going to say when he got home. As he meditated he said to himself: "I will arise and go to my father, and say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants."

Let us now leave the prodigal for a minute as he travels homeward, and look into the home where his old father and the other members of the family are possibly engaged in morning worship. The old man reads a psalm, and perhaps after reading they sing, and then father prays. He prays for the servants, and for the elder brother, for the neighbors, and then his voice begins to falter a little as he prays: "God bring home my wandering boy today."

Immediately following their family worship the old gentleman goes outside to take his usual look down the highway. Would this be the day? As his eyes travel to the bend away in the distance he sees a stranger. Who could it be? His son! No surely not! No, this couldn't be his boy, but his heartbeat quickens as he recognizes his son, not by his rags but by the very way he walks. Yes, "That's my boy," he says. "He's coming back home, praise God!"

He hurries out into the highway and runs quickly toward his son. And, oh, what a meeting that is! The prodigal begins his statement of confession. "Father, I have sinned," he says. But the old man does not hear a word of it. "Run quickly," he says to the servants, "and get the best robe; bring a new ring; fetch the best pair of shoes you can find, and go and kill the fatted calf. Send for the musicians, for this my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost, and is found."

Friends, what a picture this is of the love of God, and of His joy over the return of a sinner. For God is

represented by the wonderful father of this parable. You see, it is not a question with God as to how many times we have sinned, nor how far we have wandered away from Him, nor how black our lives have been. Ah, no! God does not deal with us according to our iniquities; He deals with us in mercy. If the old father had dealt in justice with that prodigal he would have barred the door, and said to his son, "You cannot come in to my home." I have yet to find an earthly parent who would bar the door to his wayward boy or girl, but, friends, there is no father on earth who has as much love in his heart for the wayward as God has.

You may be as black as coal, yet God stands ready and willing to receive you into His home and to forgive you freely for all your waywardness. Earthly friends may despise you, but the Lord Jesus Christ will never do that. He welcomes you into the kingdom of His grace and love.

And we say in conclusion, and on the basis of this beautiful story that we have recounted today, God loves you with an everlasting love, and if you are not already His child, safe and bound for the Father's home, or if you are a wandering child off in the far country, God grant that you will say: "I will arise now, and go to my Father." Today, if you do this, it will not only mean great happiness to you personally, and to your loved ones, but there will be joy in heaven over your return. May God bless you.

## **Christ and Your Home**

We join with the people of all churches who pay tribute to mother. Motherhood is a subject we do well to speak about, for the stability not only of the home, but of the very nation itself, depends largely upon the kind of mothers that are found therein. "Beneath the beautiful city of Venice there are countless thousands of wooden piles driven thickly into the ooze of the Adriatic. Together they form the firm basis upon which cathedrals and palaces have been erected. So long as the piles remain intact the city will stand, but let decay do its deadly work, let the piles sink slowly from their appointed levels, and the noble work of man must perish before the triumphant onrush of the surrounding sea. Likewise, the magnificent golden superstructure of modern civilization rests upon the foundations of millions of little homes. All the blessings that science has conferred upon the world, all the material advantages enjoyed today depend for their continuance upon the stability of these little units of society."

My friends, we regard it as a duty to sound an alarm, to give warning of some of the forces that are eating into the very vitals of society and undermining the foundations of our homes, and in turn the nation. We dwell today particularly upon the subject of marriage, that divine institution and first bond of society, for we know of no more timely topic to discuss in the atmosphere of mothers' day than this. As little by little the barriers to divorce have been lowered, increasing numbers of unhappy couples have flocked to the courts to have their marriage ties dissolved, with the result that year by year more homes are devastated, more hearts are broken, more children are left with shattered ideals, cut off from the happiness and protection of parental love. It is to be regretted that stories of divorce are being so unduly featured today in the press and on the screen. I have spoken to theatre managers, writers, and others whose job in life it is to provide amusement and recreation for the multitudes, and have asked why they stress the seamy side of life, and they say, We must give the people what they want. I am not persuaded that they want much of that which is prepared for them, but I am sure of this one thing, that every article, every book, every play, and every film that conduces to immorality and the breakdown of home life, is a definite contribution to the forces threatening the final collapse of our civilization.

My friends, we need to re-study the sanctity of marriage, and all that this Christian ordinance can and should mean to the human race. From the pristine purity of the garden of Eden, two divine institutions have been passed on to the generations of mankind. One is the Sabbath, which in a special way directs us into channels of rich spiritual blessing, and the other the marriage institution, which ushers two

people into the love and blessings of a home, and into a life-long companionship. The Creator of mankind honored the marriage institution by performing its first service in the bowers of the garden of Eden. We have heard people say that marriage is a gamble. It surely is without the attendant blessing of God. We believe that it is only in Christ that a marriage alliance can be safely formed. Human love should draw its closest bonds from divine love, and it is only where Christ reigns that there can possibly be deep, true, and unselfish affection.

On Thursday, November 20, 1947, folk in Australia were gathered around the radio listening in with the rest of the world to the wedding of Princess Elizabeth. I will never forget the thrill I received when I heard those kings and queens, princes and princesses, lords and ladies, and other notable persons sing the hymn "Praise My Soul the King of Heaven." And as the strains of that lovely hymn died away we were deeply moved as we listened to every word of the marriage service. We were made conscious again of the seriousness of the marriage ceremony and of the solemnity of the vows taken before God and man, and we were led to appreciate once more the deep sense of responsibility that those vows must always involve. I am sure that the majority of those of you who listened with us must have felt that the solemn words of the wedding service declaring holy matrimony to be a lifelong partnership, not to be entered upon unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly, were absolutely 'right.

My friends, about to be married, recently married, and those of you who have celebrated your silver or golden wedding listen! What you expected of those two young people so greatly beloved by our nation, you must expect of yourselves. The standard you have set for them must also be found in your life. Possibly there are some listening in just now who are tempted to believe that your marriage is a mistake. You have discovered that that something which brought you together, which you thought was love, has vanished, and you are not happy. You might even be tempted to break up your present partnership by applying for a divorce. I would remind you that our Lord said, as recorded in Matthew 5: 32: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causes her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced commits adultery."

I would like to remind you, too, of your marriage vows. I somehow feel that it might do you good. Do you remember, John, when the minister said something like this to you, "Appealing to your Father in heaven to witness your sincerity, do you now take this woman whose hand you hold, choosing her alone from all the world, to be your lawfully wedded wife, to trust her as your best earthly friend? Do you promise to love, cherish, and protect her, and in all things seek her welfare as you seek your own? Do you pledge yourself thus honorably to be her husband in good faith so long as God in His providence shall spare you to each other?" When you were asked those, or similar questions, you no doubt replied, "I do," and I am sure you meant it.

And do you remember, Mary, when you were asked if you would receive John to be your lawfully wedded husband, if you would choose him from all the world as he had chosen you, if you would pledge your trust to him as your best earthly friend, if you would promise to love, comfort, and honor him, and in all things esteem his happiness as your own, and if you would give yourself trustfully to him to be his wife in good faith so long as the providence of God should spare you to each other, you said, "I will." And then to climax it all, possibly one of your friends stepped forward, and sang, "I'll Walk Beside You," expressing the sentiments of your hearts as they beat in unison that day.

Well, after the excitement was all over, and some of the first romance wore off, you possibly settled down resentfully to what became a drab little partnership in running a house. You found your lives were not completely blending, and you said hot, hasty, and hurtful things to each other, with the result that you found yourselves growing apart. Listen, it needs patience and sympathy, with a sincere desire to understand, and to make allowances for each other, to enable you to get along happily in married life. "Marriage is the strictest tie of perpetual friendship. There can be no friendship without confidence, and

no confidence without integrity.”

Don't begin to entertain the thought that you cannot make a success of your marriage. Even though you may have made a poor start, right within the circle of your home there is still to be found a golden round of happiness that the world cannot give. Others have found it, why not you? I believe you can gain this by renewing your wedding vows on this mothers' day, and by making a new dedication of yourselves to God and to each other. You should do this for the sake of our Lord - you should do it for your own sake, and certainly you should do it for the sake of your children. And may I suggest that for the future you build your home on the rock Christ Jesus. Never forget that marriage is ordained of God, and that His blessing alone can make it what He designed it should be.

If you will but love God and obey Him in your lives, if you will commune daily with Him, then you will receive His power for service, and you will bring heaven to earth and make its glory shine in a beautiful home. One of the greatest stabilizing influences in any home is the family altar. I would admonish all young couples to erect a family altar in their homes at the commencement of their wedded life. "If Christ is made the head of your house, your home will be a place where joy and courage reign, where song and cheer and hope are the constant atmosphere. It will be a home where obedience is exemplified and taught, where parents recognize their obligations to a higher parent, and through obedience to His laws, physical, social, and spiritual, teach their children obedience to parents, to rulers, and to God. It will be a home where industry and thrift are inculcated, while yet due pleasures are enjoyed. A home where it is recognized that only labor earns relaxation, and that to build worthy character there must be earnest effort of hands and brain. It will be a home that is clean-clean physically and morally. It will be a home that is true, that counts straightforwardness in word and in deed not only a virtue but a necessity. A home where lying is despised, and duplicity is scorned, and where every act and word is squared to the commandments of God. It will be a home where courtesy is taught, where the thought of others' comfort and blessing is made superior to self aggrandizement. It will be a home where duty is made to master desire, and where joy is found in the performance of duty. And finally, it will be a home where love fills every heart, makes every virtue, and inspires every service. Such a home, so far as its influence extends, can be a mighty, stabilizing influence in this old world, and it should and could be a little heaven here in which to go to heaven in."

"You may occupy a palace with a gold-encrusted dome,  
Or just a two-roomed cottage; but neither is a home  
Unless within those portals there are loving hearts and true;  
Without them it's just roof and walls, and not a home to you.

"But if, amid the grandeur, or in that humble place  
You find a sweet unselfishness, the tenderness and grace  
Of hearts that dwell in mutual love, then 'tis a home indeed;  
In days of calm or days of storm, 'twill meet your every need.

"Thank God for homes like these, of which so many still are found,  
In spite of all the restlessness encircling us around.  
We need their power to charm and bless-  
These wondrous homes of happiness."

My friends, I sincerely hope and pray that the admonition given in this lesson in all sincerity and love, might be the means in the hands of God of saving many souls from making shipwreck of their lives on the sea of matrimony. We pray also, that it might have caused some to make new resolutions, resolutions that will cause them to haul up their sails again, and unitedly steer for the eternal shore.

## Christ and Your Future Home

Wonderful news is being broadcast in all the world just now. It is concerning the discovery of a land that is absolutely free from the curse of sin and its consequences. By all accounts it is just like the garden of Eden, and filled with an abundance of good things. There is no selfish grabbing there, for all the inhabitants of this fair land are courteous and considerate of one another's needs and everyone has pledged his strict adherence to the Golden Rule. There is full and plenty there, and best of all, everything in this wonderful new land is free.

"The reports declare that its inhabitants are sinless, and everyone keeps the Ten Commandments, thus fulfilling their duty to God and their fellow men. There are no policemen there, for none are needed; there are no courts for the settling of disputes, for all in this fair land live happily and peacefully together.

"But the most wonderful news of all is that nobody there has ever been known to die. In fact, no one has ever been sick, and consequently there is no need of doctors, nurses, hospitals, or undertakers. No wonder reports declare that everybody is wonderfully happy in this fair land, and that life there is a continual joy. There are no business worries, no burdens, temptations, trials, or cares as we know them here, and what interests most people is that this new land is quite accessible. It is possible for every family that so desires to transfer there without any difficulty, and as a matter of fact, we have decided to move there as soon as we can. We are leaving this place. Life here is too complicated and hard, and this new land offers everything that must bring joy and happiness to the human heart.

"No wonder then that hundreds of thousands of other families right around this globe also are preparing to move into- this new land as soon as possible. All communications with the Ruler there indicate that He is anxious to increase the population of His country. He has not erected any color-bar; you do not have to put down any bond; people from all countries are welcome; there are no immigration laws, and rich and poor of every nationality are gladly given admittance. Are you interested? I am sure you must be.

"Are there no terms of admittance to this new land, you ask? Well, yes, there are, but they are simple. The conditions of citizenship in this sinless land are spiritual. There are four main requirements. Let me tell you of them.

"First you must be at peace with God and man.

"Second, you must forsake all your unlovely ways, and must give up sin. The Ruler guards this point very carefully, for He has seen what havoc sin has caused in this domain, and He is determined to see that His kingdom is not afflicted with the same ills that we see here.

"Third, you are required to persuade as many others as possible to go with you into this new country; no one is admitted alone. And finally, since everything in this better land is free, and money is absolutely useless, the Ruler asks that you use your means now to help others on the way, so that when you reach the borders of His better land -you won't be drawn back by your money.

"Since so many are anxious to get away from their poverty and suffering as quickly as possible, the King urges everyone to prepare to leave immediately. There should be no delay in making this preparation, for upon a certain day, known only to the King, He will send forth His Son, with thousands of His attendants arrayed in dazzling white robes, to escort to His kingdom in a glorious procession all those who are ready to leave these shores."

No doubt many of you have already guessed that we have been repeating to you some of the wonderful promises of the Bible concerning the future home of the saved. We read in the Bible, "Blessed are the



meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5. Now, this text does not teach that the meek shall inherit a cloud, some star, or some place out on the rim of the universe, but it does say that the meek shall inherit this earth, and it is this earth that will be the future home of the saved. The meek do not possess much of the earth at the present time. Most of it is in the possession of hard-hearted, close-fisted, belligerent people, who scoff at the Bible, ridicule religion, curse God, and defy the devil; but God gave His Son to die on the cross that this earth might become for ever the home of His people, and you can be sure that after having paid such a dear price for it, God will not allow this world to continue for ever in the hands of His enemies.

Naturally we are all interested to discover who the meek are who will ultimately inherit this earth. In Gen. 13:14, 15 we read. "And the Lord said unto Abram, Lift up now your eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou sees, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever."

"Ah," says someone, "But that has reference only to the land of Palestine, and that was a national promise to the Jewish people." Let us hear what the Apostle Paul says in Romans 4:13, concerning this promise. I read. "For the promise, that he should be heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." Notice, will you, that according to this scripture the promise made to Abraham and to his seed was that they should inherit this world, not merely the land of Palestine, but this world.

"Well," you might say, "the Jewish people are certainly very fortunate, but I am not a Jew, so where do I come in?" Galatians 3:29 tells you where you come in, friend, for here we read: "If you be Christ's, then are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Thank God everybody has a chance to become an heir to a beautiful home with a clear title in the earth made new, if he belongs to Christ when the time of inheritance comes.

Of course, not many people are interested in the world in its present state, as a gift. But God is not planning to hand out a gift like that to His people. According to the Bible, He will first renovate the whole earth by fire, until all traces of form and life are gone, and then He will bring forth from it a new earth and perfect forms of animal and vegetable life.

I read in 2 Peter 3: 10 about this. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

"That sounds all right," you say, "but where will God's people be while this house-cleaning is going on, and while the earth is being renovated by fire?" According to 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17, when Jesus comes for His people they will be caught up in the air to meet Him, and they will go with Him to heaven, where He is at the present moment, and they will remain there for a little period whilst God is preparing the earth for their future permanent occupancy. Then when everything is made new and in perfect condition He will place the redeemed on this renovated earth where they will live for ever.

In Revelation 21:1,2, we read, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

But what will the people be like in this new earth? In 1 John 3: 2, we read, "When He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." We shall have bodies like Christ's. What kind of body did He have after His resurrection from the grave? Luke 24: 39 holds the answer. When Jesus spoke to His disciples after His resurrection, and they thought He was a ghost, He said, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see Me have."

Again we read in Philippians 3:21, that it is Christ “who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body.” Thus it appears from what we have read that in the glory land we shall have real, tangible bodies, which can be handled and seen; bodies of flesh and bones, just like Christ’s glorified body when He met with the disciples after the resurrection.

This wonderful change in our bodies from mortality to immortality, from corruption to incorruption, takes place at the second coming of our Lord. I read 1 Corinthians 15:51-53: “Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

Concerning the strength of these new bodies, we read in Isaiah 40:31: “They shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” How wonderful it will be to have a body that will never become weary; to be as fresh at the end of a hard day’s work as at the beginning! Hard work in the life to come will be a pleasure to us all, for we will never become tired.

Just a word to some of our good friends who bear in their bodies some of the afflictions that are the common lot of mankind. If your body has become deformed because of injury or from sickness, then in the life to come you will have a perfectly sound body again. If blindness has drawn a veil so that you cannot see the beautiful flowers or the radiance of the setting sun, in that day, when this corruptible puts on incorruption, you will be able to see again the glories of God. The bodily senses will be increased far beyond the keenest possessed by anyone at the present time. This mind will be able to comprehend far beyond the summit of the highest intellect of any person living today. Yes, each person will have a perfect mind in a perfect body, and will live in a perfect world for ever.

To make it more wonderful still. there will be no tear-stained cheeks or broken hearts in God’s better land. There will be no disappointments in heaven. I read Revelation 21:4: “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” We will never again have to stand before the bed of a loved one who is suffering excruciating pain. There will be no more nights spent in tears, nor days in sorrow. There will be no more funeral trains. It will be a happy life without end.

This sounds very interesting, says someone, but how shall we occupy our time in this better land? Will all be musicians, and will they merely play harps and do nothing else from day to day? No, friend, nothing so monotonous as that. In God’s new world we shall all be happily and profitably employed. Isaiah 65 declares that the inhabitants of this better land shall “build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.” God is going to put people back on the land. It looks like a back-to-the-soil movement, and an own-your-own-house proposition. Who would want to sit round in a rocking chair all day long if he were so full of energy he could hardly contain himself? And what carpenter is there who would not enjoy building a house for himself in which to live, if the materials were free, and he had plenty of time, with an ideal climate, and would not grow weary from working?

Friends, we are telling you of a real place. A place where there will be no more poverty, no more inequalities, and where there will be continual pleasure every hour of every day. A place where gray hairs will never adorn the brow; a place where shoulders will never become stooped, a land where the eyes will never grow dim, nor the hands tremble, where there will never be an ache, or a pain, or sickness, or any more partings, for there will be no more death.

I am sure you must be interested in this wonderful new land. To become a naturalized citizen of the country you must receive your papers from the Lord Jesus Christ. They are all made out in His name. You can receive yours even at this moment if you ask Him for them. Will you do that, and do it now? May God bless you.