

Practical Religion

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I. Self-Inquiry.

A. Proof Text.

1. *[Acts 15:36]- And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the LORD, and see how they do.*

B. Age of Spiritual Privilege and Spiritual Danger.

1. *[2 Kings 7:19]- And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.*

C. Subjects for self-inquiry.

1. Do we ever think about our souls at all?
 - a. *[Isaiah 1:3]- The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.*
 - b. *[Haggai 1:7]- Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.*
 - c. *[Deuteronomy 32:29]- O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!*
 - d. *[Ecclesiastes 5:1]- Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.*
 - e. *[Acts 18:17]- Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.*
2. Whether we do anything about our souls at all?
 - a. *[Matthew 21:3]- And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.*
 - b. *[Ezekiel 33:31-32]- And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.*
3. Whether we are trying to satisfy our consciences with a mere 'formal' religion?
 - a. *[Matthew 15:8-9]- This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*
4. Whether we have received the forgiveness of our sins?
 - a. *[John 3:36]- He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*
5. Whether we know anything by experience of conversion to God?
 - a. *[Matthew 18:3]- And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
 - b. *[John 3:3]- Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*
 - c. *[Romans 8:9]- But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*
 - d. *[2 Corinthians 5:17]- Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

6. Whether we know anything of practical Christian holiness?
 - a. *[Hebrews 12:14]- Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*
 - b. *[1 Corinthians 9:27]- But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

7. Whether we know anything of enjoying the Means of Grace?
 - a. The Reading of the Bible
 - b. Private prayer
 - c. Public worship
 - d. The Lord's Supper
 - e. The rest of the Lord's Day.

8. Whether we ever try to do any good in the world?
 - a. *[Acts 10:38]- How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*
 - b. *[Luke 13:7]- Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?*
 - c. *[Luke 10:37]- And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.*
 - d. *[John 13:15]- For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

9. Whether we know anything of living the life of habitual communion with Christ?
 - a. *[John 15:4-8]- Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*
 - b. *[Philippians 3:13-14]- Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*
 - c. *[Galatians 2:20]- I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*
 - d. *[Philippians 1:21]- For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*
 - e. *[Romans 8:37]- Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*
 - f. *[Philippians 4:13]- I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*
 - g. *[1 Corinthians 3:15]- If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*
 - h. *[2 Peter 1:11]- For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

10. Whether we know anything of being ready for Christ's second coming?
 - a. *[Acts 1:11]- Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

- b. *[Luke 17:32]- Remember Lot's wife.*
- c. *[Luke 21:34]- And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

D. Practical Application.

1. Are you asleep and utterly thoughtless about Christianity?
 - a. *[Jonah 1:6]- So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.*
 - b. *[Ephesians 5:14]- Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*

2. Are you feeling self-condemned, and afraid that there is no hope for your soul?
 - a. *[Matthew 11:28]- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
 - b. *[John 7:37]- In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*
 - c. *[John 6:37]- All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*
 - d. *[Luke 15:2]- And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.*
 - e. *[Mark 10:49]- And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.*

3. Are you a professing believer in Christ, but a believer without much joy and peace and comfort?
 - a. *[1 John 1:4]- And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*
 - b. *[1 John 1:7]- But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

4. Are you a believer oppressed with doubts and fears, on account of his feebleness, infirmity, and sense of sin?
 - a. *[Matthew 12:20]- A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.*

5. Are you sometimes downcast by the trials you meet with on the way to heaven, bodily trials, family trials, trials of circumstances, trials from neighbors, and trials from the world?
 - a. *[Proverbs 23:18]- For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.*
 - b. *[Hebrews 10:36-37]- For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

II. Self-Exertion.

A. Proof Text.

1. *[Luke 13:24]- Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*

B. A description of the way of salvation--Jesus calls it "the narrow door."

1. Sin is a vast mountain between man and God. How will a man climb over it?
2. Sin is a high wall between man and God. How will man get through it?
3. Sin is a deep gulf between man and God. How will man cross over it?
4. This door was "made for sinners by the Lord Jesus Christ."
 - a. *[John 10:9]- I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

- b. *[John 14:6]- Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
 - c. *[Ephesians 3:12]- In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.*
5. This door is called "the narrow door," and it is not called so without cause.
 - a. It is narrow to all who love sin, and are determine not to part with it.
 - b. It is narrow to all who set their affection on this world, and seek first its pleasures and rewards.
 - c. It is narrow to all who dislike trouble, and are unwilling to take pains and make sacrifices for their souls.
 - d. It is narrow to all who like company, and want to keep in with the crowd.
 - e. It is narrow to all who are self-righteous, and think they are good people, and deserve to be saved.

 6. Narrow as this door is, it is *"the only one by which men can get to heaven."*
 - a. There is no side door;
 - b. There is no side road;
 - c. There is no gap or low-place in the wall.
 - d. Not one will be saved by simply repenting.
 - e. Today's sorrow does not wipe off yesterday's score.
 - f. Not one will be saved by his own works. The best works that any man can do are little better than impressive sins.
 - g. Not one will be saved by his formal regularity in the use of the outward means of grace.

 7. Narrow as this door is, it is *"a door always ready to open."*
 - a. No sinners of any kind are forbidden to draw near: whosoever will may enter in and be saved.
 - b. There is but one condition of admission: that condition is that you really feel your sins and desire to be saved by Christ in His own way.
 - c. *[John 6:37]- All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

 8. Narrow as this door is, it is *"one through which thousands have gone in and been saved."*
 - a. **Manasseh, King of Judah**, went up to this door. None could have been worse than he up to that time. But as soon as his eyes were opened to his sins, and he fled to the door for forgiveness, the door flew wide open and he was saved.
 - b. **Saul the Pharisee** went up to this door. He had been a blasphemer of Christ, and a persecutor of Christ's people. But as soon as his heart was touched, and he found out his own guilt and fled to the door for forgiveness, at once the door flew wide open, and he was saved.
 - c. Many of the **Jews who crucified our Lord** went up to this door. But in the day when they were convicted in their heart by Peter's preaching, they fled to the door for forgiveness, and at once the door flew open, and they were saved.
 - d. **The jailer at Philippi** went up to this door. He had been a cruel, hard, godless man. He had done all in his power to ill-treat Paul and his companion. But when his conscience was aroused by the earthquake, and his mind enlightened by Paul's teaching of the Word of God, he fled to the door for forgiveness, and at once the door flew open, and he was saved.
- C. A clear command. Jesus says to us, *"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door."*
1. "Make every effort" teaches that a man must use means diligently, if he would have his soul saved.
 2. "Make every effort" teaches that man is a free agent, and will be dealt with by God as a responsible being.

3. "Make every effort" teaches that a man must expect many adversaries and a hard battle, if he would have his soul saved.
 - a. *[Matthew 11:12]- And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*
4. "Make every effort" teaches that it is worthwhile for a man to seek salvation.
5. "Make every effort" teaches that laziness towards Christianity is a great sin.
 - a. *[1 John 3:4]- Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*
6. "Make every effort" teaches that all those outside the narrow door are in great danger.
7. "Make every effort," raises solemn thoughts in my mind.
 - a. What will I say of those who are irregular about public worship on Sundays?
 - b. What will I say of those who come regularly to a place of worship, but come entirely as a matter of form?
 - c. What will I say of those who seldom or never read the Bible?
 - d. What will I say of those who never pray?
 - e. *[Luke 14:16,18-20,23-27]- Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper. And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

D. A frightful prediction, which the Lord Jesus delivers. He says, "**Many will try to enter and will not be able to.**"

1. The time foretold by our Lord is the time of His own second coming to judge the world.
2. The patience of God will at last have an end.
3. The throne of grace will at last be taken down,
4. The throne of judgment will be set up in its place.
5. The fountain of living waters will finally be closed.
6. The narrow door will at last be barred and bolted.
7. The day of grace will be passed and over.
8. The day of reckoning with a sin-laden world will finally begin.
9. All prophecies of Scripture that have been fulfilled up to this time, have been fulfilled to the very letter.
 - a. Sarah had a son when she was well past the age for the bearing of children.
 - b. The children of Israel were brought out of Egypt and planted in the promised land.
 - c. The Jews were redeemed from the captivity of Babylon, after seventy years, and enabled once more to build the temple.
 - d. The Lord Jesus was born of a pure virgin, lived, ministered, was betrayed, and cut off, precisely as Scripture foretold.
10. The prediction of the Lord Jesus Christ, which I press on your attention this day, will be fulfilled in like manner.
 - a. There is a time coming when seeking God will be useless.
 - b. There is a time coming when many will be shut out from heaven forever.
 - c. Knowledge will come to many too late.

- d. Repentance will come to many too late.
- e. Faith will come to many too late.
- f. A desire of salvation will come to many too late.
- g. ***[Proverbs 1:24-31]- Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.***

E. Warnings and encouragements.

1. Some may be one of those who neither like the faith nor practice which the Gospel of Christ requires. You think that we are extreme when we implore you to repent and be converted. You think we ask too much when we urge you to come out from the world, and take up the cross, and follow Christ.
2. Some may be one of those who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Such a one may well take comfort when he looks forward. You often suffer persecution now for Christianity's sake. You have to bear hard words and unkind insinuations.
 - a. ***[Matthew 25:8]- And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.***
3. You will see those who now hate you and call you fools because, like Caleb and Joshua, you bring up a good report of Christ's service.
4. "Have you entered in through the narrow door or not? Old or young, rich or poor, religious or atheist.
5. "Enter in without a day's delay."
 - a. Tell me, if you can, of anyone who ever reached heaven except through "the narrow door."
 - b. Tell me, if you can, of any one who ever entered through the narrow door without "making every effort."
 - c. Tell me, if you can, of any one who ever strove earnestly to enter, and failed to succeed.
 - d. Tell me, if you can, of any one who ever entered through the narrow door, and was sorry afterwards.
6. To all who have really entered through the narrow door, tell others of the blessings which you have found.
 - a. ***[John 1:41-42]- He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.***
 - b. ***[John 1:45-46]- Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.***
 - c. ***[John 4:28-29]- The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?***
 - d. ***[Acts 9:20]- And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.***
 - e. ***[John 9:4]- I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.***

- f. *[2 Peter 3:9]- The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
- g. *[James 5:20]- Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*

III. Authentic Religion

A. Proof texts.

- 1. *[Jeremiah 6:30]- Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.*
- 2. *[Mark 11:13]- And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.*
- 3. *[1 John 3:18]- My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*
- 4. *[Revelation 3:1]- And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*

B. The importance of authenticity in religion.

- 1. The parables spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. *"The parables of the sower, of the weeds, of the net, of the two sons, of the wedding garment, of the ten virgins, of the talents, of the great banquet, of the ten minas, of the two builders, all have one great point in common. They all bring out in striking colors the difference between authenticity and unreality in religion. They all show the uselessness and danger of any Christianity which is not authentic, thorough, and true."*
- 2. The language of our Lord Jesus Christ about the scribes and the Pharisees.
 - a. *[Matthew 23:33]- Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?*
- 3. The startling fact, that there is hardly a grace in the character of a true Christian of which you will not find a counterfeit described in the Word of God.
 - a. False repentance.
 - 1.) Saul and Ahab, and Herod, and Judas Iscariot had many feelings of sorrow about sin. But they never really repented unto salvation.
 - b. False faith.
 - 1.) *[Acts 8:13]- Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.*
 - 2.) *[James 2:19]- Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*
 - c. False holiness.
 - 1.) *[2 Chronicles 24:2]- And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.*
 - 2.) *[John 12:6]- This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.*
 - d. False love and kindness.
 - 1.) *[1 John 3:18]- My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

2.) *[Romans 12:19]- Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

e. False humility.

1.) *[Colossians 2:18, 23]- Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.*

f. False praying.

1.) *[Matthew 23:14]- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.*

g. False worship.

1.) *[Matthew 15:8]- This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*

h. False religious talk.

1.) *[Ezekiel 33:31]- And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.*

2.) *[1 Corinthians 13:1]- Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

C. Tests by which we may prove whether our own religion is authentic.

1. The place it occupies in your inner man.
2. The feelings towards sin, which it produces.
3. The feelings toward Christ, which it produces.
4. The fruit it bears in your heart and life.
5. The feelings and habits about means of grace.

D. Applications.

1. Question: Is your own religion authentic or false? Genuine or fake?
2. Warning: A false Christianity is especially offensive to that Great God with whom we have to deal.
3. Advice: Cease from all dawdling and playing with religion, and to become honest, wholehearted followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Encouragement: Persevere, and not to be moved by difficulties and opposition.
 - a. *[Philippians 2:12]- Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*
5. *[Matthew 7:22-23]- Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

IV. A Call to Prayer.

A. Proof texts.

1. *[Luke 18:1]- And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

2. *[1 Timothy 2:1]- I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;*

B. Do you pray?

1. Prayer is absolutely needful for a person's salvation.
 - a. Nobody will be saved by their prayers, but you cannot find that without prayer anybody will be saved.
 - b. There is no royal road either to health or learning. Prime ministers and kings, poor men and peasants, all alike attend to the needs of their own bodies and their own minds. No person can eat, drink, or sleep, by proxy. No person can get the alphabet learned for them by another. All these are things, which everybody must do for themselves, or they will not be done at all.
 - c. You must do it for yourself, for by nobody else it can be done. To be prayerless is to be without God, without Christ, without grace, without hope, and without heaven. It is to be in the road to hell.
2. A habit of prayer is one of the truest marks of a true Christian.
 - a. *[Luke 18:1]- And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*
 - b. *[Romans 8:15]- For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*
 - c. *[1 Peter 1:17]- And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:*
 - d. *[1 Corinthians 1:2]- Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:*
 - e. *[Psalm 14:4]- Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.*
 - f. *[Acts 9:11]- And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,*
3. There is no duty in religion so neglected as private prayer.
4. Prayer is an act of religion to which there is great encouragement.
 - a. *[Matthew 7:7-8]- Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*
 - b. *[Matthew 12:22]- Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.*
 - c. *[John 14:13-14]- And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*
 - d. *[Luke 11:5]- And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;*
 - e. *[Luke 18:1]- And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*
 - f. *[Exodus 32:10]- Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.*
5. Diligence in prayer is a secret of eminent holiness.
6. Neglect of prayer is one of the greatest causes of backsliding.
 - a. *[Proverbs 14:14]- The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.*
 - b. *"Bibles read without prayer; sermons heard without prayer; marriages contracted without prayer; journeys undertaken without prayer; residences chosen without prayer; friendships*

formed without prayer; the daily act of prayer itself hurried over, or gone through without heart: these are the kind of downward steps by which many a Christian descends to a condition of spiritual palsy, or reaches the point where God allows them to have a tremendous fall."

- c. *"The world takes notice of their fall, and scoffs loudly. But the world knows nothing of the real reason. The heathen succeeded in making a well-know Christians offer incense to an idol, by threatening them with a punishment worse than death. They triumphed greatly in the sight of their cowardice and apostasy. But the heathen did not know the fact of which history informs us, that on that very morning he had left his bed-chamber hastily, and without finishing his usual prayers."*
7. Prayer is one of the best means of happiness and contentment.
 - a. *[Psalm 50:15]- And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*
 - b. *[Psalm 55:22]- Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.*
 - c. *[Philippians 4:6-7]- Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*
 - d. *[James 5:13]- Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.*
- C. To those who do not pray.
 1. It is useless to say you know not how to pray. Prayer is the simplest act in all religion. It is simply speaking to God.
 2. It is useless to say you have no convenient place to pray in. Any person can find a place private enough, if they are disposed.
 3. It is useless to say you have no time. There is plenty of time, if people will employ it.
 - a. *[Psalm 55:17]- Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.*
 4. It is useless to say you cannot pray until you have faith and a new heart, and that you must sit still and wait for them. This is to add sin to sin.
 - a. *[Isaiah 55:6]- Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*
 - b. *[Hosea 14:1]- O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.*
 - c. *[Acts 8:22]- Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.*
- D. To those who have real desires for salvation, but know not what steps to take, or where to begin.
 1. *[Luke 5:32]- I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*
- E. To those who do pray.
 1. The importance of reverence and humility in prayer.
 - a. *[Ecclesiastes 5:2]- Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.*
 2. The importance of praying spiritually.
 3. The importance of making prayer a regular business of life.
 4. The importance of perseverance in prayer.
 5. The importance of earnestness in prayer.

- a. *[James 5:16]-Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*
 - b. *[Genesis 32:26]- And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.*
 - c. *[Daniel 9:19]- O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.*
 - d. *[Hebrews 5:7]- Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;*
6. The importance of praying in faith.
 - a. *[Mark 11:24]- Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*
 - b. *[Acts 12:15]- And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.*
 - c. *"There is no surer mark of trifling in prayer, than when men are careless what they get in prayer."*
 7. The importance of boldness in prayer.
 - a. *[Exodus 32:12]- Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.*
 - b. *[Joshua 7:9]- For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?*
 8. The importance of fullness in prayer.
 9. The importance of particularity in prayer.
 - a. *[Genesis 32:11]- Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.*
 - b. *[Genesis 24:12]- And he said O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.*
 - c. *[2 Corinthians 12:8]- For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*
 10. The importance of intercession in our prayers.
 - a. *"This is the highest charity. They love me best who loves me in their prayers."*
 11. The importance of thankfulness in prayer.
 - a. *[Philippians 4:6]- Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*
 - b. *[Colossians 4:2]- Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;*
 12. The importance of watchfulness over your prayers.
 - a. *"Prayer is the point in religion at which you must be most of all on your guard. Here it is that true religion begins; here it flourishes, and here it decays. Tell me what a persons prayers are, and I will soon tell you the state of their soul. Prayer is the spiritual pulse. By this the spiritual health may be tested. Prayer is the spiritual weather-glass. By this we may know whether it is fair or foul with our hearts."*

V. Bible Reading.

A. Proof texts.

1. *[John 5:39]- Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

2. *[Luke 10:26]- He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?*
 3. *[2 Timothy 3:15]- And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*
- B. Reasons why every one who cares for his soul ought to value the Bible highly, to study it regularly, and to make himself thoroughly acquainted with its contents.
1. There is no book in existence written in such a manner as the Bible.
 - a. *[2 Timothy 3:16]- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
 - b. *[2 Peter 1:21]- For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
 - c. *[Romans 3:2]- Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.*
 - d. *[Romans 15:4]- For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*
 2. There is no knowledge absolutely needful to a man's salvation, except knowledge of the things, which are to be found in the Bible.
 - a. *[Daniel 12:4]- But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*
 - b. *[1 Kings 4:33]- And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.*
 3. No book in existence contains such important matter as the Bible.
 - a. How glorious and soul-satisfying is the description it gives us of God's plan of salvation, and the way by which our sins can be forgiven!
 - b. How comforting is the account it gives us of the great Mediator of the New Testament—the man Christ Jesus!
 - c. How encouraging are the examples the Bible gives us of good people!
 - 1.) *[Hebrews 6:12]- That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*
 - d. How instructive are the examples the Bible gives us of bad people!
 - e. How precious are the promises, which the Bible contains for the use of those who love God!
 - f. How blessed are the hopes which the Bible holds out to the believer in Christ Jesus!
 - g. How striking is the light, which the Bible throws on the character of man!
 - 1.) *[Hebrews 4:12]- For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
 4. No book in existence has produced such wonderful effects on mankind at large as the Bible.
 - a. This is the Book whose doctrines turned the world upside down in the days of the Apostles.
 - b. This is the Book, which turned Europe upside down in the days of the glorious Protestant Reformation.
 - c. This is the Book upon which the well-being of nations has always hinged, and with which the best interests of everyone in Christendom at this moment are inseparably tied.
 - 1.) *[2 Kings 22:8]- And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.*
 - 2.) *[Matthew 15:6]- And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*

5. No book in existence can do so much for every one who reads it with an open heart, as the Bible.
 - a. The Bible is "able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus"
 - 1.) *[2 Timothy 3:15]- And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*
 - b. The Bible applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit, "is the grand instrument by which souls are first converted to God."
 - c. The Bible applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit, is "the chief means by which men are built up and strengthened in the faith," after their conversion.
 - 1.) *[Psalm 119:9]- Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*
 - 2.) *[John 17:17]- Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*
 - 3.) *[2 Timothy 3:16-17]- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*
 - 4.) *[Psalm 23:4]- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
 - d. Objections.
 - 1.) Many say they have found no saving power in the Bible.
 - 2.) Many raise the objection, that thousands read the Bible and are not a bit the better for their reading.
 - a.) *[Acts 8:28]- Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.*
 - b.) *[Acts 17:11]- These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*
 - c.) *[Proverbs 2:3-5]- Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*
6. The Bible is the only standard by which all questions of doctrine or of duty can be tested.
 - a. The world is full of difficulties about points of doctrine. The house of error lies close alongside the house of truth. The door of one is so like the door of the other that there is continual risk of mistakes.
 - 1.) *[2 Kings 6:20]- And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.*
 - b. The world is not only full of difficulties about points of doctrine; it is equally full of difficulties about points of "practice."
 - 1.) Tried by questions connected with the management of his "worldly calling," if he is in business or in trade.
 - 2.) Tried by questions about worldly amusements.
 - 3.) Tried by questions about the education of his children.
7. The Bible is the book, which all true servants of God have always lived by and loved.
 - a. *[Psalm 1:2]- But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*
 - b. *[Job 23:12]- Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.*
 - c. *[Psalm 119:97]- O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*

- d. *[Luke 24:45]- Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,*
 - e. *[John 3:16]- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
 - f. *[Revelation 7:9]- After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*
 - g. *[Revelation 19:1]- And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:*
 - h. *[Song of Solomon 1:8]- If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents.*
8. The Bible is the only book, which can comfort a man in the last hours of his life.
- a. Death is an event, which in all probability is before us all.
 - 1.) "Each man thinks each man mortal but himself."
 - b. Death is a solemn event to everyone.
 - 1.) It is a separation from all we have loved and live with.
 - 2.) It is often accompanied by much bodily pain and distress.
 - 3.) It brings us to the grave, the maggot, and corruption.
 - 4.) It opens the door to judgment and eternity—to heaven or to hell.
 - 5.) It is an event after which there is no change, or space for repentance.
 - c. Death is a solemn event even to the believer in Christ.
 - 1.) *[1 Corinthians 15:55]- O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*
 - 2.) *[Philippians 1:21]- For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*
 - 3.) *[Isaiah 43:2]- When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*
 - d.

- 9.
- 10.

C. Applications.

- 1. To the conscience of every group of readers.
 - a. Who "can read, but never do read the Bible at all."
 - 1.) You are in danger, because "your neglected Bible is plain evidence that you do not love God."
 - b. Who is "willing to begin reading the Bible, but wants advice on how to begin.
 - 1.) Begin reading your Bible this very day.
 - 2.) Read the Bible with an earnest desire to understand it.
 - 3.) Read the Bible with childlike faith and humility.
 - 4.) Read the Bible in a spirit of obedience and self-application.
 - 5.) Read the Bible every day.
 - 6.) Read the entire Bible, and read it in an orderly way.
 - a.) *[2 Timothy 3:16]- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
 - 7.) Read the Bible fairly and honestly.
 - 8.) Read the Bible with Christ continually in view.
 - a.) The primary object of all Scripture is to testify about Jesus:
 - b.) Old Testament ceremonies are shadows of Christ.

- c.) Old Testament judges and deliverers are types of Christ.
 - d.) Old Testament history shows the world's need of Christ.
 - e.) Old Testament prophecies are full of Christ's sufferings.
 - f.) Old Testament prophecies are full of Christ's glory yet to come.
 - g.) The first coming and the second.
 - h.) The Lord's humiliation.
 - i.) The Lord's kingdom.
 - j.) The Lord's cross and crown.
- c. Who "loves and believes the Bible, and yet reads it only a little."
- 1.) *[Judges 20:16]- Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss.*
 - 2.) *[Colossians 3:16]- Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*
 - 3.) *[2 Timothy 1:12]- For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*
- d. Who "reads the Bible a lot, and yet believes he is no better because of his reading."
- e. Who "really love the Bible, live upon the Bible, and read it regularly."
- 1.) Let us resolve to read the Bible more and more.
 - a.) *[Psalm 119:11]- Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*
 - 2.) Let us resolve to be more watchful over our Bible-reading.
 - 3.) Let us resolve to honor the Bible more in our families.
 - 4.) Let us resolve to meditate more on the Bible.
 - 5.) Let us resolve to talk more to believers about the Bible.
 - 6.) Let us resolve to live by the Bible more and more.
 - a.) *[Psalm 119:9]- Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

VI. The Lord's Supper.

A. Proof text.

- 1. *[1 Corinthians 11:28]- But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

B. Why was the Lord's Supper ordained?

- 1. It was ordained for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of the death of Christ, and of the benefits, which we thereby receive.
- 2. The bread, which in the Lord's Supper is broken, given, and eaten, is meant to remind us of Christ's body given on the cross for our sins.
- 3. The wine, which is poured out and received, is meant to remind us of Christ's blood shed on the cross for our sins.
- 4. He that eats that bread and drinks that wine is reminded, in the most striking and forcible manner, of the benefits Christ has obtained for his soul, and of the death of Christ as the hinge and turning point on which all those benefits depend.
- 5. *[Luke 22:19]- And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.*
- 6. *[1 Corinthians 11:25-26]- After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*

7. *[Hebrews 13:10]- We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.*

C. Who ought to go to the Table and be communicants?

1. It is not right to urge all professing Christians to go to the Lord's Table.
2. Sinners living in open sin, and determined not to give it up ought never to come to the Lord's Table.
3. Self-righteous people, who think that they will be saved by their own works, have no business to come to the Lord's Table.

D. What may communicants expect from the Lord's Supper?

1. Misconceptions
 - a. Receiving the Lord's Supper must do them some good.
 - b. Taking the Lord' Supper will help them get to heaven, and take away their sins.
2. The Lord's Supper was meant to increase and help the grace that a man has, but not to impart the grace that he does not have.
3. Right reception of the Lord's Supper has a "humbling" effect on the soul.
4. Right reception of the Lord's Supper has a "cheering" effect on the soul.
5. Right reception of the Lord's Supper has a "sanctifying" effect on the soul.
6. Right reception of the Lord's Supper into hearts, has a restraining effect on the soul.

E. Why do many so-called Christians (church-going unbelievers) never go to the Lord's Table?

1. Many fail to go to the Table because they are utterly careless and thoughtless about religion, and ignorant of very first principles of Christianity.
2. Many false Christians do not receive the Lord's Supper because they know they are living in the habitual practice of some sin, or in the neglect of some Christian duty.
3. Some are not communicant because they fancy it will add to their responsibility.
4. Some false Christians stay away from the Lord's Supper because they believe they are not yet worthy.
5. Some object going to the Lord's Table because they see others partaking who are not worthy, and not in a right state of mind.
 - a. *[John 21:22]- Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.*
 - b. *[Matthew 13:30]- Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

F. Warnings.

1. Do not neglect the Lord's Supper.
2. Do not receive the Lord's Supper carelessly.
3. Do not make an idol of the Lord's Supper.
4. Do not use the Lord's Supper irregularly.
5. Do not do anything to bring discredit on your profession as a communicant.
6. Do not despair and be cast down, if with all your desires you do not feel that you get a lot of good from the Lord's Supper.

VII. Love.

A. Proof Texts.

1. *[1 Corinthians 13:13]- And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*
2. *[1 Timothy 1:5]- Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*

B. The place the Bible gives to love.

1. *[1 Corinthians 13:1-3]- Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*
2. *[Colossians 3:14]- And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*
3. *[1 Timothy 1:5]- Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*
4. *[1 Peter 4:8]- And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*
5. *[John 13:34-35]- A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*
6. *[Matthew 25:41-42]- Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:*
7. *[Romans 13:8]- Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*
8. *[Ephesians 5:2]- And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*
9. *[1 John 5:7-8]- For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.*

C. What the love of the Bible really is.

1. The love of the Bible does not consist in giving to the poor.
 - a. *[1 Corinthians 13:3]- And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*
 - b. *[Galatians 6:10]- As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*
2. The love of the Bible does not consist in never disapproving anybody's conduct.
 - a. *"To throw a veil over sin, and to refuse to call things by their right names--to talk of "hearts" being good, when "lives" are flatly wrong--to shut our eyes against wickedness, and excuse their immorality--this is not Scriptural love."*
3. The love of the Bible does not consist in never disapproving anybody's religious opinions.
 - a. *"Love like this pours contempt on the Bible, and talks as if God had not given it as a written test of truth. Love like this confuses all our notions of heaven and would fill it with a discordant inharmonious rabble. True love does not think everybody is right in their doctrines. True love cries--"Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.""*
 - b. *[2 John 1:10]- If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:*

4. Love is that "love," which Paul places first among those fruits brought forth in the heart of a believer.
 - a. *[Galatians 5:22]- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*
5. The love of the Bible will show itself in a believer's actions. It will make him ready to do kind acts to everyone within his reach--both to their bodies and souls.
 - a. *[2 Corinthians 12:15]-And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.*
6. The love of the Bible will show itself in a believer's "readiness to bear" evil as well as to do good.
7. The love of the Bible will show itself in the "general spirit and demeanor" of a believer. It will make him kind, unselfish, good-natured, good-tempered, and considerate of others.

D. Where true love comes from.

1. Love is certainly not natural to man. The natural heart knows nothing of true love.
2. The love of the Bible will never be found except in a heart prepared by the Holy Spirit.
3. The heart in which love grows is a heart changed, renewed, and transformed by the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The image and likeness of God, which Adam lost at the fall, has been restored to it, however feeble and imperfect the restoration may appear.
 - b. It is to "participate in the Divine nature" by union with Christ and Sonship to God; and one of the first features of that nature is love.
 - c. *[2 Peter 1:4]- Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
 - d. Such a heart is deeply convinced of sin, hates it, flees from it, and fights with it from day to day.
 - e. Such a heart is deeply aware of its mighty debt to our Lord Jesus Christ. It feels continually that it owes to Him who died for us on the cross, all its present comfort, hope, and peace.
 - f. Hundreds will praise love who hate to be told of man's corruption, of the blood of Christ, and of the inward work of the Holy Spirit. Many a parent would like his children to grow up unselfish and good tempered, who would not be very pleased if someone pressed upon their children the need for conversion, and repentance, and faith.
4. Now I desire to protest against this notion, that you can have the fruits of Christianity without the roots--that you can produce Christian dispositions without teaching Christian doctrines--that you can have love that will wear and endure without grace in the heart.
 - a. Every now and then one sees a person who seems very loving and amiable, without any distinctive doctrinal religion. But such cases are so rare and remarkable, that, like exceptions, they only prove the truth of the general rule.
 - b. The great danger of reading most novels, romances and works of fiction. The greater of them give a false or incorrect view of human nature. They paint their model men and women as they ought to be, and not as they really are.

E. Why love is 'the greatest' of the graces.

1. *[1 Corinthians 13:13]-*
2. We are not to suppose for a moment, that love can atone for our sins, or make our peace with God. Nothing can do that for us but the blood of Christ, and nothing can give us an interest in Christ's blood but faith.
 - a. *[Luke 17:10]- So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*

3. We are not to suppose that love can exist independently of faith.
4. The reasons why love is called the greatest of the three graces,
 - a. Love is called the greatest of graces because it is the one in which there is "some likeness between the believer and his God."
 - b. Love, for another thing, is called the greatest of the graces because "it is most useful to others."
 - 1.) *[1 Peter 4:8]- And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*
 - c. Love is the greatest of the graces because it is the one, which "endures the longest."
 - 1.) *"Faith will one day be swallowed up in sight, and hope in certainty. Their office will be useless in the morning of the resurrection, and like old almanacs, they will be laid aside. But love will live on through the endless ages of eternity. Heaven will be the home of love. The inhabitants of heaven will be full of love. One common feeling will be in all their hearts, and that will be love."*

F. Applications.

1. Do you know anything of the grace of which I have been speaking? Have you love?
 - a. *[1 Corinthians 13:3]- And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*
 - b. *[1 Thessalonians 1:4]- Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.*
2. Practice and teach the grace of love.
 - a. *[Proverbs 31:26]- She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.*
 - b. *[1 Corinthians 16:14]- Let all your things be done with charity.*
 - c. *[1 Peter 4:8]- And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*
 - d. *[Colossians 3:14]- And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

VIII. Christian Zeal.

A. Proof texts.

1. *[Galatians 4:18]- But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.*
2. *[Titus 2:14]- Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*
3. *[Revelation 3:19]- As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

B. What zeal is in Christianity.

1. Zeal in Christianity is a burning desire to please God, to do His will, and to advance His glory in the world in every possible way.
 - a. *[Exodus 17:9-13]- And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.*
2. This zeal was the characteristic of all the Apostles.

- a. *[Acts 20:24]- But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*
 - b. *[Philippians 3:13-14]- Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*
3. This zeal was the characteristic of the early Christians.
 - a. *[Acts 28:22]- But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.*
 4. This zeal was the characteristic of Martin Luther.
 - a. *"Even if there was a devil under every tile on the roofs of this building, in the name of the Lord I shall go forward."*
 5. This zeal was the characteristic of our own English Reformers.
 - a. *"I shall not die, but live to declare the wickedness of the Friars." –Wickliffe*
 - b. *Cranmer, dying at the stake rather than deny Christ's Gospel, holding out that hand to be first burned which, in a moment of weakness, had signed a recantation and saying as he held it in the flames, "This unworthy hand!"*
 - c. *"Courage, brother Ridley! We shall light such a candle this day that, by God's grace, shall never be put out."-Latimer*
 6. This zeal has been the characteristic of all the greatest Missionaries.
 - a. *"I would be willing to be torn in pieces, if I could only hear the sobs of repentance-if I could see the eyes of faith directed to the Redeemer!" –Henry Martyn*
 7. Zeal was preeminently the characteristic of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Himself.
 - a. *[Psalm 69:9]- For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.*
 - b. *[Isaiah 59:17]- For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.*
 - c. *[John 4:34]- Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*
 - d. *[I Peter 2:21]- For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*
- C. When a person can be correctly called "zealous" in Christianity.
1. If zeal is true, it will be zeal according to knowledge.
 - a. *[Romans 10:2]- For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.*
 - b. *[Acts 22:3]- I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.*
 2. If zeal is true, it will be zeal generated from true motives.
 - a. *"Amaziah and Joash, kings of Judah, are striking proofs of this. In the same way a man may have zeal about things that are good and right but from second-rate motives, and not from a desire to please God."*
 - b. There is such a thing as zeal from party spirit.

- 1.) ***[Matthew 23:15]- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.***

- c. There is such a thing as zeal from mere selfishness.
 - 1.) *“The good things of the world are sometimes attained by wearing a cloak of religion. And whenever this is the case there is no lack of false zeal. Such was the zeal of Joab, when he served David.”*

- d. There is such a thing as zeal from the love of praise.
 - 1.) ***[2 Kings 10:16]- And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD. So they made him ride in his chariot.***
 - 2.) ***[1 Corinthians 13:1]- Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.***

3. If zeal is true, it will be zeal about things according to God’s mind, and sanctioned by clear examples in God’s Word.
 - a. Zeal for our own growth in personal holiness.
 - 1.) ***[1 Corinthians 9:27]- But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.***
 - 2.) ***[Philippians 3:13-14]- Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.***

 - b. Zeal for the salvation of souls.
 - 1.) ***[Mark 6:31]- And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.***
 - 2.) ***[1 Corinthians 9:22]- To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.***

 - c. Zeal against evil practices.
 - d. Zeal for maintaining the doctrines of the Gospel.
 - 1.) ***[Galatians 2:11]- But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.***

4. If zeal is true, it will be a zeal tempered with love.
 - a. *“True zeal will hate sin, and yet love the sinner. True zeal will hate heresy, and yet love the heretic. True zeal will long to smash the idol, but deeply pity the idolater. True zeal will detest every kind of wickedness, but labor to do good even to the vilest of sinners.”*

5. If zeal is true, it will be joined to a deep humility.
 - a. *Admire zeal. Seek after zeal. Encourage zeal. But see that your own zeal is true. See that the zeal which you admire in others is a zeal based on knowledge-a zeal from right motives-a zeal that can bring chapter and verse out of the Bible for its foundation. Any zeal but this is nothing but a deceiving fire. It is not ignited by the Holy Spirit.*

- D. Why it is a good thing for a person to be zealous in Christianity.
 1. Zeal is good for the soul of a Christian.
 - a. ***[Psalm 149:4]- For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.***
 - b. ***[Psalm 103:13]- Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.***

2. Just as zeal is good for us individually, it is also good, in a general sense, for the professing Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. They were not afraid to stand-alone.
 - b. They did not care if their motives were misinterpreted.
 - c. They considered everything a loss for the sake of the truth.
 - d. Each one of them was eminently a man of one thing; and that one thing was to advance the glory of God, and to declare His truth in the world.
 - e. They were all on fire, and so they lighted others.
 - f. They were wide-awake, and so awakened others.
 - g. They were always working, and so shamed others into working too.
 - h. They came down upon men like Moses from the mountain-they shone as if they had been in the presence of God.
 - i. They carried with them everywhere they walked in the world, something of the atmosphere and savor of heaven itself.
 - j. ***[2 Corinthians 9:2]- For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.***
3. Just as zeal is good for the Church and for individuals, so zeal is also good for the world.

E. Applications

1. A warning to all who sit in churches and yet who have not made a clear profession of Christianity. Where is your zeal in Christianity?
2. To arouse those "who make a profession of being committed Christians, and are yet are lukewarm in their practice." Where is your zeal? Where is your zeal for the glory of God, and for the spreading of the gospel throughout the world?
 - a. Think of the precious souls, which are perishing while you are sleeping.
 - b. Think of the shortness of time. You will soon be gone. You will not have any opportunity for works of mercy in heaven.
 - c. Think of the devil, and his zeal to destroy people. It was a solemn saying of Bernard when he said that "Satan would rise up in judgment against some people at the last day, because he had shown more zeal to ruin souls than they had to save them." Wakeup! be zealous, and repent.
 - d. Think of "your Savior," and all His zeal for you. Think of Him in Gethsemane and on Calvary, shedding His blood for sinners. Think of His life, death, and His sufferings. All this He has done for you. What are you doing for Him? Oh, resolve that for the time to come you will spend and be spent for Christ! Wakeup! be zealous and repent.
3. To encourage "all of you who are truly zealous Christians."
 - a. Beware of cooling down. All you have to do is to be lazy, and to sit still, and you will soon lose all your zeal.
 - b. It may be true that wise young believers are very rare. But it is just as true that zealous old believers are also very rare.
 - c. ***[John 9:4]- I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.***

IX. Freedom.

A. Proof text.

1. ***[John 8:36]- If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.***

B. The excellence of freedom.

1. We live in a land where our "bodies" are free.
2. We live in a land where our "actions" are free.

3. We live in land where our “consciences” are free.
 4. We live in a land where no foreigner rules over us.
 5. And yet, the desire for this freedom has been the most fertile cause of misery to nations in every age of the world.
 - a. *“Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I do not know what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” -Patrick Henry*
 6. Let us beware of “underestimating” the liberty we enjoy in this country of ours.
 7. Let us beware of undervaluing our liberty, and running eagerly after every one who proposes sweeping changes.
 - a. *“Never forget that earthly slavery is not the only slavery, and earthly freedom not the only freedom.”*
 8. What will it profit you to be a citizen of a free country, so long as your soul is not free?
- C. The best and truest kind of freedom.
1. The true freedom is spiritual freedom--freedom of the soul. It is the freedom which Christ bestows freely on all true Christians.
 - a. ***[2 Corinthians 3:17]- Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.***
 2. Those set free by Christ are free from the “guilt of sin.”
 3. Those set free by Christ are free from the “power of sin.”
 4. Those set free by Christ are free from the “cringing fear of God.”
 5. Those set free by Christ are free from the “fear of man.”
 6. Those set free by Christ are free from the “fear of death.”
 7. Best of all, those set free by Christ are “free forever.”
 8. In what way has Christ obtained these mighty privileges for His people?
 - a. The freedom of Christ's people has been procured, like all other freedoms, at a mighty cost and by a mighty sacrifice.
 - 1.) ***[Galatians 3:13]- Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:***
 - 2.) ***[Isaiah 53:5]- But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.***
 - 3.) ***[2 Corinthians 5:21]- For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.***
- D. The way in which the best kind of freedom may become your very own.
1. We are not born with the freedom in Christ.
 2. We do not acquire freedom in Christ by baptism.
 3. We do not acquire freedom in Christ by mere membership in a church.
 - a. Far be it from me to narrow the extent of Christ's redemption: the price He paid on the cross is sufficient for the whole world.
 4. There is no other way to acquire freedom in Christ than that of simply believing.
 5. There is no more perfect doctrine than this to perfectly satisfy the ignorant and the unlearned!
 6. There is no more perfect doctrine than this to perfectly satisfy the sick and dying!
 - a. ***[Romans 10:9]- That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.***
- E. Applications.
1. Are you truly free?

- a. *[John 8:34]- Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*
 - b. Don't rest till liberty is your own. Don't rest till your soul is free.

2. Do you feel and desire to be free? Do you find any longing within you for a higher, better freedom than this world can give--a freedom that will not die at your death, but will go with you beyond the grave? Then take the advice I give you today. Seek Christ, repent, believe, and be free.
 - a. *[John 8:36]- If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*
 - b. Freedom like this is the secret of true happiness.
 - c. Freedom like this is the secret of being a good politician.

3. Are you spiritually free? Then rejoice, and be thankful for your freedom.
 - a. *[Philippians 3:20]- For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*
 - b. *[Psalm 16:6]- The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.*

4. Are you free? Then stand firm in your liberty, and don't be entangled again in the yoke of bondage.
 - a. Don't listen to those who by good words and fine speeches would draw you back to the Roman Catholic Church.
 - b. Beware of those who would try to persuade you that there is any mediator but the one Mediator, Christ Jesus.
 - c. Beware of any one who would try to persuade you that there is any sacrifice but the one Sacrifice offered on Calvary.
 - d. Beware of any one who would try to persuade you that there is any priest but the great High Priest Emmanuel.
 - e. Beware of any one who would try to persuade you that there is any additions needed in worship but the savor of His name who was crucified.
 - f. Beware of any one who would try to persuade you that there is any rule of faith and practice but God's Word.
 - g. Beware of any one who would try to persuade you that there is any confessional but the throne of grace.
 - h. Beware of any one who would try to persuade you that there is any effectual forgiveness but that which Christ bestows on the hearts of His believing people.
 - i. Beware of any one who would try to persuade you that there is any purgatory [place where man is to pay for his sins] but the one fountain open for all sins, the blood of Christ, to be used only while we are alive.

5. Are you free? Then think everyday you live, of the millions of your fellow-creatures who are yet bound hand and foot in spiritual darkness. Think of them all, and feel for them. Think of them all, and say often to yourself--"What can I do for them? How can I help to set them free?"
 - a. That Pharisees and Jesuits have traveled the sea and land to make proselytes?
 - b. That politicians have united and labored night and day to obtain worldly freedom and free trade?
 - c. That philanthropists have labored in their soul for years to procure suppression of Negro slavery?

6. Are you free? Then look forward in faith and hope for good things yet to come.
 - a. A few more Christmas and New Year's Days.
 - b. A few more meetings and partings.
 - c. A few more births and deaths.
 - d. A few more weddings and funerals.

- e. A few more tears and struggles.
- f. A few more sicknesses and pains.
- g. A few more Sundays, Baptisms, and Lord Suppers.
- h. A few more sermons and prayers.
- i. A few more, and the end will come!

X. Happiness.

A. Proof text.

1. ***[Psalm 144:15]- Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.***

B. A Case for Happiness.

1. *"An atheist was once addressing a crowd of people in the open air. He was trying to persuade them that there was no God and no devil, no heaven, and no hell, no resurrection, no judgment, and no life to come. He advised them to throw away their Bibles, and not to pay attention to what preachers said. He recommended them to think as he did, and to be like him. He talked boldly. The crowd listened eagerly. It was "the blind leading the blind." Both were falling into the pit (Matthew 15:14). In the middle of his address a poor old woman suddenly pushed her way through the crowd, to the place where he was standing. She stood before him. She looked him full in the face. "Sir," she said, in a loud voice, "Are you happy?" The atheist looked scornfully at her, and gave her no answer. "Sir," she said again, "I ask you to answer my question. Are you happy? You want us to throw away our Bibles. You tell us not to believe what preachers say about Christ. You advise us to think as you do, and be like you. Now before we take your advice we have a right to know what good we will gain by it. Do your fine new ideas give you a lot of comfort? Do you yourself really feel happy?" The atheist stopped, and attempted to answer the old woman's question. He stammered, and shuffled, and fidgeted, and endeavored to explain his meaning. He tried hard to return to the subject. He said, he "had not come to preach about happiness." But it was of no use. The old woman stuck to her point. She insisted on her question being answered, and the crowd took her side. She pressed him hard with her inquiry, and would take no excuse. And at last the atheist was obliged to leave, and sneak off in the confusion. His conscience would not let him stay: he dared not say that he was happy."*

C. Essentials to true happiness.

1. True happiness is not.
 - a. Is not perfect freedom from sorrow and discomfort.
 - b. Does not consist in laughter and smiles.
 - 1.) ***[Proverbs 14:13]- Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.***
2. True happiness is.
 - a. A man's highest wants of his nature must be met and satisfied. The soul has needs. There are needs of the conscience. There can be no true happiness until these wants are satisfied.
 - b. A man must have sources of happiness, which are not dependent on anything in this world.
 - c. A man must be able to look at every part of his life without uncomfortable feelings.
 - d. A man must be able to look steadily either before or behind.

D. Common mistakes about the way to be happy.

1. It is an utter mistake to suppose the "position and fame alone" can give happiness.
2. It is an utter mistake to suppose that "riches alone" can give happiness.
3. It is an utter mistake to suppose that "learning and science alone" can give happiness.
 - a. ***[Ecclesiastes 1:18]- For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.***

- b. *[Titus 2:11-14]- For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*
4. It is an utter mistake to suppose that "idleness alone" can give happiness.
- a. *[Genesis 2:15]- And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*
- b. *[Revelation 22:3]- And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*
5. It is an utter mistake to suppose that "pleasure-seeking and amusement alone" can give happiness.
- a. *[Ecclesiastes 1:14]- I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.*
- b. *[John 4:13]- Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:*
- E. The way to be truly happy.
1. To be a real, thorough-going true-hearted Christian.
2. The true Christian is the only happy man, because "his conscience is at peace."
3. The true Christian is the only happy man, because he can "sit down quietly and think about his soul."
4. The true Christian is the only happy man, because "he has sources of happiness entirely independent of this world."
5. The true Christian is happy, because he is "in his right position."
6. Give a man a sensible interest in Christ, and he will be happy "in spite of poverty."
- a. *[Revelation 3:20]- Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*
7. Give a man a sensible interest in Christ, and he will be happy "in spite of sickness."
8. Give a man a sensible interest in Christ, and he will be happy "in spite of abounding public calamities."
- F. Applications.
1. Apply to your own heart the solemn question--Are you happy?
2. Warning to all who are not true Christians of the folly of living a life, which cannot make them happy.
- a. *[Isaiah 55:2]- Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*
- b. "Who does not mourn over the folly of the drunkard, the drug addict, and the person who commits suicide? But there is no folly like that of the unrepentant child of the world."
3. Entreat all who are not yet happy, to seek happiness where alone it can be found.
- a. *[Matthew 11:28-30]- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*
4. Hints to all true Christians for the increase and promotion of their happiness.
- a. Labor every year to grow in grace.
- b. Labor every year to be more thankful.

1.) *[Philippians 3:1]- Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.*

c. Labor every year to do more good.

1.) *[Psalm 119:68]- Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.*

XI. Formalism.

A. Proof texts.

1. *[2 Timothy 3:5]- Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*
2. *[Romans 2:28-29]- For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

B. Formal religion is not true religion, and a formal Christian is not a true Christian in God's sight.

1. *"Formalism, formalism, formalism is the great sin of this day, under which the whole country groans. There is more light than there was, but less life; more profession, but less holiness." –Thomas Hall*
2. *[Romans 2:28]- For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:*
3. *[Isaiah 1:10-15]- Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.*
4. *[Matthew 15:8-9]- This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*
5. *[Psalm 94:9]- He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?*
6. *[Romans 2:16]- In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*
7. *[Revelation 2:2]- I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*
8. *[Matthew 22:11]- And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:*

C. The heart is the seat of true religion, and that the true Christian is the Christian in heart.

1. *[Proverbs 23:7]- For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.*
2. *[1 Samuel 16:7]- But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*
3. *[Romans 2:28]- For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:*
4. *[Ezekiel 36:26]- A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

5. *[Psalm 51:17]- The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*
 6. *[Acts 16:14]- And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*
 7. *[Romans 10:10]- For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
 8. *[Luke 8:15]- But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.*
 9. *[1 Corinthians 7:19]- Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.*
 10. *[Galatians 6:15]- For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.*
 11. *[Galatians 5:6]- For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.*
 12. *[1 Samuel 4:3]- And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.*
 13. *[2 Chronicles 11:17]- So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.*
 14. *[2 Chronicles 12:14]- And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.*
 15. *[1 Kings 15:3]- And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.*
 16. *[2 Chronicles 25:2]- And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.*
 17. *[2 Kings 10:31]- But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin.*
 18. *[2 Chronicles 16:10]- Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time.*
 19. *[2 Chronicles 30:18-19]- For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.*
 20. *[2 Chronicles 35:18]- And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*
 21. Caution.
 - a. Do not suppose, because formal religion will not save, that forms of religion are of no use at all.
- D. True religion must never expect to be popular. It will not have the "praise of man, but praise from God."
1. *[Romans 2:29]- But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*
 2. *[Psalm 69:12]- They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards.*
 3. *[Matthew 25:33-34]- And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

4. *[Luke 22:8, 28-29]- And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat. Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;*
5. *[Revelation 3:5]- He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*
6. *[Acts 14:22]- Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*
7. *[2 Timothy 3:12]- Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

E. Applications.

1. Is your religion a matter of form and not of heart? Answer this question honestly, and as in the sight of God. If it is, "consider solemnly the immense danger in which you stand."
2. If your heart condemns you, and you wish to know what to do, "consider seriously the only course that you can safely take."
 - a. *[Luke 11:9]- And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*
3. If your heart does not condemn you, and you have real well grounded confidence towards God, "consider seriously the many responsibilities of your position."

XII. The World.

A. Proof text.

1. *[2 Corinthians 6:17]- Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

B. That the world is a source of great danger to the soul.

1. Apostle Paul.
 - a. *[Genesis 1:31]- And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*
 - b. *[Romans 12:2]- And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
 - c. *[1 Corinthians 2:12]- Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*
 - d. *[Galatians 1:4]- Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*
 - e. *[Ephesians 2:1-2]- And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*
 - f. *[2 Timothy 4:10]- For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*
2. James.
 - a. *[James 1:27]- Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*
 - b. *[James 4:4]- Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*
3. John.
 - a. *[John 2:15-17]- And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and*

overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

- b. *[1 John 3:1]- Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*
- c. *[1 John 4:5]- They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.*
- d. *[1 John 5:4]- For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*
- e. *[1 John 5:19]- And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*

4. Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. *[Matthew 13:22]- He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*
- b. *[John 8:23]- And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.*
- c. *[John 14:17]- Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*
- d. *[John 15:18-19]- If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*
- e. *[John 16:33]- These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*
- f. *[John 17:16]- They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

C. What is not meant by separation from the world.

- 1. *[Romans 10:2]- For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.*
- 2. *[John 16:2]- They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.*
- 3. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate
 - a. Did not mean that Christians ought to give up all worldly callings, trades, professions, and business.
 - 1.) *[2 Thessalonians 3:10]- For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*
 - b. Did not mean that Christians ought to decline all association with unconverted people, and refuse to go into their society.
 - 1.) *[1 Corinthians 9:22]- To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*
 - c. Did not mean that Christians ought to take no interest in anything on earth except religion.
 - 1.) *[1 Timothy 2:2]- For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*
 - d. Did not mean that Christians should be strange and odd in their dress, manners, demeanor, and voice.
 - 1.) *[Matthew 23:5]- But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,*

- e. Did not mean that Christians ought to retire from the company of mankind, and shut themselves up in solitude.
 - 1.) ***[John 17:15]- I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.***
 - f. Did not mean that Christians ought to withdraw from every Church in which there are unconverted members, or to refuse to worship in company with any who are not believers, or to keep away from the Lord's table if any ungodly people go up to it.
 - 1.) ***[Matthew 13:30]- Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.***
4. Advice for your Christians.
- a. If they really desire to come out from the world, to remember that the shortest path is not always the path of duty.
 - 1.) To argue with our unconverted relatives, to "avoid" all our old friends, to withdraw entirely from mixed society, to live an exclusive life, to give up every act of courtesy and civility in order that we may devote ourselves to the direct work of Christ--all this may seem very right, and may satisfy our consciences and save us trouble.
 - b. If they want to come out from the world, to watch against a sour, morose, ungenial, gloomy, unpleasant, bearish demeanor, and never to forget that there is such a thing as "winning without the Word."
 - 1.) ***[1 Peter 3:1]- Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;***
- D. What real separation from the world consists.
- 1. He that desires to "come out from the world, and be separate," "must steadily and habitually refuse to be guided by the world's standard of right and wrong."
 - 2. He that desires to "come out from the world and be separate," "must be very careful how he spends his leisure time."
 - 3. He that desires to "come out from the world and be separate," "must steadily and habitually determine not to be swallowed up and absorbed in the business of the world."
 - 4. He that desires to "come out from the world and be separate" must steadily "abstain from all amusements and recreations which are inseparably connected with sin."
 - a. ***[Hebrews 13:4]- Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.***
 - b. ***[Romans 6:21]- What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.***
 - c. Concerning dancing and "balls".
 - 1.) ***[Ecclesiastes 3:4]- A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;***
 - 2.) Who would like to be found in a modern dance-hall when the Lord Jesus Christ comes the second time?
 - d. Concerning card-playing and gambling.
 - 1.) Judge it by its tendencies and consequences.
 - 2.) The Christian who wishes to keep his soul right, and to "come out from the world," will do wisely to have nothing to do with card playing. It is a habit, which seems to grow on some people so much that it becomes at last a necessity, and they cannot live without it.
 - e. Concerning sports.

1.) *[Matthew 6:21]- For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

5. He that desires to "come out from them and be separate," must be "moderate in the use of lawful and innocent recreations."
 6. He that desires to "come out from them and be separate" must be "careful in friendships, intimacies, and close relationships with worldly people."
 - a. *[1 Corinthians 5:10]- Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.*
 - b. *[Proverbs 13:20]- He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*
 - c. *[1 Corinthians 3:15]- If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*
 7. Six general hints to all who wish to follow Paul's advice, and to come out from the world and be separate.
 - a. In all doubtful cases we should first pray for wisdom and sound judgment.
 - b. In all doubtful cases let us often judge ourselves by remembering that God has His eye on us.
 - c. In all doubtful cases let us never forget the Second Coming of Christ and the Day of Judgment.
 - d. In all doubtful cases let us find out what the conduct of the holiest and best Christians has been under similar circumstances.
- E. The secrets of victory over the world.
1. A right heart.
 - a. *[Matthew 6:22]- The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*
 2. A lively practical faith in unseen things.
 - a. *[1 John 5:4]- For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*
 - b. *[Mark 9:23]- Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*
 - c. *[Hebrews 11:26]- Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*
 3. Attain and cultivate the "habit of boldly confessing Christ" on all proper occasions.
- F. Applications.
1. Are you overcoming the world, or are you overcome by it?
 2. Begin by applying direct, as a penitent sinner, to our Lord Jesus Christ, and put your case in His hands. Pour out your heart before Him. Tell Him your whole story, and keep nothing back. Tell Him that you are a sinner wanting to be saved from the world, the flesh, and the devil, and beg Him to save you.
 - a. *[Galatians 1:4]- Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*
 3. If you have learned by experience what it is to come out from the world, take comfort, and persevere. You are in the right road; you have no cause to be afraid.
 - a. *[Luke 12:8]- Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:*
 - b. *[Mark 10:29-30]- And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this*

time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

- c. *[Hebrews 10:35-37]- Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

XIII. Riches and Poverty.

A. Proof text.

1. *[Luke 16:19-23]- There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

B. How different the conditions are which God allots to different persons.

1. We must be careful that we do not draw lessons from the parable, which it was never meant to teach.
 - a. The rich are not always bad persons, and do not always go to hell.
 - b. The poor are not always good people, and do not always go to heaven.
2. Universal equality is a very artificial expression and a favorite idea with visionary men.
 - a. *[Deuteronomy 15:11]- For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.*
3. Let no one listen to those vain and foolish talkers who say that all men were meant to be equal.
4. Settle it in your mind that the main cause of all the suffering you see around you is sin.

C. A person's worldly condition is no test of the state of their soul.

1. *[Ecclesiastes 10:19]- A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.*
2. *[Proverbs 14:20]- The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.*
3. In the highest and best sense the *rich man* was pathetically poor?
 - a. *[Proverbs 14:20]- The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.*
 - b. *[Proverbs 10:15]- The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.*
4. In the highest sense Lazarus was not poor, but "rich!"
5. We would do well to measure all men by God's standard--to measure them not by the amount of their income, but by the condition of their souls.
 - a. *[James 2:5]- Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?*
6. As wonderful as it may seem to some, all the money in the world is worthless on God's scales, compared to grace!
 - a. *[Revelation 2:9]- I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

7. We can be very sure that riches and worldly greatness are no sure marks of God's favor.
 - a. *[Proverbs 23:4]- Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.*
 - b. *[1 Timothy 6:9]- But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

8. We can be sure that poverty and trial are not sure proofs of God's anger.
 - a. *[Job 5:17]- Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:*
 - b. *[Hebrews 12:6]- For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

9. One great secret of happiness in this life is to have a patient, contented spirit.
 - a. *[Ecclesiastes 5:8]- If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they.*
 - b. *[Malachi 3:18]- Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.*

- D. All classes of persons will eventually come to the grave.
 1. *[Genesis 3:19]- In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*
 2. "He that would live well, let him make the thoughts of his dying day his daily friend."-John Bunyan

- E. How precious a believer's soul is in the sight of God.
 1. *[Psalm 23:1]- The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
 2. The benefits of a being a child of the Living God.
 - a. Is he weighted down with many sins? "Though his sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow."
 - b. Is his heart hard and prone to evil? A new heart will be given to him, and a new spirit put in him.
 - c. Is he weak and cowardly? He that enabled Peter to confess Christ before his enemies will make him bold.
 - d. Is he ignorant? He that was patient with Thomas' slowness will be patient with him, and guide him into all truth.
 - e. Is he alone in his position? He that stood by Paul when all men abandoned him will also stand by his side.
 - f. Is he in circumstances of special trial? He that enabled men to be saints in Nero's household will also enable him to persevere.
 - g. The very hairs of his head are all numbered. Nothing can harm him without God's permission. He that hurts him, hurts the apple of God's eye, and injures a brother and member of Christ Himself.
 - h. His trials are all wisely ordered. Satan can only harass him, as he did Job, when God permits him. No temptation can happen to him above what he is able to bear. All things are working together for his good.
 - i. "His steps are all ordered from grace to glory. He is kept on earth till he is ripe for heaven, and not one moment longer. The harvest of the Lord must have its appointed proportion of sun and wind, of cold and heat, of rain and storm."

- F. What a dangerous and soul-ruining sin is the sin of selfishness.
 1. Beware of living only for ourselves.
 - a. *[2 Corinthians 5:15]- And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*

2. The damning nature of the sins of omission.
 - a. *[Matthew 25:42-43]- For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.*

3. Riches bring special dangers with them.
 - a. *[Mark 10:23,25]- And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*
 - b. *[1 Timothy 6:10]- For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

4. Stir up special caution about selfishness in these last days.
 - a. *[2 Timothy 3:1-2]- This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*
 - b. *[Luke 12:21]- So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*
 - c. *[Matthew 13:22]- He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*
 - d. *[Luke 16:9]- And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.*
 - e. *[Luke 14:12-14]- Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.*
 - f. *[Luke 12:33]- Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.*
 - g. *[Acts 20:35]- I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*
 - h. *[Luke 10:31]- And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.*
 - i. *[Luke 12:15]- And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*
 - j. *[Mark 10:23]- And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!*
 - k. *[1 Timothy 6:10]- For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*
 - l. *[Psalm 116:12]- What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?*
 - m. *[1 Corinthians 6:20]- For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

G. Applications.

1. The great need of self-examination.
 - a. *"Who am I? Where am I going? What am I doing? What is likely to happen to me after death? Am I prepared to leave the world? Have I any home to look forward to in the world to come? Have I put off the old man of sin and put on the new life in Christ? Am I really one with Christ, and a forgiven soul?"*

2. Seek salvation while it can be found.

- a. *[Luke 15:2]- And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.*
3. All professing Christians ought to encourage themselves in habits of liberality towards all kinds of charities and mercies.
- XIV. The Best Friend.
- A. Proof text.
 1. *[Song of Solomon 5:16]- His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.*
 2. *[Proverbs 18:24]- A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*
 - B. Do we want a "friend in need?" Such a friend is the Lord Jesus Christ.
 1. Man is the neediest creature on God's earth, because he is a sinner.
 - a. *[1 Timothy 1:15]- This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*
 2. We are all by nature poor dying creatures.
 - a. *[Jeremiah 33:6]- Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.*
 - b. *[Revelation 2:11]- He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*
 - c. *[2 Timothy 1:10]- But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*
 3. We are all by nature-imprisoned debtors.
 - a. *[Hosea 13:14]- I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.*
 - b. *[Isaiah 61:1]- The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*
 - c. *[Galatians 3:13]- Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*
 4. We were all by nature sinking and rejected.
 - a. *[Psalm 89:19]- Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people.*
 - b. *[Luke 19:10]- For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
 - c. *[Job 33:24]- Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.*
 - C. Do you want a friend who is absolutely capable to meet all your needs? Such a friend is the Lord Jesus Christ.
 1. For our sakes He took our nature upon Him, and was born of a woman.
 - a. *[2 Corinthians 8:9]- For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*
 2. For our sakes He lived thirty-three years in this evil world, despised and rejected by men and women, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.

- a. *[Philippians 2:7-8]- But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*
- 3. For our sakes He suffered the most painful of all deaths--the death of crucifixion on a cross.
 - a. *[1 Thessalonians 5:10]- Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*
 - b. *[1 Peter 3:18]- For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*
 - c. *[2 Corinthians 5:21]- For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
 - d. *[Romans 5:8]- But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
- D. Do we want "a mighty and powerful friend?" Such a friend is Jesus Christ.
 - 1. *[Matthew 28:18]- And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*
 - 2. He is "able to pardon" and save the very chief of sinners.
 - a. *[1 John 1:7]- But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
 - 3. He is "able to convert" the hardest of hearts, and create in man a new spirit.
 - a. *[John 1:12]- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
 - b. *[2 Corinthians 5:17]- Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
 - 4. He is "able to preserve" to the end all who believe in Him, and become His disciples.
 - a. *[Hebrews 7:25]- Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*
 - 5. He is "able to give" those that love Him the best of gifts.
- E. Do we want "a loving and affectionate friend?" Such a friend is Jesus Christ.
 - 1. *[Ephesians 3:19]- And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*
 - 2. Love shines forth in His "reception of sinners."
 - a. *[John 6:37]- All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*
 - 3. Love shines forth in His "dealings with sinners,"
 - a. *[Isaiah 53:3]- He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*
 - b. *[Psalm 149:4]- For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.*
 - c. *[Psalm 147:11]- The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*
- F. Do we want "a wise and prudent friend?" Such a friend is the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. The Lord Jesus "never spoils" His friends by extravagant indulgence.
 - 2. The Lord Jesus "makes no mistakes" in managing His friend's affairs.

- a. *[John 21:16]- He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

G. Do we want "a tried and proved friend?" Such a friend is Jesus Christ.

- 1. He has had friends of "every rank and station" in life.
- 2. He has had friends "of every age" that man can pass through.
- 3. He has had friends "of every possible temperament and disposition."
- 4. He has had friends "of every condition in life."
- 5. He has had friends "of almost every nation, and people, and language."

H. Do we want "an unfailing friend?" Such a friend is the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1. The Lord Jesus is "a friend who never changes."
 - a. *[Hebrews 13:8]- Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*
- 2. The Lord Jesus "never goes away from His friends."
 - a. *[Hebrews 13:5]- Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
- 3. The Lord Jesus "goes with His friends wherever they go."
 - a. *[Matthew 28:20]- Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

I. Applications

- 1. Solemnly consider whether Christ is your friend and you are His. There are millions, I grieve to say, who are not Christ's friends. Baptized in His name, outward members of His Church, attending Church services, taking the Lord's Supper, praying, reading the Bible--but they are not Christ's "friends."
 - a. Do they hate the sins, which Jesus died for? No.
 - b. Do they love the Savior who came into the world to save them? No.
 - c. Do they care for the souls, which were so precious in His sight? No.
 - d. Do they delight in the word of reconciliation? No.
 - e. Do they try to speak with the Friend of sinners in prayer? No.
 - f. Do they seek close fellowship with Him? No.
- 2. If you are not one of Christ's friends, you are a poor miserable being.
- 3. If you really want a friend, Christ is willing to become your friend.
- 4. If Christ is your friend, you have great privileges, and ought to walk worthy of them.
 - a. *[Philippians 1:21]- For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*
 - b. *[Proverbs 18:24]- A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*

XV. Sickness.

A. Proof text.

- 1. *[John 11:3]- Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.*
- 2. *[Romans 8:28]- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
- 3. *[1 Corinthians 3:22-23]- Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.*

B. The universal prevalence of sickness.

- 1. *[Proverbs 18:11]- The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.*

2. *[Ecclesiastes 12:5]- Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:*
3. *[Psalm 139:14]- I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*
4. *[Psalm 90:10]- The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*
5. *[Romans 5:12]- Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*
6. *[John 17:17]- Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

C. The general benefits which sickness confers on mankind.

1. Can God be a God of love, when He allows pain? Can God be a God of mercy, when He permits disease? He might prevent pain and disease; but He does not. How can these things be?
 - a. Sickness helps to remind men of death.
 - 1.) *[Genesis 3:22-23]-And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*
 - b. Sickness helps to make men think seriously of God, and their souls, and the world to come.
 - 1.) *[2 Kings 8:8]- And the king said unto Hazeel, Take a present in thine hand, and go, meet the man of God, and enquire of the LORD by him, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?*
 - 2.) *[Jonah 1:5]- Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.*
 - c. Sickness helps to soften men's hearts, and teach them wisdom.
 - d. Sickness helps to level and humble us.
 - 1.) *[Job 4:19]- How much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth?*
 - e. Sickness helps to try men's religion, of what sort it is.
 - 1.) *[Psalm 73:4]- For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.*

D. The special duties to which sickness calls us.

1. Living habitually prepared to meet God.
 - a. Sickness is a remembrance of death.
 - b. Death is the door through which we must all pass to judgment.
 - c. Judgment is the time when we must at last see God face to face.
 - d. Surely the first lesson, which the inhabitant of a sick and dying world should learn, should be to prepare to meet his God.
2. Living habitually ready to bear it patiently.
 - a. *[John 14:14]- If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*
 - b. *[John 11:4]- When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.*
3. Habitual readiness to feel with and help your fellow man.
 - a. *[Galatians 6:2]- Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

- b. *[Ephesians 4:32]- And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*
- c. *[Acts 10:38]- How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*
- d. *[Matthew 25:36]- Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

E. Applications.

1. What will you do when you are ill? The time must come when you, as well as others, must go down the dark valley of the shadow of death. The hour must come when you, like all your forefathers, must sicken and die. Where do you mean to turn for comfort? On what do you mean to rest your soul? On what do you mean to build your hope? From where will you fetch your consolations?
2. Acquaint yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ without delay. Repent, be converted, flee to Christ, and be saved.
 - a. *[John 6:37]- All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*
 - b. *[2 Timothy 1:12]- For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*
3. Remember how much they may glorify God in the time of sickness, and to lie quite in God's hand when they are ill.
 - a. *[Isaiah 53:3]- He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*
 - b. *[Matthew 8:17]- That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.*
4. Keep up a habit of close communion with Christ, and never to be afraid of "going too far" in your religion.
 - a. *[James 1:27]- Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*
 - b. *[Numbers 14:24]- But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.*
 - c. *[Hebrews 6:18]- That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*
 - d. *[Psalm 23:4]- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
 - e. *[Hebrews 10:37]- For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*
 - f. *[Revelation 20:14]- And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*
 - g. *[Hosea 13:14]- I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.*

XVI. The Family of God.

A. Proof text.

1. *[Ephesians 3:15]-*

- B. What is this family? Consists of all real Christians.
1. True Christians are called "a family" because they all have *one Father*.
 - a. **[Galatians 3:26]- For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**
 - b. **[John 3:8]- The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.**
 - c. **[2 Corinthians 6:18]- And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**
 - d. **[Romans 8:15]- For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**
 2. True Christians are called "a family," because they all *rejoice in one name*.
 - a. **[Acts 11:26]- And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**
 3. True Christians, above all, are called "a family" because there is so strong a *family resemblance* among them.
 - a. **[Psalm 119:105]- Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**
- C. What is its present position?
1. Some of God's family are safe *in heaven*.
 - a. **[Luke 23:43]- And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.**
 - b. **[Philippians 1:23]- For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:**
 2. Some of God's family are still *on the earth*.
 - a. They are scattered everywhere in the midst of a wicked world.
 - b. All are more or less occupied in the same way, according to the measure of their grace given them.
 - c. All are running a race, doing a work, fighting a warfare, carrying a cross, striving against sin, resisting the devil, crucifying the flesh, struggling against the world, witnessing for Christ, mourning over their own hearts, hearing, reading, and praying, however feebly, for the life of their souls.
 - d. Each is often disposed to think no cross is so heavy as his own, no work so difficult, no heart so hard. But each and everyone is steadfast in their way--a wonder to the ignorant world around them, and often a wonder to themselves.
 3. Both parts of the family love the same Savior, and delight in the same perfect will of God. But the part on earth loves with much imperfection and weakness, and lives by faith, not by sight. The part in heaven loves without weakness, or doubt, or distraction. It walks by sight and not by faith, and sees what it once believed.
 4. Both parts of the family are saints. But the saints on earth are often poor weary pilgrims, who find that the "sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature."
 - a. **[Galatians 5:17]- For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**
 - b. **[Hebrews 12:23]- To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,**
 5. Both parts of the family are equally God's children. But the children in heaven have learned all their lessons, have finished their appointed tasks, have begun an eternal holiday. The children on earth are still in school. They are daily learning wisdom, though slowly and with much

trouble, and often needing to be reminded of their past lessons by chastisement and the rod. Their graduation day is yet to come.

6. Both parts of the family are equally God's soldiers. But the soldiers on earth are still engaged in the battle. Their fight is not over. Every day they need to put on the whole armor of God. The soldiers in heaven are all triumphant. No enemy can hurt them now. No fiery dart of Satan can reach them. They have laid aside both helmet and shield. They can at last say to the sword of the Spirit, "Rest and be still." They can finally sit down, and not have to watch and stand on their guard.
7. Both parts of the family are equally safe and secure. As wonderful as this may sound, it is true. Christ cares as much for His family members on earth as His family members in heaven. You might as well think to pluck the stars out of heaven, as to pluck one saint, however feeble, out of Christ's hand.
 - a. *[2 Samuel 23:5]- Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.*
 - b. *[1 Peter 1:5]- Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
 - c. *[Revelation 7:9]- After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

D. What are its future prospects?

1. *[Proverbs 27:1]- Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*
2. The members of God's family will all be *brought safely home* one day.
 - a. *[Romans 5:10]- For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*
3. The members of God's family will *one day all have glorious bodies*.
 - a. *[Revelation 21:5]- And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*
4. One day the members of God's family will all be *gathered into one company*.
5. One day the members of God's family will all be *united in mind and judgment*.
6. One day the members of God's family will all be *perfected in holiness*.
 - a. *[Colossians 2:10]- And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*
 - b. *[Ephesians 5:27]- That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*
 - c. *[Song of Solomon 5:10]- My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.*
7. The members of God's family will be *eternally provided for*.
 - a. *[1 Corinthians 2:9]- But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*
 - b. *[Psalm 17:15]- As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*
 - c. *[1 Peter 1:4]- To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

E. Application.

1. Do you really belong to the family of God?

- a. Open your eyes to see the value of your soul, the sinfulness of sin, the holiness of God, and the present danger of your present condition, the absolute necessity of a mighty change.
 - b. Open your eyes to see these things, and repent this very day.
 - c. Open your eyes to see the great head of God's family, even Christ Jesus, waiting to save your soul.
 - d. See how he has loved you, lived for you, died for you, risen again for you, and obtained complete redemption for you.
 - e. See how he offers you free, full, immediate pardon, if you will only believe in Him.
2. Count up your privileges, and learn to be more thankful.
 - a. Let us labor to do nothing that may cause our Father's house to be spoken against.
 - b. Let us endeavor to make our Master's name beautiful by our disposition, conduct, and conversation.
 - c. Let us love as brethren, and abhor all quarrels.
 - d. Let us behave as if the honor of "the family" depended on our behavior.

XVII. Our Home.

A. Proof texts.

1. *[Psalm 90:1]- Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.*
2. *[Numbers 14:29-30]- Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have murmured against me. Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

B. What the world is.

1. It is a changing world.
2. It is a trying and disappointing world.
3. It is a dying world.
4. It is a scattering and dividing world.
 - a. *[1 Corinthians 7:29-31]- But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.*

C. What Christ is, even in this life, to true Christians.

1. *[2 Corinthians 5:1]- For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*
2. No home like Christ! In Him there is *room for all*, and room for all sorts.
 - a. *[Matthew 11:28]- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
 - b. *[Matthew 7:7]- Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*
3. No home like Christ! In Him there is boundless and unwearied mercy for all, even after admission.
 - a. *[John 6:37]- All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*
4. No home like Christ! In Him there is unchanging kindness, patience, and gentle dealing for all.
 - a. *[Matthew 11:29]- Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
5. No home like Christ! In Him there is no change.

a. *[Hebrews 13:8]- Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

6. No home like Christ! Communion once begun with Him will never be broken off.

D. Application.

1. Have you got a home for your soul?
2. If Christ is the home of your soul, accept a friendly caution. Beware of being ashamed of your home in any place or company.
3. If Christ is the home of your soul, accept a piece of friendly advice.
4. Let nothing tempt you to stray away from home.
5. If Christ is the home of your soul, accept a hint about your duty.
 - a. *[Numbers 10:29]- And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel.*

XVIII. Heirs of God.

A. Proof text

1. *[Romans 8:14-17]- For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

B. Heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

1. The only inheritance *really worth having*;
2. The only inheritance *which can be kept forever*;
3. The only inheritance *which is within everybody's reach*.

C. The relationship of all true Christians to God.

1. They are "sons of God."
2. *[John 8:35]- And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*
3. *[Ephesians 2:3]- Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*
4. *[1 John 3:10]- In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*
5. *[2 Corinthians 6:18]- And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*
6. *[Galatians 3:26]- For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*
7. *[1 Corinthians 1:30]- But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*
8. *[John 1:12]- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
9. *[1 John 1:3]- That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*
10. *[Psalm 83:3]- They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.*
11. *[Amos 4:11]- I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.*
12. *[Luke 15:10]- Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

13. *[Acts 17:28]- For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*
14. *[Job 1:6]- Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.*
15. *[Psalm 145:9]- The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.*
16. *[2 Peter 3:9]- The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
17. *[Ezekiel 18:32]- For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.*
18. *[John 3:16]- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
19. *"No sonship to God without Christ! No interest in Christ without faith!"*
20. *Warnings against contrary theology.*
 - a. God is all mercy and love—His holiness and justice are completely ignored! Hell is never spoken of in this theology—it speaks only of heaven! Damnation is never mentioned—it is treated as an impossible thing—they say that all men and women will be saved! Faith, and the work of the Spirit, are refined away into nothing at all! "Everyone who believes anything has faith! Everyone who thinks anything has the Spirit! Everyone is right! No one is wrong!
 - b. Facts speak directly against the teachers of this theology.
 - 1.) Mesopotamia, Nineveh, and Babylon.
 - c. The conscience of man speaks directly against these teachers.
 - d. Every reasonable conception that we can form of a future state speaks directly against these teachers.
 - e. Holiness and morality speak directly against these teachers.
 - f. The Bible speaks against these teachers from first to last.
 - 1.) Who desires to know whether he is a son of God?
 - 2.) Who desires to become a son of God?
 - a.) *[1 John 1:9]- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - b.) *[Ephesians 1:6]- To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*
 - 3.) Who is truly a son of God?
 - a.) *[1 John 3:1]- Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

D. The special evidences of this relationship.

1. True Christians are "led by the Spirit."
 - a. *[Romans 8:14]- For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*
 - b. *[Psalm 110:3]- Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.*
 - c. *[Psalm 107:7]- And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.*
2. They have "the Spirit of sonship" and *have the feelings of adopted children towards their Father in heaven.*
 - a. *[Romans 8:15]- For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

- b. *[Genesis 3:8]- And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*
 - c. *[Genesis 4:16]- And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.*
 - d. *[Romans 3:26]- To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*
3. They have the "testimony of the Spirit."
- a. *[Romans 8:16]- The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*
 - b. *[2 Corinthians 1:22]- Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*
 - c. *[Ephesians 1:13]- In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*
4. They "share in the sufferings of Christ."
- a. *[Romans 8:17]- And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*
 - b. *[Hebrews 12:6,8]- For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*
 - c. *[Acts 14:22]- Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*
 - d. *[2 Timothy 3:12]- Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*
 - e. *[Hebrews 2:10]- For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*
 - f. *[Hebrews 12:10]- For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*
 - g. *[Deuteronomy 32:5]- They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation.*
- E. The privileges of the true Christian's relation to God.
1. True Christians are "heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ."
- a. *[1 John 3:2]- Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*
 - b. *[1 Peter 1:4]- To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*
 - c. *[1 Peter 5:4]- And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*
 - d. *[Revelation 20:2]- And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*
 - e. *[Revelation 21:25]- And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.*
 - f. *[Revelation 22:3]- And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*
 - g. *[Revelation 20:14]- And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

- h. *[Revelation 21:4]- And 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.*
 - i. *[Isaiah 33:24]- And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.*
2. Enjoyable refreshments for fainting pilgrims in many words and expressions of Scripture,
- a. Is *knowledge* pleasant to us now?
 - 1.) *[1 Corinthians 13:12]- For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*
 - b. Is *holiness* pleasant to us now?
 - 1.) *[Ephesians 5:27]- That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*
 - c. Is *rest* pleasant to us now?
 - 1.) *[Judges 8:4]- And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing them.*
 - 2.) *[Hebrews 4:9]- There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*
 - d. Is *service* pleasant to us now?
 - 1.) *[Revelation 7:15]- Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*
 - e. Is *satisfaction* pleasant to us now?
 - 1.) *[Ecclesiastes 1:14]- I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.*
 - 2.) *[Psalm 119:96]- I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad.*
 - 3.) *[Psalm 17:15]- As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*
 - f. Is *communion with the saints* pleasant to us now?
 - 1.) *[Psalm 16:3]- But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.*
 - 2.) *[Matthew 13:41]- The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;*
 - 3.) *[Matthew 24:31]- And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*
 - g. Is *communion with Christ* pleasant to us now?
 - 1.) *[1 Thessalonians 4:17]- 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.*
 - 2.) *[Luke 23:43]- And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.*
 - 3.) *[Romans 8:18]- For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*
 - 4.) *[Colossians 3:4]- When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*
 - 5.) *[2 Samuel 19:3]- And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.*

- F. Application.
1. Whose child are you?
 2. If you are not a son and heir of God, I plead with you to become one without delay.
 - a. *[2 Corinthians 6:18]- And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*
 3. If you are a son of God, I plead with you to walk worthy of your Father's house.
 - a. Labor to feel like a son of God in every circumstance in which you are placed.
 - b. Labor to behave towards others like a son of God.
 - 1.) *[Matthew 5:9]- Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*
 - c. Persevere in your Christian calling, if you are a son of God, and press forward more and more.
 - 1.) *[John 15:5]- I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*
 - 2.) *[Philippians 4:13]- I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*
 - 3.) *[Hebrews 10:37]- For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

XIX. The Great Gathering.

- A. Proof text.
1. *[2 Thessalonians 2:1]- Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,*
- B. There is a "gathering" of true Christians, which is yet to come. What is it, and when will it be?
1. It will take place at the end of the world, in the day when Christ returns to earth the second time.
 - a. *[Matthew 24:31]- And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*
 2. The manner of this "gathering" is plainly revealed in Scripture.
 - a. *[Revelation 20:13]- And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*
 - b. *[1 Thessalonians 4:16-17]- For 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.*
 - c. *[1 Corinthians 15:51-52]- Behold, I shew 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.*
 3. The object of this "being gathered" is as clearly revealed in Scripture.
 - a. *[Matthew 28:5]- And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.*
 - b. *[Isaiah 26:20]- Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.*
 4. This gathering will be a *great one*.

- a. All children of God who have ever lived, from Adam, the first saint, down to the last born in the day that our Lord comes—everyone of every age, and nation, and church, and people, and tongue—everyone will be gathered together.
 - b. No one will be overlooked or forgotten. The weakest and feeblest will not be left behind.
 - c. Now, when "scattered," true Christians seem like a little flock; then, when "gathered," they will be found to be a multitude, which no man can number.
5. This gathering will be a *wonderful* one.
 - a. The saints from distant lands, who never saw each other in the flesh, and could not understand each other's speech if they met, will all be brought together in one harmonious fellowship.
 - b. The confusion of tongues will finally be reversed, and done away.
 - c. **[Numbers 23:23]- Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!**
 6. This gathering will be a *humbling* one.
 - a. **[1 Peter 5:5]- Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.**
- C. Why is this "gathering" together of true Christians a thing to be desired?
1. When all true Christians are "gathered to Him" it will be a state, of things totally unlike their present condition.
 2. When all true Christians are "gathered to Him" they will be an assembly entirely of one mind.
 3. When all true Christians are "gathered to Him" it will be a gathering in which none will be absent.
 4. When all true Christians are "gathered to Him" it will be a gathering without a parting.
- D. Application.
1. Will you be gathered by the angels into God's home when the Lord returns, or will you be left behind?
 2. Ask yourself what kind of gatherings you like best here on earth? Ask yourself whether you really love being gathered together with God's people?
 3. If you are a true Christian, I exhort you to be frequently looking forward.
 - a. **[Acts 27:44]- And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.**
 - b. *"Does Christmas, for instance, bring with it sorrowful feelings and painful associations? Do tears come to your eyes when you note the empty places around dinner table? Do grave thoughts come sweeping over your mind, even in the midst of your children's festivity, when you remember the dear old faces and much loved voices of some that sleep in the grave? Well, look up and look forward!"*
 - c. *Do you feel lonely and deserted as every December comes around? Do you find few people left to pray with, few to praise with, few to open your heart to, few to exchange experience with? Do you increasingly learn that heaven is becoming every year more full and earth more empty? Well, it is an old story. You are only drinking a cup, which myriads have drunk before. Look up and look forward.*
 - d. **[Psalm 17:15]- As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.**

XX. The Great Separation.

A. Proof text

1. **[Matthew 3:12]- Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**

- B. The two great classes into which mankind may be divided.
1. Who are the wheat in the world?
 - a. The wheat refers to all men and women who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ—all who are led by the Holy Spirit—all who have felt themselves sinners, and fled for refuge to the salvation offered in the Gospel—all who love the Lord Jesus and live to the Lord Jesus, and serve the Lord Jesus—all who have taken Christ for their only confidence and the Bible for their only guide, and regard sin as their deadliest enemy, and look to heaven as their only home.
 2. Who are the chaff in the world?
 - a. The chaff refers to all men and women who have no saving faith in Christ, and no sanctification of the Spirit. Some of them are atheists, and some are "Christians" in name only. Some are sneering Sadducees, and some self-righteous Pharisees. Some of them make a point of keeping up a kind of Sunday religion, and others are utterly careless of everything except their own pleasure and the world.
 - b. *[John 5:23]- That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*
- C. The time when the two great classes of mankind will be separated.
1. Before Christ comes separation is impossible.
 - a. *[1 Corinthians 13:9]- For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*
 2. Before Christ comes it is useless to expect to see a perfect Church.
 - a. *[Ephesians 5:27]- That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*
 3. Before Christ returns it is vain to look for the conversion of the world.
 - a. *[Song of Solomon 2:2]- As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.*
 - b. *[Luke 17:34]- I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.*
 - c. *[Psalm 120:5]- Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!*
 - d. *[Revelation 22:20]- He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*
 - e. *[Numbers 16:5]- And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.*
 - f. *[Matthew 22:12]- And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.*
- D. The inheritance that Christ's people will receive when He comes to purge His threshing floor.
1. When the Lord Jesus comes the second time, He will gather His believing people into a place of safety.
 - a. *[Matthew 3:12]- Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*
 - b. *[Psalm 149:4]- For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.*
 - c. *[Nahum 1:7]- The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*
 - d. *[Genesis 21:19]- And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.*
 - e. *[John 20:14]- And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.*

2. The Lord takes pleasure in His believing people.
 - a. *[Song of Solomon 4:7]- Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee.*
 3. The Lord cares for His believing people in their lives.
 - a. *[John 14:23]- Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*
 - b. *[Psalm 103:13]-Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*
 - c. *[Lamentations 3:33]- For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.*
 4. The Lord cares for His believing people in their deaths.
 - a. *[Deuteronomy 34:5]- So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.*
 5. The Lord will care for His believing people in the dreadful day of His appearing.
 - a. *[1 Thessalonians 4:17]- 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.*
 - b. *"I often wonder at the miserable faithlessness of those among us who are believers. Next to the hardness of the unconverted heart, I call it one of the greatest wonders in the world. I am amazed that with such mighty reasons for confidence that we can still be so full of doubts. I marvel, above all things, how any can deny the doctrine that Christ's people persevere to the end, and can imagine that He, who loved them so much, that He died for them upon the cross, will ever abandon them."*
 - c. *[John 10:28]- And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*
 - d. *[1 Samuel 2:9]- He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.*
 - e. *"Blessed forever and ever is that mother's child whose faith has made him the child of God. The earth may shake, the pillars of the world may tremble under us, the countenance of the heaven may be horrified, the sun may lose its light, the moon its beauty, the stars their glory: but concerning the man that trusts in God—what is there in the world that will change his heart, overthrow his faith, alter his affection towards God, or the affection of God to him?" Richard Hooker*
 - f. *[Isaiah 42:3]- A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.*
- E. The portion that remains for all who are not Christ's people.
1. When the Lord Jesus Christ comes to clear His floor He will punish all who are not His disciples with a fearful punishment. All who are found to be unrepentant and unbelieving—all who have suppressed the truth by their wickedness—all who have clung to sin, loved the world, and set their affections on things below—all who are without Christ— all of them will come to an awful end. Christ will "burn up the chaff."
 2. Their punishment will be *most severe*.
 3. Their punishment will be *eternal*.
 - a. *[Romans 9:2]- That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.*
 4. The unbelief of man.
 - a. Some do not believe that hell exists.
 - 1.) *[Genesis 3:4]- And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*
 - b. Some do not believe that hell is eternal.
 - c. Some do believe there is a hell, but do not believe that anybody is going there.

- d. Some believe there is a hell but never like it to be spoken of.
5. What does the Word of God say?
- a. Do you believe the Bible? Then depend upon it, hell is real and true.
 - b. Do you believe the Bible? Then depend upon it, hell will have inhabitants.
 - 1.) *[Matthew 25:46]- And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*
 - 2.) *[Revelation 6:16]- And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:*
 - c. Do you believe the Bible? Then depend upon it, hell will be an intense and unutterable misery.
 - d. Do you believe the Bible? Then depend upon it, hell is eternal.
 - 1.) *[Revelation 9:6]- And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*
 - 2.) *[Isaiah 33:14]- The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?*
 - e. Do you believe the Bible? Then depend upon it, *hell is a subject that ought not to be kept back.*
 - 1.) Beware of new and strange doctrines about hell and eternal punishment.
 - 2.) Beware of thinking yourself wiser than that which is written in God's Word. Beware of forming fanciful theories of your own, and then trying to make the Bible agree with them.
 - a.) *[Jeremiah 36:23]- And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.*
 - b.) *[Romans 9:20]- Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?*

F. Application.

1. Settle it in your mind that these things are real and true.
2. Settle it in your own mind, that these things concern you personally. They are your business, your affair, and your concern.
3. Settle it in your mind, that if you are willing to be one of the wheat of the earth, then the Lord Jesus Christ is willing to receive you.
 - a. *[Ezekiel 18:32]- For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.*
 - b. *[Matthew 11:28]- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
4. Settle it in your mind that if you have committed your soul to Christ, then Christ will never allow your soul to perish.

XXI. Eternity.

A. Proof text.

1. *[2 Corinthians 4:18]- While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

B. We live in a world where all things are temporary and passing away.

1. *[Genesis 23:4]- I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a buryingplace with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.*

2. *[1 Kings 11:2]- Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.*
3. *[2 Corinthians 4:17-18]- For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*
4. *[1 Corinthians 7:31]- And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.*
5. *[Colossians 3:2]- Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*
6. *[1 John 2:17]- And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

C. We are all moving towards a world where everything is eternal.

1. *[Psalm 16:11]- Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*
2. *[1 Peter 1:4]- To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*
3. *[1 Peter 5:4]- And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*
4. *[1 Thessalonians 4:17-18]- 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*
5. I cannot reconcile the concept of a "non-eternal" punishment with the language of the Bible.
 - a. *[Mark 9:43-48]- And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*
 - b. *[Matthew 25:46]- And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*
 - c. *[2 Thessalonians 1:9]- Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*
 - d. *[Revelation 16:7]- And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.*
 - e. *[Genesis 3:4]- And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*
6. I cannot reconcile the "non-eternal" punishment with the language of our church's own prayer book.
 - a. *"From everlasting damnation, good Lord, deliver us."*
 - b. *"keep us from our spiritual enemy and from everlasting death."*
 - c. *"Deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death."*
7. Let us be faithful because of the truths revealed in Christianity.
 - a. *"If a man, without faith in Christ or sanctification of the Spirit, can escape eternal punishment, then sin is no longer an infinite evil and there was no need for Christ making atonement."*
8. Let us be faithful because of holiness and morality.
 - a. *"I can imagine nothing so pleasant to our flesh and blood as the deceptive theory that we may live in sin, and yet escape eternal damnation; and that although we are "enslaved by*

all kinds of passions and pleasures" while we are here, we will somehow all eventually get to heaven!"

- b. *"Just tell the young man who "squandered his wealth in wild living" that heaven is available even for those who live and die in sin, and he is never likely to turn from it. Why should he repent and take up the cross, if he can get eventually get to heaven without repenting?"*
9. Let us be faithful because of the common hopes of all God's saints.
 - a. ***[John 5:40]- And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.***
 - b. *"Men sometimes talk exclusively about God's mercy and love and compassion, as if He had no other attributes, and leave out His holiness and His purity, His justice and His unchangeableness, and His hatred of sin. Let us beware of falling into this delusion. It is a growing evil in these last days."*
 - c. ***[Exodus 34:6-7]- And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.***
 - d. ***[Psalm 145:16-20]- Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all his works. The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him: He also will hear their cry, and will save them. The LORD preserveth all them that love Him: but all the wicked will He destroy.***
- D. Our future state in the unseen world of eternity depends entirely on what we are in the present.
1. ***[Psalm 90:9]- For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.***
 2. ***[James 4:14]- Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.***
 3. ***[2 Peter 3:8]- But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.***
 4. ***[Romans 2:6-8]- Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,***
 5. ***[Matthew 12:36]- But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.***
 6. ***[Galatians 6:8]- For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.***
 7. *"This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue forever what we make them in this world. Such a taste and disposition of mind as a man carries with him out of this life, he will retain in the next. It is absolutely true that heaven perfects those holy and virtuous dispositions, which are begun here; but the other world alters no man as to his main state. He that is filthy will be filthy still; and he that is unrighteous will be unrighteous still." –Tillotson's Sermon on Philippians 3:20.*
- E. The Lord Jesus Christ is the great Friend to whom we must all look to for help, both for now and eternity.
1. He came to give us hope and peace
 - a. ***[2 Timothy 1:10]- But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:***
 - b. ***[Hebrews 2:15]- And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.***

2. Our Lord Jesus Christ has purchased these mighty privileges for us at the cost of His own precious blood. He became our Substitute, and bore our sins in His own body on the cross, and then rose again for our justification.
 - a. *[1 Peter 2:24]- Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*
 - b. *[1 Peter 3:18]- For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*
 - c. *[2 Corinthians 5:21]- For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

3. All that our Lord Jesus Christ has purchased for us He offers freely to everyone who will turn from his sins, come to Him, and believe.
 - a. *[John 8:12]- Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*
 - b. *[Matthew 11:28]- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
 - c. *[John 7:37]- In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*
 - d. *[John 6:37]- All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*
 - e. *[Acts 16:31]- And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*
 - f. *[John 3:16]- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
 - g. *[1 Corinthians 15:55]- O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*
 - h. *[Galatians 2:20]- I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*
 - i. *[John 5:40]- And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*

F. Application.

1. How are you using your time?
 - a. Life is short and very uncertain. You never know what a day may bring forth. Business and pleasure, making money, and spending money, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage—all, all will soon be over and done with forever. And you, what are you doing for your immortal soul? Are you wasting time, or using it wisely? Are you preparing to meet God?

2. Where will you be in eternity?
 - a. It is coming, coming, coming very fast upon us. You are going, going, going very fast into it. But where will you be—on the right hand or on the left, in the Day of Judgment? Are you among the lost or among the saved? Oh, do not rest; do not rest until your soul is secured! Be prepared: leave nothing uncertain. It is a dreadful thing to die unprepared, and fall into the hands of the living God.

3. Do you want to be safe now and in eternity?
 - a. Seek Christ, and believe in Him. Come to Him just as you are. Seek Him while He may be found, call on Him while He is near. There is still a throne of grace. It is not too late. Christ waits to be gracious: He invites you to come to Him. Before the door is shut and the judgment begins, repent, believe, and be saved.

4. Do you want to be happy?

- a. Cling to Christ and live the life of faith in Him. Remain in Him and live close to Him. Follow Him with heart and soul and mind and strength, and seek to know Him better every day.
- b. *[John 11:26]- And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*
- c. *[2 Corinthians 5:1]- For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*