Ephesians - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

The Armor of God, Armor of God, The

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Hymn 197

Ephesians 6:10: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

In this portion that we have before us, we have the whole armor of God. When I thought of this I thought of the group of young people here. In my mind I pictured it like this: just as if we thought of each young person here in all the freshness and energy of youth, in all the happiness and joy of fellowship and meeting one with another. Then, supposing that right outside this building there was an army ready to attack us. Wouldn’t we be very much concerned? We would surely say; “We must be prepared because there is an attack about to be made upon all the young people here, and the older ones as well.” Well dear young people, there is an unseen power that is seeking to hinder your happiness and your progress. That power is the power of the prince who is spoken of in the 2nd chapter as: “The prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” (Ephesians 2:2) This world is Satan’s palace. It is dressed up of Satan to deceive. But God has saved you and I out of it. He has given us “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that fadeth not away reserved in heaven” for us. (1 Peter 1:4) But there is a conflict; not a conflict to get the inheritance for it is already ours by faith, but to walk here in the joy of it. In fact, I was thinking too in this epistle how, if you or I had been writing it we might have put this conflict in the very first chapter, but God puts it in the last. He tells us in the first chapter that He has “blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3) He tells us that “by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8) He tells us about the length and breadth and depth and height of the inheritance and how we’re loved with a love that passes knowledge. All this before we read anything about the armor and the conflict. Because God has blessed us through the work of Christ according to His eternal counsels. As we have been having in these meetings, not one blessing that we have comes to us through any effort of our own. It’s all through the work of Christ. It’s all through what He did for us on the cross. It’s secured to us, and not one who has really received the Lord Jesus as Savior will be missing in that coming scene of glory. I know each dear saved young person is surely going to be there. The Lord is going to bring you there because He has pledged Himself as the Captain of our salvation to bring many sons to glory He says “I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish.” Neither shall any man pluck them out of His hand. It might be that there is someone here who does not have the knowledge of eternal security, who thinks you can be lost again. But God tells you distinctly that your blessing depends only upon what Christ has done and that you are eternally secure in Him. If you don’t know that the devil does. So the devil doesn’t try to take salvation away from you because he can’t. What he tries to do is to keep you from the enjoyment of it now by faith. He doesn’t want you to be a happy Christian.

He doesn’t want you to walk in this world in the enjoyment of your portion. He knows he can never keep you from entering those courts of glory but he can fill your soul with misery now. He can make you doubt your salvation. He can tempt you to go after the world and its pleasures to the robbing of your soul. That’s what he is trying to do. So that’s why, after God has told us in this lovely epistle, the highest point, we might say of the whole Bible, where we see how richly we have been blessed in Christ, He closes it by telling us to take the whole armor of God.

Dear young people, as I look into your faces, if the Lord leaves us here with life before you, how much are you and I going to enjoy of our portion? How much are we going to walk in the precious light and liberty of what God has made known to us? I’m sure as we have been sitting in these meetings and enjoying these precious things some of our hearts have been apprehensive. We have been like Naaman when he was cleansed of his leprosy. The first thing that came into his mind was; “Well I have a situation to meet back home and I don’t know how I can do it.” He said: “When I get back home my master is going to expect me to go into the house of Rimmon.” And he said: “I’ve always done it. How am I going to get out of this?” Amid the joy and happiness of being cleansed from his leprosy and becoming a worshipper of the true God of Israel he realized that there was a situation that was more than a match for him and he didn’t know what to do. Isn’t it lovely to hear the prophet say to him: “Go in peace.” (2 Kings 5:19) Go in peace. In other words, when you know the Lord as your Savior and you know that God is for you, then you can say: “If God be for us, who can be against us?” I believe that when Naaman returned to his own country again he found that peace that he had received in God’s land accompanied him back to his own land and enabled him to meet that situation with his feet shod, if one might speak in that way, with the preparation of the gospel of peace. So if you are sitting here and saying; “Well it’s lovely to sit in these meetings.” It’s easy to be a Christian when you are sitting in the meeting surrounded by other Christians. But perhaps you are saying: “Oh, but you don’t know what it’s like when I get back home. You don’t know the temptations.” But God does. God does and He’s given you all that’s necessary to give you, not only protection, but to maintain your soul in the same joy that you can have here in these meetings. The Lord isn’t different when you get back to your own home meeting than He is right here in these meetings. It’s the same Blessed One who is filling your heart here who can fill your heart when you get back home. But we do recognize, and the Word of God recognizes, that the Christian life is one of conflict. Not only one of conflict but also one when there are special times when the enemy makes his assault. When the children of Israel entered the promised land there were times of comparative peace but there were also times of special combat. There were times when the enemy came out to deceive and there were times when the enemy came against them with all his power and

might. We know

the Gibeonites came to deceive, whereas at other times we find the enemies armed came up to fight. There are different ways the enemy attacks us. He doesn't attack every Christian in the same way. There are times, I say, of special assault, and if I might say it, I believe there is no time when he makes a more special assault than after the general meetings. Yes, when you've had a great victory like the children of Israel did at Jericho. They saw all their enemies completely defeated and put to flight, but then, they went against that little place of Ai and they weren't able to meet the situation. I'm sure that you realize that it's going to be so when you return. So how lovely this word: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord." Not in your strength of character, not in the fact that you feel that by all the truth that you've learned here that you're going to be able to meet all the attacks of the enemy. No. The truth is a blessed thing and the truth does set us free, but it's the truth in power in our souls that gives us strength against the enemy. So it says: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord." In the Lord. We don't have the strength of character, we don't have the wit and wisdom to answer all the arguments of the world (the world is full of that sort of thing, especially in our day), but we do have strength in the Lord.

I have noticed, sometimes when God chooses to save a very intellectual man, He saves him through a child or someone who knows very little of the truth. I believe the reason for that is to show that it is the manifestation of the power of the Spirit of God and God can use any instrument to do that. As dear Mr. Darby said: "Our testimony to the world is our joy in the Lord." Are you enjoying the little bit of truth that you know? Am I enjoying the little bit of truth that I know? This is a great point. How precious is the Lord Jesus to your heart? You may say: "I have learned a great many things at these meetings." But I repeat the question; how precious is the Lord Jesus to your heart and mine? Has He become more dear? Have these meetings caused you to feel nearer to Him and to know more of His precious love? If it hasn't produced that result then the meetings haven't accomplished what was intended. The purpose of the meetings is that you and I might be brought into a fuller knowledge of the Lord Jesus, of His love and of His grace, so that we might be drawn after Him. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might."

Is anything too hard for the Lord? Was He a match for Naaman's problem? Was the Lord able to help him? When he got into his own land and was tempted to go into the house of Rimmon I am sure he proved the Lord's strength. Can you name any situation that you are expecting to meet back home that the Lord isn't a match for? Is there any situation that can arise in your life and mine that you can say: "Well this is too difficult for the Lord." Oh, you wouldn't say that, would you? I'm sure you wouldn't. If you and I are strong in the Lord and in the power of His might then the victory is in Him. "The Lord is our banner, the battle is His. The weakest of saints more than conqueror is." (L.F. #234)

So we read: "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Notice this: "The wiles of the devil." He doesn't come, usually, with a great onslaught that we can recognize that it is really Satan who is attacking. He does it in a wily way. He does it in a way that outwits us. We don't realize what he is about. We don't realize that little temptation, that little bit of worldly friendship, that little bit of excusing what you know is questionable, is something that is really an attempt of Satan to get you out of the path of simple dependence upon the Lord. Satan knows our weak points. He knows your weak points and he knows mine. Something that might be a temptation to you might not be a special temptation to me. Something that might be a temptation to me perhaps doesn't bother you. But, Satan has had almost six thousand years experience with human nature. He knows our weak points. He's watched your whole life. He knows the things that tempt you. He knows the things you yield to, and the things that seem to be of little concern to you. So, he's going to attack you on those weak points. Perhaps the weak point is something you think you're strong in, because it's often so that when we think we are strong in something it's because we are trusting in our own wisdom and in our own strength. It's often been remarked that Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived but he failed in his wisdom. Samson was the strongest but he gave away the secret of his strength and became like other men. Job was the most patient but his friends vexed him until he lost his patience with them. We may fail in the thing that we think we're strong in because we are not on guard in that thing. Whether we realize it or not we have weak points. We have vulnerable points and we have an enemy that is far more clever than we are. He is more than a match for us.

There are two powers that are superior to man: the power of God and the power of Satan. If you and I are not walking in the power of the Lord, in the power of His might, then there's another power that is more than we can meet and it's the power of Satan. So it says here; "That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Oh how clever he is. As any of us look back on our lives we can see how he used some subtle thing and before we realized it we were carried away. Did you ever do anything in your life that you never thought you would do? You never thought you would do it at all. That just shows that we didn't realize what a clever enemy we have. He knew just a way to present the thing to catch us off guard and lead us into some path that dishonored the Lord. Oh how wonderful that God in His wondrous grace has fully measured the situation and has provided what's necessary to meet it with His word and by the power of the Spirit. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood" simply means here that when Israel entered the promised land they used literal swords and their enemies came out against them in conflict to put them to death. It was literal carnage. But we wrestle not against flesh and blood. We are not to take the sword and cut people's heads off. We're not to harm people bodily but we do have a spiritual conflict. It is a spiritual one. So it says: "Against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world." That means that Satan is the god and prince of this world and he has this whole world arranged religiously, politically, and through its entertainments and pleasures to try to make this world a place where man will be satisfied away from God. The Lord Jesus said: "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he cometh he taketh all his armor wherein he trusted and divideth the spoil." (Luke 11:21) Well that strong man armed is Satan, this world is his palace, and unsaved people are his goods. Yes, this world is Satan's palace. You get the weekly or monthly magazines and what are they full of?

Well it's Satan's palace isn't it? It's just thrilling to read about the advancements of science and all that they are doing to make this world such a marvelous place. You young people just love to read those things and see the wonders of science, don't you? To see all about man's progress, what they're doing, and what they're going to do within ten years. It just thrills you. Do you know why all this is being done? Satan's trying to make you contented with this world. He's trying to make you think this world is a grand place, a palace. If you are not saved you are part of his goods and he doesn't want you to be disturbed. He doesn't want you to know that judgment is coming. He doesn't want you to think that this world is soon to be burned up. Oh no, he doesn't want you to think about that at all. He wants you to think this world is a palace, a grand place, but it isn't. It isn't. The perception of it is of God.

The Christian, as one has often said, is the only person who has an intelligent outlook on what's going on in the world. The Christian has been brought into the secret of the Lord. He has been told where he came from. He has been told by God what would take place in this world. He has been told about the end of things in this world: the doom of the lost and the blessing of the redeemed. God has put the Christian who

listens to His voice through His Word in an intelligent position so that he can look out on this world and not be taken by surprise. He can realize that the God who is over all is the One who has let him into all His secrets. Oh how wonderful it is dear young people. I can't tell you what a wonderful treasure you have in this book. I just can't tell you how blessed you are to have a Bible in your hand. All the textbooks at school are going to change and change and change if the Lord leaves us here. But, here is a revelation from God where God, who knows all about the world, who made it, who placed man in it, tells us what man is going to do in it. He also tells us what He is doing in His grace in it, tells us of this world's doom, and then tells of the final blessing that will be brought in by the second Man, the Lord Jesus Christ. You and I have been brought into the secret of the Lord. Are you reading the Bible? Are you acquainting yourself with the mind of God? Oh you have a great treasure in this blessed book. It will fortify you against all the attacks of science, infidelity, and atheism if you will just take this blessed book and make it your stronghold, that in which you trust, come what may. So it says here: "Against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." I believe the reason that Satan is called "the prince of the power of the air" in this epistle is because, in this epistle, we are seen as being "blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies." You know when Israel entered the land; the enemy tried to keep them from the possession of the land. But our blessings are up there and the air comes between us and that heavenly scene. So the devil is doing all he can to try to keep us occupied with things in this world so that we won't look beyond this scene in which we live. He's doing his best to keep us occupied, I say, with this world and all its progress, but the Spirit of God is lifting our vision above this scene to those bright and blessed scenes where sin can never come.

The Christian is also looked at like Paul here. Paul said he was "an ambassador in bonds." (Ephesians 6:20) God has sent down ambassadors to this world. He cares for you. He is interested in your boyfriend or your girlfriend. He is interested in your clothes. He is interested in the food you eat. He is interested in all those things. What would you think of a country that sent an ambassador to another and didn't care whether the man had a house to live in or whether he was cared for and had the proper food. Of course, they care for him. But he's sent there, not to take part in the affairs of the country, but to represent his country in the other. That's your part and mine. God does take care about the affairs of your life dear young people. He's interested in your friends. He's interested in your getting along with other young people. He's interested in the health of your body. This is all a concern to Him. But, not to make you an "earth dweller." Not to make you one that expects to find your portion here but, rather, an ambassador. One who is living in this world, in it but not of it. We find ourselves in conflict with the whole principle on which this world operates. The whole principle on which the world operates is to improve conditions and make a palace out of this world. But the principle on which the Christian operates is to go through this world with the hope of the glory before him, with Christ before his soul, and to properly represent Christ in this world that others might learn to know Him and love Him too.

Then we are also viewed as soldiers, as we read in verse 13. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Yes, the evil day. As I said we are always in constant conflict, but there are certain days, certain times, in our lives that could, perhaps, be properly called the evil day. Pardon me for saying it but perhaps youth is more particularly that time in a special way because you are molding your whole life. It's your friendships now, it's whether you're storing your mind with God's word now, it's your attitude toward one another, your part in connection with the meeting, and your testimony to the world that to a large degree is being molded right now. Satan knows that. As I look into your dear young faces, I realize that you only have a short time, but oh how important it is. Oh how I love to see young people who make Christ their choice and who really want to live for Him. I know it's not easy when you are young to set your sights in the proper way because there is so much glitter and tinsel in this world seeking to fill the heart of the young. But oh dear young people let me tell you, you can make mistakes in youth that will spoil the whole rest of your life. You can make mistakes in youth. I was just talking to a man this week; a Christian who loves the Lord and who is a real testimony for the Lord, but his wife is not saved. He said to me: "We took a trip together. She went to see places and things but I went to see people." He wanted to meet the Lord's people wherever he went, but she wanted to see the sights. What a hindrance. He has a divided home. His wife wants the things of this world and he wants heavenly things. Why? Well he made a wrong decision when he was young. He fell in love with a girl that was not saved and the result has been that he has a divided home. You and I can make mistakes in youth that will spoil the rest of our lives. It will mar our fruitfulness and usefulness for the Lord in this world. "Oh," you say, "Doesn't the Lord restore?" Yes, this dear man is restored too but the effects of what he did in his youth are still felt in the governmental ways of God to this very day. Oh may the Lord help you to stand in the evil day of youth. In the time when all these things are especially a real temptation may the Lord Jesus become precious to your heart. May His love so constrain you that you and I, each one of us, but especially you dear young people, will look up and say: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? Help me." "The way of man is not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jeremiah 10:23)

"And having done all to stand." Perhaps you say: "Well I don't seem to be making much progress. I should be learning more." Well here he says; "And having done all, to stand." Are you at least holding what you have? The devil wants to rob you of what you have. It says; "And having done all, to stand." Oh stand for what you have. Do you know Christ as your Savior? Are you gathered to His precious name? Have you got something of His precious truth in your heart that you enjoy? Stand. Walk in the good of it and God will give you more. But make sure that you and I who have something, and if we are saved we do, that we stand for what we have. That we are content to contest it in the face of all that which would seek to rob us of the enjoyment of the things that are ours.

Then it says: "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth." Now you will notice that there are different parts to the armor here. It's quite striking that the first ones given are ones that concern our personal life and walk. The last ones are more connected with the testimony and the conflict outwardly which is the result. But I want to call attention to how it says: "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth." Why is it that Satan succeeds in getting his fiery darts into some of us? The loins are a figure of our emotions or desires. Is it because our loins are not girt about with truth? When you hear that a young person has married an unsaved girl or an unsaved boy you know that that didn't happen all of a sudden. What were they talking about when they went out? Were they talking about the Lord? Oh no. They didn't have their loins girt about or the devil never would have been able to accomplish that defeat in their lives. So let us get right back to the starting place; "Loins girt about with truth." In those ancient countries they had loose clothing, but when they were going to go on the move or run they gathered up this clothing. They pulled it in tight around themselves so it didn't hinder their free movement in whatever they were seeking to do. So it just means this. You can never relax when you are with the world. You can never relax. You can't just let your clothing hang loose, as it were. We have to pull it about us. We all like to relax and there is a place to relax. In fact, I have enjoyed noticing in the 10th chapter of Numbers that when the children of Israel were to make their journey they were to blow the trumpets. It says that when the assembly was to be gathered together; "Ye shall blow, but ye shall not sound an alarm." (Numbers 10:7) But they were to sound an alarm when they went to meet the enemy. I think this is lovely. You can relax in the enjoyment of the fellowship of those who love and seek to follow the Lord, but you can't relax when you go out with the world. You just can't relax. So, the loins are to be girt about. Are you and I keeping our affections and our emotions and all those impulses that are within us under the control of the Word of God? Oh dear young people we are

living in an evil day. The market is flooded with all kinds of things to make appeals to the fallen nature of man. I don't need to tell you this. The world is just full of it. It's horrible. You can hardly go to school, work in an office, or pick up a newspaper or magazine that isn't filled with all kinds of things, that if you don't have your loins girt about, you find yourself caught in the snare of all this modern trend toward freeness. "Freeness" they call it. But what is it? It's setting aside the restraint of God's word. You are told to form your own ideas of what sin is. You are not to be governed by the old ideas. You have to think for yourself. So the loins are not girt about. The mind is not controlled by the word of God if we don't gird up the loins of our mind and be sober. Oh I beseech you dear young people. Have you done this the very first thing? "Loins girt about with truth." Don't allow your emotions, don't allow your feelings, don't allow those evil impulses within your heart to have their free reign in your life. Be sure that you allow the truth of God to place that restraint upon your walk and ways that will keep you from sin; that will keep you from temptation; that will keep you from being thrown right into the very place where you are liable to ruin your life and testimony.

Oh I beseech of you, remember the very first thing: "Holiness in thoughts, holiness in walk." If you and I don't do this there is no use talking about lifting the sword of the Spirit. There's no use talking about lifting the shield of faith. People get carried away with things because they don't pay attention to the first part of the armor. I speak to you dear young people; I plead with you, watch, in this day that you live. The days of Noah, the days of Lot, the days when evil and sin are so on the increase, having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of righteousness. Be careful, it's a crooked and dishonest world. Don't have any part in its evil course. Be honest. Be upright. May your word be known as truth. The Bible says: "But let your communication be yea, yea; nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." (Matthew 5:37) The Bible also says: "The wicked go astray from their mother's womb speaking lies." (Psalm 58:3) I ask you, dear young people, are you careful to tell the truth? You may be deceiving your father and your mother but you can't deceive God. You can't deceive God. I've seen the beginning of a downfall in a young person's life when he starts deceiving his parents and his brethren. He doesn't have on the breastplate of righteousness. He's out doing things and his parents don't know anything about it. He's loving this and loving that in the world and he hasn't got his affections kept under the control of divine righteousness. He's succeeded in hiding it from his parents. He's succeeded in hiding it from others. Oh dear young people, no wonder there's a lack of power in your life. "Is there any secret thing with thee?" (Job 15:11) Have you girded up your loins? Have you got on the breastplate of righteousness? This is what gives power. You know there is a quiet power in a Christian's life who is asking the Lord what he should do and who is walking uprightly and not pretending to be what he's not. Oh you say: "But I'm a failure and I wouldn't like my parents even to know what a failure I am." They want to know. They would rather know the truth about you and they can pray for you. They want to know because they love you and they want to help you. You are only deceiving yourself and harming yourself if you are trying to cover up. Be honest with yourself and with God and be real and the Lord can bless you. "Having on the breastplate of righteousness." There's no better friend you have in the world than your parents. Your parents love you. They want to help you. May the Lord grant that we'll be kept and preserved, dear young people.

"Having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." The Christian is to walk through this world having his "feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." That is, he is to walk in a peace and a quietness in this world, which is the result of communion with the Lord. Well this often condemns us. In other words, we're not to be what the world calls "worrywarts." We're not to be always going about worrying about this and that. But, there ought to be with us a peace and a quietness which is the result of accepting our circumstances as from the Lord. Perhaps I hear some young person say: "Oh but I've had a lot of disappointment in my life. I've had a lot of frustration. It's terribly difficult, more difficult than you understand, brother Hayhoe. You don't realize. You're older now and you don't understand what it is to have these disappointments and frustrations." I say, does the Lord know about them? Does He know all about them? Is He able to give you peace in your heart so that you can go on? The world would expect you to be happy if everything is coming your way. But, they'll see the life of Christ in you if they see you in the midst of frustration and disappointment and they still see you walking in a peace and a quietness and a love that they don't know anything about. There's no testimony to the world that compares with a Christian in the midst of his trials and sorrows and yet he's walking in quietness and peace before God. Those in the office are watching you. The friends at school are watching you. They know the way they would act when everything was going wrong. A man was working with another man and he said he'd never noticed how he chopped wood or anything, but one time when he was chopping he hit his finger. He noticed that. The unsaved man looked on and he said: "Do you know what the man said? Why," he said, "He just turned to the Lord quietly and didn't get mad. I couldn't get over that." Why, there was a man whose feet were shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The unsaved man would never have known that that man was walking with God if he hadn't hit his finger while he was chopping the wood.

This is a testimony; in the midst of our frustrations and disappointments that there can be a peace that reigns in the soul and displays itself in the walk of the Christian. "Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

Then it says: "Above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Satan's great attempt is to disturb the faith of the Christian. I don't believe, primarily, that this refers to the faith in connection with salvation. I believe it includes that, but, primarily, I believe the thought in this is faith in connection with God's ways with us. That is, I believe that Satan's great attempt today is to work on God's people through discouragement. I won't take time to turn to it but I'll quote the passage in 1 Peter 5. It says: "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7) Then in the next verse it says: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith." (1 Peter 5:8,9) The point is just this: if we don't cast our cares upon the Lord, then Satan comes in and through his tool of discouragement gains the victory over us. I've seen it happen over and over again. I've seen Christians who have gone on fairly well, but when discouragement comes Satan gets the victory. Satan couldn't lead them into the world. He couldn't lead them into moral evil. He couldn't lead them into going after progress and being a great person in the world. Oh, but he surely can succeed in getting us discouraged. He surely can succeed. Perhaps some of you young people feel that he's doing that right now in your heart. You've been at these meetings. You've enjoyed the ministry, but down underneath there's something that is discouraging you. You just feel discouraged. Things haven't worked out the way you would like them to work and you just feel discouraged. Well, if you don't cast that care on the Lord, Satan has found your weak point. Satan has found your weak point. It says, "Be sober, be vigilant" because it's when we are discouraged that Satan comes in. This is the way he comes in. He says something like this: "Well if God really loves you why did He let that happen? You were trying to please the Lord and now He let this big disappointment come. Oh, how can He really love you and seek your blessing if it all worked out that way?" Did he ever say that to you? He's said it to me. Yes, he knows how to get us discouraged. If we listen to him what's going to happen? He's going to get the victory. He's going to say: "Well don't follow the Lord too closely, You'll just have more disappointments. Just let loose a little bit and you'll have it easier. You will get along better." Oh, how clever he is! What should we do when disappointments and trials come? Cast them upon

the Lord. Dear young person, He cares! He cares! He loved you enough to stoop from heaven's glory, to die on the cross of Calvary to save your soul. He's purposed for you the richest and fullest and sweetest place in eternal glory. I firmly believe in my own soul that the ones who are going to have the richest and sweetest place in heaven are not the ones that haven't had any disappointments and frustrations in life.

You know, I was just reading about John the Baptist. Poor John the Baptist served the Lord so faithfully. The Lord said there wasn't a man like him. He said: "Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist." (Luke 7:28) But John the Baptist had disappointment. John the Baptist was cast into prison. He heard that the Lord was going about doing miracles and John thought: "Well if the Lord is the real Messiah, why doesn't He set me free? I can't understand it. I served Him. I announced His coming and now He appears on the scene and I land in prison." His faith was so shaken that he sent a message to the Lord, saying: "Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3) Can't you realize the disappointment there was in his heart? Hadn't he served the Lord the way he should? Of course he had. He couldn't understand it. So, when the disciples of John came to inquire, the Lord wrought all those miracles in front of them. Then He said: "Go and show John again these things which ye do hear and see:...And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in Me." (Matthew 11:4,6) But then what did He say to the multitude after they left? He said: "What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?" (Matthew 11:7) That was what John was just then. He was a reed shaken with the wind. Did you ever feel like that yourself? The Lord said: "Is that what you went to see? No, that isn't what you went to see. You went to see the greatest among those born of women." (Paraphrase Matthew 11:6-11) There wasn't a person to be compared to John the Baptist. Oh isn't this lovely! If it had been you or I we might have thought the Lord would have criticized. But the Lord spoke of what was so beautiful in John's life and He just simply gave that little word for John. "Blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in Me." (Matthew 11:6) It may be that the Lord is using those very things to draw your heart to Himself. If everything went your way you might not feel the need of dependence in the same way. But He has allowed those things and if you could only hear what He's saying about you and what He thinks of you, you would be surprised dear young person. He hasn't missed a thing that you did to please the Lord. He hasn't missed a thing!

Did He let John get beheaded? Yes He did. For John had finished the work the Lord intended him to do. The Lord intended him to announce His coming and that work was finished. So the Lord took him "Home". The Lord has something for you and Ito do in this world. It may not be in the path that we expect but He has something for us to do. May it be enough for our souls that we've done what He wants us to do. That was Paul's desire. He said: "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." (Acts 20:24) So let's remember this about the shield of faith: those fiery darts, those doubts, not doubts about salvation so much, but doubts about God's ways with you. I've enjoyed this in the end of Matthew. It tells us, when the Lord appeared to His own in the appointed place: "When they saw Him, they worshipped Him: but some doubted." (Matthew 28:17) Some doubted. You know, Thomas spoke out his doubts. But that verse shows us that there were others doubting beside Thomas. Maybe there are some that speak out their doubts but there are some that don't. Some hold them in to themselves. But the Lord knew their hearts and how did He answer those doubts. He said: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." (Matthew 28:18) If there is some doubt in your mind about the Lord's ways, remember that. "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." If the Lord wanted to take you out of that circumstance it would be so easy for Him to do it. But He hasn't. May the Lord give you and I that grace to lift the shield of faith. It will quench the fiery darts. They will fall if we lift the shield of faith and are content to walk in the path of His will.

Then it says: "And take the helmet of salvation." Well, just a little word about this. The helmet of salvation, that's for the head. I'd just like to say a little word for those who are going to school and college. We are living in great days of reasoning. We're living in days when there is so much argument in connection with the things of God. Be sure that you have the helmet of salvation upon your head. Be careful, when you start to discuss the Word of God that you never allow yourself to get beyond "Thus saith the Lord". We need that because Satan attacks the head. He does that because he knows if you begin to question God's Word you are in trouble. So, he attacks the most vulnerable place. To you dear young people who are going to school, be sure you have the helmet of salvation and that you walk in that quiet, simple faith that doesn't allow you to question what God has said. What God has said is the truth. You can stand firmly on it and be sure that it can never be shaken. The Lord said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but My word shall not pass away." (Mark 13:31)

Last of all: "The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Notice it doesn't say "my sword" or "your sword" but "the sword of the Spirit". It's put last because the only way there can be an effective testimony in your life and mine is that we walk in obedience to God's word. You see, the enemy is trying to hinder you from being a good soldier of Jesus Christ. He's trying to hinder us from being in this world as a testimony for Him. If he can get us "wounded", then how can we use the sword? A wounded man, the sword drops out of his hand. So you see God makes full provision, first in our walk, then of our talk. So He says: "Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." This is the only offensive weapon that the Christian has. The only way that you and I can really accomplish anything in this world is not by the keenness of our arguments, but by living to please the Lord and using the word of God. The two things go together. The testimony we live and the testimony we speak. Gideon's men had a lamp and they had a trumpet. In Philippians it says: "Ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life." (Philippians 2:15,16) There are the two parts to the Christian's testimony: the life we live, which we've been considering, and our spoken testimony. That is the word of God, the sword of the Spirit. It's only as we're living in communion by the Spirit that we can effectively use the Word. Satan used the Word on the Lord, but Satan used the Word to try to get the Lord out of the path of obedience. You know, sometimes I've actually heard Christians use the word of God in an attempt to lead some other Christian to do some worldly thing. It's possible to do that. Satan did, and Satan can use you to do it too. He can use me to do it. We can even take the word of God as a means to serve our own ends. So, people will take the word of God out of context and use it in that way. The only way that it can be used for blessing is as it's used in communion by the Spirit. So the Lord, in answering Satan, answered by the word of God in the power of the Spirit and Satan was overcome.

Then it says: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Well, God has told us about the whole armor and now he concludes with this: "praying always with all prayer and supplication." Obedience and dependence are so important. Are you and I on our knees?

Dear young people, Satan and this world are more than a match for us. We can't meet these things in our own wisdom and strength. God has given us what is necessary for the conflict in the whole armor of God. But then He has said: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication." Oh, I ask you, when difficulties come, do they lead you to your knees? When they come do they lead me to my knees? Oh you say: " I wring my hands. I feel so upset. I just boil inside." Well, did you ever get any victory that way? Of course not. May God grant that each time Satan attacks we'll just be sure we have put on the armor, and have sought to be before the Lord that our own life would be such as would be

pleasing to Him. Then get down on our knees and say: “Lord this is a difficult situation. Keep me. Keep me. I can’t keep myself.” We need His keeping grace. So I say again as I close, dear young people, we’re living in difficult days. The Lord is about to come. May the Lord keep us for His praise and His glory. May the Lord grant that you, dear young people, who are looking out in life, may have your lives ordered in such a way that He will be glorified and that you will become a blessing to those you contact. That you will become a blessing in the assembly where you are, and may each one of us seek to live day by day in this world waiting the time when the Lord Jesus will come and take us out of the scene of conflict. When, as the little hymn says:

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But be sure you don’t lay down your armor too soon. Don’t lay it down. As long as you and I are here we’re going to need it. But, when we reach that home then we can lay the armor down. We can, as it were, ungird the clothes. I’ve often said: “To me, one of the joys of thinking about heaven is first, the joy of seeing the Lord. I love to think that I’m going to be in a place where I can fully relax. I can fully relax.” I believe that when you and I get to heaven the first thought that will come into our minds is: “This is home. This is home.” When you get home you throw off your hat, you throw off your coat, you take off your shoes. This is home. You relax. Isn’t it grand brethren that when we get to glory and look around, or within, we will not see a thing that hinders, or that we won’t be able to enjoy to the full. Yes, that’s home. That is heaven. That’s what is before us. But this is the scene of conflict. May the Lord keep us soldiers for Him until that day when we reach “Home” and we throw off the things that shackle us down here and enjoy in his presence the fullness of all that His love and all that His death at Calvary has won for us. “Forever with the Lord.” To have His “well done” will surely be more than a compensation for anything we could do for Him.

Toledo Conference: 1983, Givers as God's Children

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Could we look, brethren, at Ephesians chapter 5? Ephesians chapter 5 and verse one. Be therefore followers of God as dear children, 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 sweet smelling savour. Could we turn also to 1St Epistle of John, First Epistle of John and the 4th chapter, verse 16? And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Here in his our love, or the margin love with us made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as He is, so are we in this world. There is No Fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear. Because fear hath taught he that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him because he first loved us. And then one other verse in Acts chapter 20. Acts Chapter 20. And the 35th verse. I have showed you all things, how that soul laboring, he ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how that he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Well, our brother has just spoken to us about how abundant provision has been made a leader for us, the captain of our salvation, and also how he is there as our great High Priest and our advocate. That I was thinking also of how not only is the help supplied that we need for our pathway, but here we see, I believe, the outgoing of love that reaches out to others and seeks their blessing. And I believe that is so important for us. Our brother remarked in the young people's meeting how that it was said by another that Christianity is known by what it brings and not by what it finds. And when the Lord Jesus came into this world, what did he find? He found everything that was opposed to God and to that which he had come to display as the perfect man and as the one who came to tell out. Father's heart here in this world, everything was opposed to it, but there was that in His blessed heart that rose above every situation. All the wickedness of man, all that they did to him, and all that misunderstanding that he had never changed that heart that he had. He had come to tell out the heart of God. And as it says, God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. Not imputing their trespasses unto them, that is, he was in this world. Seeking to show man what was in the heart of God. And so when that woman was brought to him, taken in sin, he said, neither do I condemn thee. It was not that he didn't condemn the sin, but he had come to bear her condemnation so that he could say to her, Neither do I condemn thee. How wondrous to trace that blessed pathway of love here through this world, how it touches our hearts. As I believe it was Mr. Ballot who said when he read the Gospels here, he said I found a man. Who never did one thing to please himself. His whole blessed pathway. Was the outflow of the heart of God. And when man's evil rose to its height, as it did at the cross, where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. There was that love that rose above all that man was and all that he is. And rather than I believe we need to get this into our souls, we need to realize more of that love so that it would not only be something that we know, something that we know for ourselves, but you know, our natural hearts are selfish. Haman in the book of Esther said, to whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself?

And I'm afraid secretly in our own hearts, that is a great deal of our thought. That everything should be done for us. Everything should be done to make us happy. Everything should be done for our pleasure and for our happiness, and this is the way the world operates. It operates on the principle of selfishness. But God has brought a new principle into your life and mine, a principle that was displayed in perfection in the blessed Lord Jesus as He walked through this world. Oh, how beautiful those words in Ephesians chapter 5. Christ also hath loved us. And have given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour. God delighted to have his heart told out and there was only one person who could do it perfectly. The cost was great, far greater than our hearts will ever know. But the Lord Jesus came to display that and it tells us He offered himself to God. A sacrifice for a sweet smelling savour. How God delighted as he looked down and saw one man in this world in whom he could find all his delight. Twice in the pathway of the Lord Jesus we find the heavens open, and the Father's voice saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. The whole race of humanity had dishonored him, had turned against him, had not appreciated his sending His son-in-law. But there was one here who pleased him in everything that he did, and offered himself to God as a sweet smelling savor. His whole delight and joy was to do His Father's will. As I said before, he never did one thing to please Himself. You don't find even a miracle, although He had the power that he did for His own comfort. That is rather striking, isn't it? Why, If we had the power, how quickly we would do miracles to help ourselves in problems, How readily we would use it if it was available? Because we're naturally selfish beings. But the Lord Jesus did everything for the glory of His Father and for the good of others. When he was hungry, he wouldn't turn stones into bread without a word from his father. But when that multitude were hungry, he could turn a boy's lunch into food for the whole company. He had power, but he didn't use it for himself. And I believe, brethren, that this is something that needs to get hold of our souls, and that is that we are not just a called upon to be receivers, but we are called upon to be givers. We are called upon first to give. Praise and Thanksgiving as we think of all that He has done for us. And then too, as it tells us in John 316, it says God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. How we praise God for that

wonderful verse, and what God has done for us in giving His Son and giving us everlasting life. But first John chapter 3 and verse 16 says. And this was manifested the love of God toward us in that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. There ought to be that willingness that we have the privilege, and what an unspeakable privilege it is, and that we can be givers here in this world. And so he says that this work that the Lord Jesus did. A unique work, a work in which we could have no part. It was his and his alone. But that we can manifest that same spirit, we can walk in love. We can be imitators of God as dear children, we can give ourselves, and that is what God desires that we should do, that we should give ourselves. Paul said in Romans 12 and verse one. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which here's your reasonable, reasonable or your intelligent.

Serve us. And so here it tells us that we are to walk in love and we are to bring love into all the situations as the Lord Jesus did in his blessed pathway here. And then we find over in that passage that we read in. First Epistle of John. How this is possible? Says here. In the 17th verse here in His, our love or love with us made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as He is, so are we in this world. Isn't that a beautiful expression? Love with us? That is, God had shown His love, but we didn't respond to it. We didn't appreciate it. So what did God do? Well, He has given us. That responds. He has given to us the very life of Christ. And so to me, this is a most beautiful expression. Love with us. You might love a person and the person doesn't respond, but if the person responds as you would wish, then you can say love with us. It's something you share together because they enter into and enjoy what you were trying to show to them and respond to it. And that is exactly what God has done. He has given to us a life that is capable of. Loving a life that enables us to manifest that love down here in this world. As it tells us in Second Corinthians chapter 4, always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be seen in our bodies. That is, our natural hearts are selfish. We think of ourselves, we think of our own interest, we think of all that concerns ourselves about as we put that. Old nature into the place of death, and then we display in a practical way. What the Lord Jesus displayed down here, because we have his life and so that we display the life of Jesus and it says as he is, so are we in this world. Brethren, will not be any more fit for heaven when the Lord comes than we are right now. We will not have a different life in heaven than we possess right now. We already possess the life that we will have up there in. Forever. We possess it now, and He would have us, as the IT tells us in the epistle to Jude. It says looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Oh, you say, don't we already possess it? Yes, but we possess that life in a world where everything is different from it. If a fish were taken out of the water and laid upon the shore. It still has a fish life, but it's out of its element and if the fish could talk, it would say. Please put me in my element. Brethren, God has given us a life that suited to heaven. And as we see the world getting worse and worse, our hearts say all want to be grand, to be in our element. But brethren, we're here. And what can we display down here in this world? The new life that we possess? And that is what He's telling us here. In this in this 19th verse it says we love him. I might mention here that in the new translation the word Him is omitted. It's just simply we love because he first loved us. The word Him is omitted. You say. Well, that kind of spoils the verse for me. No, brethren, it doesn't because we love Him, but it's much, it's much wider. We love his too. We love, We have the capacity to love. Sometimes we might say. Well, I find it so hard to love that brother. God says, oh, you don't need to say that. I've given you a life that is capable of lovely loving. Even though there's no response. The Lord didn't find any response from our hearts, but he still loved us and he gave himself on Calvary Cross to display that love. And let us never say, oh, I couldn't love that brother. You can. You already possess the life of Christ we love. Why? Because we're better than other people? Because we're nicer dispositions? No, because he first loved us. He loved us with a love that love because of what it is in itself, not because of something in the object. If there's a stream flowing down the mountainside, why? If you put a barrier in the way, what does the stream do? Well, it just rises a little higher, doesn't it? And the bigger the barrier, you put in the way.

As long as there's plenty of water in the source, the higher the water rises. And all the barriers that men put in the way of the display of that love only caused it to flow out in a wider sphere. As the hymn writer said, the river of Thy grace, through righteousness supplied, is flowing ore, the barren place where Jesus died. And so here we have. We love because he first loved us. And again, that verse that we read in Acts, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Well, we have received so much that it just overflows our hearts when we think of what we have received. And we can only say, if I should declare and speak of what He has done for me, it's more than can be numbered. We can't reckon the things up in order that He has done for us. But now it says. We have the privilege of giving. Because He has given us of His spirit, He has given us this new life. Let's turn over to the epistle of Jude. I just like to read from the 20th verse. But ye beloved, building up yourselves, our most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some having have compassion making a difference, and others say with fear pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garments spotted by the flesh. Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling or stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Here we find what sometimes been spoken of as the four anchors, and I believe we could think of them in this way. That ship that was waiting for the break of day didn't have a wreck until they took up the four anchors. But when they took up the four anchors, then there was a wreck even though they all got safely to shore. And here we have 4 anchors. Building up your cells on your most holy faith seems to me. Answer to reading the word praying in the Holy Ghost. That's prayer. Keep yourselves in the love of God, that is keeping the enjoyment of His love. Just like I might say to my child on a day when it's cold out but the sun is shining, I say, well, stay in the sunshine. It's nice and warm. If you stay in the sunshine. It's a cold world, brethren. The sun is shining, and you and I can keep in the sunshine. And then it says, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Why we just long for the time when we're going to be taken out of this scene where everything is so contrary to the life that we possess. But this little expression in the end of the 24th verse I had particularly before me. That he's able to keep us from stumbling. And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

Conference: 1989, Speak the Truth in Love

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

There are a few scriptures I'd like to read first of all in First Timothy chapter 3, First Timothy chapter 3, and verse 15. But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the House of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth, and without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh. Justified in the spirit scene of angels preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory. I'd also like to turn to the Book of Job, the 32nd chapter. Job chapter 32 and verse 8. I'll read verse 7. I said days shall speak in multitude of years shall teach wisdom. But there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of

the Almighty giveth them understanding. Romans, chapter 8. Romans, chapter 8. And verse 16. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. Galatians, chapter 6. And verse 18. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit. Amen. And then Second Timothy 422, the verse that we have right up here. Second Timothy, chapter 4 and verse 22. The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy Spirit, grace be with you. Amen. I'd like to look at some other Scriptures also, but what I had in mind, brethren, is particularly what this verse speaks of. When I sat down in my seat in the first meeting, they were just putting up this verse, and I thought how very, very important it is. I believe in what we read here in First Timothy chapter 3. We have brought before us what the church is in the world, and I was thinking particularly of the second part. That is the spirit in which we do things. I believe that's all very important, brethren. We find the importance of standing for the truth, but we have a pattern, an example, a person in this world, and it says as they listen to him, they wondered at the gracious words that proceeded out of his mouth. How often in speaking about the truth and for the truth, we don't show that spirit. I've heard people say, well, it was just the way he said it. It wasn't what he said. It was the way he said it. It wasn't just. The way he put it before it was the way he acted. And I believe, brethren, that these two things are very important. In the meetings that we have had before, our brethren have brought before us the importance of standing for the whole truth of God, and that's why I read what I did in first Timothy chapter 3. I think it's very important what is brought before us in those two verses. In the 16th, 15th verse it says the Church of the living God, which is the pillar and ground of the truth. And then in the 16th verse we have the secret of godliness, not the secret of God, but the secret of godliness. So we have in the first verse, the 15th verse, rather we have what the Church of God is as standing for the whole truth of God. And what we have in the 16th verse. Is the pattern for our walk. Isn't this beautiful? And God has set something here in this world. Our brother has been talking to us about this present evil world, but God has set something in this world. The Church of the living God. Those who have been called out from nature's darkness, those who have been delivered from this present evil world and brought into a wonderful place where God has made himself known. He has shown to us his. Character of light and love. He has shown us how we should act, and it's very interesting. In this first epistle of Timothy, we have almost every part of human life brought before us. We have the whole pattern of life, even such things as our attitude toward our relatives. It even mentions bodily exercise. It mentions all the things that concern our everyday life. And so we have in this epistle a people put here in this world who have the truth of God. How thankful we should be for this. And as it was brought before us, we should earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints. It's not our truth, it's not brethren's truth, it's God's truth.

And we have been given a responsibility as being part of the Church of the living God, to uphold, to stand for, to practice the whole truth of God. What a privilege it is. Oh, how wonderful that we have a revelation from God that we're not left to our own thoughts, how we should gather. We're not left to our own thoughts, how we should act in our home life, in our attitude toward authority. And even in playing, I've often said to our children. And how they should show, even in the way they play, that they play like Christians. There should be everything in our lives that would speak to the fact that we are here in this world as those who know what is the mind and will of God. Oh, I say again, let us stand faithfully for the whole truth of God. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth. We don't expect the world to stand for the truth. But. What a privilege to be gathered to the precious name of the Lord Jesus and to give expression to the truth as God has given it to us and to uphold every part. We have no right to set aside one part. We shouldn't say some truth is important and some is not. It's all the truth of God. May we value it. May we stand for it. But in this in this 16th verse it says. Without controversy, great is the mystery of I want you to notice godliness, not God, the mystery of godliness. And what is it? Well, there was a person who walked through this world and every word he spoke was to the glory of God his father. But everything he did was a perfect display of what was pleasing to God. What is godliness? It's God likeness. God likeness. And so as they saw this person walking. And through this world it says of him, he that has seen me has seen the Father, They saw one in this world, whoever did everything to please his Father. The tone of his voice when he stood up in that synagogue of Galilee where there was much antagonism and enmity, He wondered at the gracious words that proceeded out of his mouth. And so I believe, brethren, that those verses that we read in Timothy there bring before us. What the church really is in the world, shall I say it again, standing for the whole truth. And as the world looks on, they ought to see us like Christ, like Christ. That's the pattern of godliness, His pathway which ended in the glory. Now the reason I turned over to Job was to show it says there is a spirit in man and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding. That is. Man is a triune being, spirit, soul and body and the spirit is the God conscious part of our being and God has given man that link with himself and then he has given us instruction in His Word. The inspiration and all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. So in that verse there in the 32nd chapter. Of job, it tells us. It tells us this here was a lie, Hugh. And this is what I think is so nice and what I'd like to bring out here. He had been sitting and listening to job talk. He had been listening to his three friends talk, and they said some things that weren't very nice. But here he sat quietly by. He kept his spirit under control, so to speak. He didn't **** in. He was a younger person. And he thought, well, I'm just going to sit and listen. And as he listened, he heard all the things that they were saying. And he courteously waited until they were done talking, and then he spoke out, and he spoke for the Lord. And I think it's very lovely the attitude that he took. I've been very much struck by the advice that he gave to Joel. He said to Job it surely it is meat to be said unto God that which I see not teach thou me. If I have done iniquity, I will do it no more. He didn't follow the.

Idea of his friends of putting a lot of blame on Job, but he said Job, the Lord has something to say to you. Why don't you ask him to show you? Your friends haven't shown you and you haven't shown a very good attitude yourself. But he didn't say that. But that was what was behind it. He showed the right spirit. He showed the right spirit and he said you ought to ask the Lord to show you. And the Lord did show Job and what he didn't learn from his friends who showed a bad attitude. He learned when he just listened and said, Lord show me. And so he got into the presence of God and he was blessed. But Joel had to show the right spirit too. And the Lord didn't turn his captivity till he prayed for his friends. Maybe somebody has spoken to you and said some very nice things, but nothing will be right with you unless you show the right spirit in return. And what's the easiest way to get bad feeling? Out of your mind, your mind, Pray for him, pray for them. And the Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends. Has somebody hurt you and perhaps you're holding a bad feeling? Well, the best way to get rid of that Brad feeling is to pray for them. Job prayed for his friends. And so we see that Job got a blessing. And we see a nice spirit shown in the way Elihu spoke to him. And then we turn over to Romans 8. I just like to make a little comment about what we have there. Romans chapter 8 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, And if children, then heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, if so be, that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. Here we find it says the Spirit, that's the Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit. I'm seeking to bring out, brethren, how there is our spirit in the Word of God, and you and I ought to walk in the conscious knowledge through this world of a relationship with God as our Father, and that we're heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Wouldn't we walk a lot happier through this world if every day we began and thought, isn't it wonderful? I'm a child of God? God is my father if I see somebody getting ahead of me in the. Office or if I see somebody getting ahead of me, perhaps in school or something, isn't it wonderful to be able to say, well, I'm an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ, and nothing can take away that inheritance, that portion that I have in him? Oh, how different things would be. Oh, brethren, I feel that most of our troubles come from bad attitudes. We haven't got the right attitude toward things. Things we don't show the right spirit and I feel that these verses bring before us that which we ought to walk in the conscious

enjoyment of it in our spirit that is in the God conscious part of our being. When you get up in the morning, I say just to get up and if there's been something that hurts you and somebody did something unkind, just say to yourself, I'm a child of God. God is my father. I'm rich because I'm an heir of God. God and a joint heir with Christ. Oh how happy and blessed we would be if we just laid hold of this. And then we find in those verses that we read Galatians. The last chapter of Galatians. Galatians, chapter 6. In this epistle the apostle was very grieved. There were those who were seeking to put the Saints under law. We might call him Judaizing teachers. The apostle Paul had to be very, very firm. He even called what they were preaching another gospel. He even said let him be accursed. But I think it's very beautiful the way the epistle closes by saying, brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with your spirit. You know we can stand for truth and maintain truth in the wrong spirit. We can act in, shall I say, a knowledge that we know things perhaps a little better than somebody else. But I think it's very lovely where we see this epistle where the apostle had to write so definitely and so firmly about the error that was coming in that he said the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Have you ever had an experience when perhaps you or perhaps I have two?

Something out of turn and someone came along and corrected you. If they said it in a nice spirit, it was easy to receive, wasn't it? And you learned and you profited by it. You said that brother spoke to me, but he showed such a nice spirit, I couldn't help but receive what he said. Well, when Paul speaks in this epistle where it's standing particularly very much for doctrine, we find that he. The epistle by saying the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit. What is grace? Grace is the unmerited favor of God. Did I deserve anything from God but judgment? No, not in myself. But oh how wonderful how he has acted toward me, how patient he has been, how gracious. Well, brethren, may we speak the truth in love, may we maintain. In love, then we come over there to. First Timothy, this verse that Second Timothy, rather this verse that our brethren put up here for us. I'm going to read it again in the last chapter of. Second Timothy, 22nd verse. The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy Spirit, grace be with you. Amen. In the second epistle all Asia had turned away from Paul. There were a lot of things that must have grieved him. And rather than we're living in difficult days, we see divisions have come in among the people of God. Trials and sorrows have come in. And Paul writes this epistle to encourage a young man named Timothy to stand for and maintain the truth of God. We'll speak a little bit of it later, but I think it's very lovely to see how he closes this epistle, he says. The Lord Jesus Christ isn't that wonderful. That is, there's a person. There's not only the Spirit in which we do things, but you say perhaps I just can't do it. It gets me down. It bothers me so much, The Lord Jesus Christ. Next time you feel down, next time you feel discouraged at the things that we see and the things that are happening. And coldness and indifference that we find. In our own hearts, isn't it just lovely to think as though the Lord came beside you and he said, I'll help you to show the right spirit. I'll help you not to get down about these things. And if we did, brethren, then when we came, what an encouragement we would be to one another. What a help we would be. Sometimes it may even be a sister who doesn't speak publicly in the meeting, but just that she has a cheerful. Countenance the way she greets you after the meeting when she has a little word to say. It just uplifts you. It doesn't have to be a brother, it can be a sister. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. But here better still, the Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. A person, a person who walked in this world, who hated sin far more than I do. And yet, when his disciples were quarreling, who would be? Be the greatest, He said, Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations, and I appoint unto you a Kingdom as my Father hath appointed me. I'm afraid I wouldn't have talked like that. I would have been kind of sharp if I had been there, perhaps. But he said, You've gone along with me, and He picked out out of their lives and that which was so precious and acceptable to him. And now let's turn over. I'd like to turn over to Numbers and Numbers Chapter 14. Numbers, Chapter 14. And verse 4. And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the Congregation of the Children of Israel. And passing on to. The 11TH. And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will his people provoke me, and how long will it be ere they believe me? For all the signs which I have showed among them, I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation, and mightier than they.

The 17th verse. And now I beseech thee, let the power of the Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken. The Lord is long-suffering and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the 3rd and 4th generation. Pardon, I beseech thee the iniquity of this people, according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people from. Egypt even until now. And the Lord said, I have pardoned according to thy word. Here was a very, very sad page in Israel. The spies had gone in and they had seen the good land that God had given to them, but they brought back a discouraging report, all except to Caleb and Joshua. They saw the wonderful land that God was going to give them, but they got their eyes upon the walled cities and the giants and all the difficulties, and they said it's no use, it's far too hard. And perhaps some of us have sat in these meetings. And said, well, it's lovely to hear the ministry, but it's difficult when I get back home, it's altogether different. There's a lot of giants and there's a lot of problems and you don't know how difficult it is. And he got very, very discouraged. And the Lord was grieved because he was going to bring them into that good land. He had promised to do it. And brethren, if we just had a view of what's ahead of us. We'd be the happiest people on earth. If we could only see Paul was caught up to the 3rd heaven and it filled him with ecstasy so that he just longed to be there. And so these spies, the ten of them, at least they brought back this bad report. And the Lord was displeased. And the Lord gave Moses an opportunity. He said, Moses, I'll destroy this nation and I'll start all over again with you. That was quite a temptation, wasn't it? He would have been a very important person. He would have been the head of another nation. This was something that might have appealed to himself. Sometimes we get a kind of a feeling like poor Elijah. I only am left and they seek my life. But what about what about the Moses at this time? Did he accept this offer? Did he said yes, Lord, destroy them and I'll be faithful and I'll be the head of. Another nation that will be faithful. No, he said, Lord, please pardon them. Please pardon them. What a lovely attitude the grace of the Lord was with his Spirit. He met the difficulty and instead of saying yes, they're all at fault and looking at all their failures, which were very real, he made nothing of himself. He said it's God's people I want to see blessed brethren, that's the spirit that. We need that's as we return. This is one of the last meetings and as we return home, wouldn't it be lovely if we all went home with this same attitude that dear Moses showed on this occasion? He said pardon them and bring them into blessing and God did, he brought them into blessing. I say again, this was very, very lovely to see this spirit that he showed and everything was all wrong. Everything was wrong in Galatia where they were putting themselves back under law. And Paul says the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. All those in Asia had turned away from Paul and he's exhorting Timothy and he says Timothy. Have the Lord Jesus Christ be with thy Spirit. And now here's Moses, I say, and everything is wrong in Israel. And he says, Lord, pardon this people, bring them into blessing. And that's the spirit that you and I need to show brethren as I have gone about. I know and you know how many difficulties there are among us because we're too much occupied with what people think of.

Us or say about us, instead of really seeking the good and the blessing of the Saints of God, having that love that's in the heart of the Lord Jesus toward his people. It's hard to say. It got a little too much for Moses, and if you turn over to Psalm 106. Psalm 106. I'm going to read a few verses in the beginning of the chapter. Praise ye the Lord, Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can show forth all His praise? Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth

righteousness at all times. Remember Me, O Lord, with the favor that thou bearest unto thy people. All visit me with thy salvation, that I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance. And now turn on to the 32nd verse of this chapter. They angered him also at the waters of strife. So it went. I'll with Moses for their sakes, because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips. He met the first situation, very lovely. He asked the Lord to take these people for an inheritance. Did they appreciate it? No, they didn't appreciate it. They didn't say thank you, Moses. For Moses things got worse, says in this chapter, they envied Moses and they envied Aaron the Saint of God. And so at last it got into his spirit. And perhaps you said, oh, it just got into me. It it just got me down. And that's what happened with Moses. I have a little article at home often speaks to my heart. It's called the provoked spirit. And it says what is a provoked spirit. It says a wrong attitude about wrong things. You say where things right there that he was upset. No, they were wrong. Did he do right by getting angry about it? No. They provoked his spirit and he spoke unadvisedly with his lips. Oh, brethren, we need that prayer. The psalmist set a door to my lips. Oh, we we so often say things hurriedly and we can't take them back. You can't. We can say we're sorry, but the harm that they do remains. Dear Moses. And later on when the time came that the Lord was going to bring the people into the land. Moses wanted to have that privilege to lead them into the land. And the Lord said, no, Moses, you didn't sanctify me. You didn't show the character that I wanted you to show toward my people. Does the Lord ever give up his people? Never. He's going to present the church without spot, or a wrinkle, or any such thing. What a day of gladness it will be when you and I see the whole redeemed company, and as they are brought there into the presence of the Lord, all to join in that blessed song. Thou art worthy, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred and tongue and people, and. On a previous occasion, when he had an opportunity that he could have exalted himself, he took the low place and said, No, Lord. Bless thy people, forgive them, pardon them. But now gets into His spirit. Is there something getting into your spirit or mine? Is there something among the Saints of God even gathered to His name? It's sort of getting into your spirit. And it's very easy to speak on advisedly with our lips, and we may lose an opportunity that we can never regain. An opportunity that we could be a help, but we can never regain it because we spoke unadvisedly with our lips. Oh, how important it is that we keep near the Lord that we have His thoughts about His people. He loves them. They're the excellent of the earth to him. They're dear to Him, and having loved His own, which were in the world, He loved them unto the end. When does it say that? It was just on the night of the Lord's betrayal. When the Lord gathered his own around him, He knew that they were going to all forsake him and flee. He knew that Peter was going to deny him, but he loved them. He loved them.

And he took the low place and washed their feet. Oh, what wonderful grace we see displayed in that blessed one. Brethren, I feel this is more and more what we need in these last days. It isn't that in any way we should compromise the truth. Paul didn't in any way belittle the seriousness of putting the Saints under law in the Epistle to the Galatians. But he said be careful of the spirit in which you meet the difficulty. God didn't belittle. Curiousness of what was going on among his people. But He wanted His servant to always show out his heart toward them, even while standing for truth. And I say again, this is the character of God's assembly. It's to be the pillar and ground of the truth. Let's not give up or compromise. 1 little part of the truth. It's God's truth, and we have a great responsibility. And we who are older, as it were, ought to hold it fast. And we, as it were, throw the torps to those who are younger, like Paul did with Timothy, and say, hold fast the form of sound words which thou hast heard of me. We need to stand for it. But I say again, it's the spirit that we need to do it in the right spirit. And so Moses lost this opportunity, Elijah on another occasion too. He had been very faithful. And finally he allows his service to get so hold of him that, as someone has said, he put his mantle between himself and the Lord, and we can put our service between ourselves and the Lord. And then he begins to boast about his own faithfulness. He said they've thrown down, they've altars, they've killed thy prophets, and I only have left and left, and they seek my life. The Lord said I've got 7000 who haven't bowed the knee to the image of Baal. The Lord will never be without somebody, but we might lose a privilege and so Elijah did the Lord said all right, Elijah going on to Elisha to be a prophet in your stead. I don't have somebody and if you lose your patience with my people. Why? I'll have somebody because I love my people and I want them to be blessed. And so Port Elijah lost by that too. And Elisha goes on and carries on that testimony of grace to the people in spite of everything. Well, we see that. Let's turn over to, I'd like to turn to Second Timothy. Second Timothy, chapter 2. First one. Thou therefore, my Son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and the things which thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful man who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. And turn back to the first epistle. And the fourth chapter. And the 12TH verse. Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers in Word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in me, that was given thee by prophecy. With the laying on of the hands of the presbytery, I might say the Presbyterian were just the elders in the assembly. Family, meditate upon these things. Give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this thou shalt perceive thyself, and them that hear thee. Here again we have the Spirit brought before us. He was told to be an example in Word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. And in the second epistle he's told to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. So we see how that Timothy exhorted as a young man was.

To read the word, to meditate upon it. And I like to encourage. Those who are younger here. As I often say, if I've been able to quote any verses to you from God's Word today, it isn't because I learned them yesterday. It's because I learned them when I was younger. And I want to encourage you, dear young people, to read the Word of God. Store your mind with that precious Book and don't let things get as you might. Use the expression under your skin. Don't let things bother you to the point where you give up reading the word and going. On holding fast the truth. Oh how lovely it is to see those who are young valuing the precious Word of God, storing their mind with it. And as our brother has brought before us too, when we're younger, there needs to be that spirit of submission. All of us who are a little bit older know that there have been times in our lives when. Submission was required. And I can't tell a one time in my life that the Lord gave me grace to submit that I'm sorry I did. It's always good for us to submit, not to deny the truth of God, but to submit to things that seem like perhaps unfair, unjust at times. And that'll be the grace of the Lord being with your spirit. Very often I've seen for I love young people. I've watched them grow up, so many of them. To see them and they meet some problems, some difficulty in their assembly, some situation where they feel misunderstood and hurt and the grace of the Lord isn't with their spirit. He neglect the reading of the word, become a little careless in their walk. And so as I say, I want to emphasize that the Lord's help those two things. First of all, standing for the whole truth of God. Valuing in it, valuing it, walking in it. But to be careful. Of our spirits, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. I believe that's so important because I say again, so often we have seen and seen with sadness those who could be a help. And like Moses, they let something, something that's wrong. Oh, you say, but the thing was wrong, yes. A wrong attitude about wrong things. The thing was wrong, but you can have a right. Attitude about a wrong thing, a right attitude. And may the Lord help us, brethren, that we might have that attitude. And as we return to our assemblies, every one of us here, as we leave, we're going to return. And I don't suppose there's a single person here who doesn't know that they're going to meet some situation that's kind of chafing, that's kind of difficult, that's hard to handle. And don't give up the truth, but show the right spirit. And I just want to close with that verse First Thessalonians 5. Perhaps I should read it just before we close. 1St Thessalonians 5. And verse 23.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly. And I pray God, your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved, blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you who also will do it. Brethren, pray for us. Isn't that lovely? Your body? Yes, you can do something. Some careless slip in your life that may spoil your testimony. Your spirit, your soul, your soul means the seed of the appetites and desires. Is there some desire that's got such a hold of you that it's hindering you? You're I pray God, your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved, blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, you say it's too difficult. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it, and you'll need the prayers of your brethren. Let's pray more for one. Another, because we don't always understand the problems and difficulties that people have to face. The Lord does, and He would have us to intercede for one another if such a person as the Apostle Paul needed the prayers of his brethren. We all do, brethren. Well, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with our spirit and may this be true of us. May we not forget this verse hanging on the wall here for this.

Very conference this year. The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. It really impressed me when I sat down on the first meeting to see the brother put up the nails and hang up that verse. I believe it's a message for us all, brethren. May we profit by it for God's glory.

Ephesians 4: Address by Gordon Hayhoe, San Diego, CA, January 4, 1987, Hymn #309

Ephesians 4:1-16 “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore He saith, when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect Man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

There is a tremendous contrast between law and grace. The law, as we know, was given out at Mount Sinai. The mountain was on fire as God made known His demands to His earthly people. Moses said, “I exceedingly fear and quake.” (Heb. 12:21) The law didn’t give them a new life. It didn’t give them, shall I say, a motivation for their walk. It just addressed man as a responsible creature and as to what he could do. We know everything broke down “Because the law worketh wrath.” (Rom. 4:15) “If there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.” (Gal. 3:21) But there was no possibility for the natural man to fulfill the demands and claims of the law. How different it is, brethren, in Christianity. God begins with Himself, with His own heart of love. The work of redemption is completed. God has given us a new life. He has given us a new power. Every exhortation in Christianity is founded on what God has done for us. We are exhorted because of what He has done and we have a true motivation, a power in our Christian life if we are really looking to the Lord. In this beautiful epistle to the Ephesians, it doesn’t begin with exhortations. It begins by carrying us right back into eternity and telling us about those counsels that were in the heart of God long before man was created and placed upon this earth. God purposed to have a people around Himself and to bless them with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ. Sin came in, but sin would not hinder the fulfillment of the purposes in the heart of God. “In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” (Eph. 1:7) The first chapter brings before us the riches of His grace; that is the depth from which He picked us up, and the glory of His grace; the place to which He has brought us. All this is brought out so we might see that it’s all those counsels and purposes of God carried out through the work of redemption or because of the work of redemption which the Lord Jesus wrought. Then, in the 2nd chapter we see the kind of material God picked up, sinners dead in trespasses and sins like we were. The whole thing is of God, not only the work of redemption, brethren, but the very faith to believe. Everything comes from His heart. Everything originated in Him. Then, He makes known in the 3rd chapter those counsels and purposes to us that He had. He shows us that there should be one body of which Christ is the Head. Then, in the end of the third chapter He sets before us that love that is toward us, the love of Christ which passeth knowledge. How wonderful, how unchanging that love that is toward us. All this comes before exhortations. The exhortations don’t begin until this 4th chapter. But, I say again, God is telling us of those purposes of redemption, of what we were as dead in trespasses and sins, of all His counsels now made known to us by the Spirit; then, too, love as that which motivates our whole conduct as Christians. How precious this is, I say again, before any exhortations as to our own responsibility. So different from the law where man said “All that the Lord hath spoken we will do” (Ex. 19:8), but found himself unable to fulfill it. But God has given us all things that pertain unto life and Godliness.

It has been stated that in Ephesians it’s what the Church is to Christ and in Colossians it’s what Christ is to the Church. We see here in these chapters what He has done for us, the provision that has been made so that we might go on happily in the enjoyment of what He has imparted to us. This would affect every part of our lives. It would affect the relationship between husband and wife. It would affect the relationship of fathers with their children and children with their parents. It would affect the servants. It’s telling us what the Church is to Christ and the full and blessed provision He has made. Whereas in Colossians, it’s what Christ is to the Church. I’ve sometimes thought of it this way. It’s as if, in Ephesians, the husband is saying what his wife means to him and in Colossians the wife is saying what her husband means to her. In Ephesians, it’s the abundant provision that has been made. The enemy does his very best to keep us from enjoying the provision that has been made. He doesn’t want us to enjoy those eternal counsels. He doesn’t want us to enjoy that love. He doesn’t want us to enjoy the place that we have been brought into as members of the body of Christ. But, God, by His Spirit, would seek to lead our souls into the enjoyment of these things.

Our chapter begins by telling us that Paul was a prisoner. This is the true character of Christianity. That is, it isn’t something that is popular in the world. The one whom God used to bring all these things before us was at that time a prisoner under the powerful Roman government. But he doesn’t call himself that. He says, “The prisoner of the Lord.” Isn’t that lovely? Every one of us can ask our own hearts, “Are you and I in a very difficult and trying situation?” Have we said to ourselves, “It isn’t that brother, it isn’t that sister, it isn’t a set of circumstances that put

me in this, it's the Lord." It's the Lord. He was the prisoner of the Lord. There's peace in our souls, brethren, when we can take it in that way. It's the happy way, it's the blessed way to receive things. Even at times when we might be in the circumstances through our own fault and failure, yet the Lord can turn even those things into blessing in spite of everything. We know that God is able to undertake. Even when we fail He can turn the circumstances where our failure has placed us, into blessing when we receive them from Him. So Paul calls himself "the prisoner of the Lord." Perfect submission to the Lordship of Christ, to His will in his life. You and I will never have either the power or the desire in a practical way in our lives unless there is, first of all, that submission, brethren. I'm not saying that I am always that way but I believe it's the secret of blessing. Did you ever notice in 1St Peter 5 that verse that says, "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you," is preceded by the verse, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."(1 Peter 5:6, 7) Moreover, it's all one sentence. That is, the whole sentence begins with, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God." In a practical way, let us put it something like this. You find yourself in a very difficult situation. You want to leave the situation with the Lord and cast your care upon Him, but you say, "I can't seem to do it. It just seems impossible. I get on my knees and pray but I seem to carry the difficulty away with me." Sometimes I've had to say to myself something like this. If the Lord came to me and said, "Gordon, you don't like the circumstances that I've put you in. I could change them and make them just the way you'd like them." Would I look up and say, "Lord, please do. I want them to be the way I would like them." Or would I say, "Lord, please give me grace to accept them from Thee." You'll find when you do that, the Lord will remove the care. The care, brethren, is because our wills are at work. Our wills are at work. It's when we learn that submission, then we can cast our care upon Him. Why? Because He cares about you. He cares about you. Maybe some friend doesn't care about you, maybe your employer doesn't care about you, but the Lord does. He cares about everything that concerns you. He'll perfect what He has planned and purposed concerning you. In this world we just have to leave it to His perfect wisdom and love. Here was Paul, a prisoner, and he takes that position.

He says, "I beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." What is our position in this world? We're not part of it. We're called out. We are citizens of heaven. We're blessed with not all earthly things, but all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ. How do we walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called? The little hymn puts it nicely, "Called from above and heavenly men by birth, who once were but the citizens of earth." (Little Flock #212) Once we understand our place and position, then we understand what our responsibilities are. But we must first understand that we really don't belong here. We are just passing through. We're strangers and pilgrims. Walking worthy of the vocation really means that in everything in our lives we are never to forget that we belong to the Lord Jesus at such a price. We are members of His body and we have the blessed hope before us that we are going to be with Him and like Him. Then it says immediately, "With all lowliness and meekness." Because he is about to exhort us about, perhaps should I say, the first thing connected with walking worthy of our vocation. Later on, we have a great many exhortations about not getting into the things of this world and into its evil ways, exhortations about husbands and wives. But, first of all, he brings before us what we should always remember, and that is, that we're members of the body of Christ, members one of another. When he brings before us walking worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, he is saying that every believer is a member of the body of Christ. Do you think that if every member of the body of Christ was in perfect submission to the will of God that there would be all the divisions and strife that there are in Christendom? Is that not the will of man at work? We see a little picture of it at the very beginning when the disciples were together it says, they "were of one heart and of one soul." (Acts 4:32) There was a great testimony in Jerusalem. All believers were in fellowship with one another and with the Lord. They were united in their gospel testimony. It was a testimony to the truth of what God had done; for by the Spirit they were all baptized into one body. But it takes a great deal of grace to go on together, brethren. Often, when you speak to Christians in the world, they say they're with a certain group because they like the preacher or they like the people that go to that particular association and that's why they're there. But if you ask any person who is truly gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus "Why are you there?" I don't think most of us would say, "I'm there because it's a nice group. I'm there because they have a lot of fellowship." No, I think that if we are really enjoying our position we will say, "I believe that is where the Lord would have me to be according to His word and I'm there because the others are members of the one body and we meet as members of the one body."

I believe that we need to have this settled in our minds, brethren. We'll never be content and happy in the position where we are unless we are there because the Lord has gathered us around Himself as members of His body. But I say again, it's going to take lowliness and meekness. We are going to have to learn to bear with one another. I've thought a lot about those disciples whom the Lord Jesus chose. There was a great variety of dispositions among those disciples. If you or I had been choosing them, we probably would have chosen ones that were much more compatible than those twelve disciples. As I look at them, I think of their different characteristics. I think of Peter as being an impetuous person, constantly speaking out of turn. Then, I think of James who was perhaps a legal person, John who was perhaps a loving person, Thomas who seemed to be full of doubts. Then, we even have Simon Zelotes. That word Zelotes means that he was a zealot. I understand these zealots once led an insurrection against the Roman government. The Lord saved him but he was still a zealot. We find that. Some of our brethren, perhaps ourselves, were zealots. We really try to press our point. We need to learn brethren, forbearance with one another, lowliness, meekness, long suffering. What is lowliness? It's taking the low place. What is meekness? It's not resenting it when we're put in the low place. It's strange, brethren, that we often, at least pretend to take a low place, but resent it tremendously when our brethren put us in a low place. We tell people that we're just poor, weak, failing things, but we are very resentful when our brethren talk that way about us. We're pretending to be lowly but we're really not meek. But we need lowliness and meekness. Let's not resent it when we are put in the low place. Just think of our blessed, precious Saviour when they said of Him, "Say we not well thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?" (John 8:48) Did you notice the Lord Jesus did not reply to both those things, just one. "Say we not well thou art a Samaritan," that was a personal insult. The Lord didn't reply to that at all. But when they said, "Thou hast a devil," that concerned the glory of His father, He replied to that. It's fine for us to stand for the glory of God, but we can let a lot of personal insults just pass over our heads. God has allowed them. When Shimei cursed David, David said, "Let him curse; for the Lord hath bidden him." (2 Sam. 16:11) Sometimes we have to say, "Well, the Lord has allowed it. He saw some need in me." We just accept it as from the Lord. This is the beginning of going on together; lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another. But it doesn't stop there. It says, "Forbearing one another in love." Forbearing one another in love. I've sometimes wondered if that's why it says that the overseer in the assembly was to have children. I think that God teaches us in dealing with our own children how we should deal with other people's children. If we are going to be patient with our own children, then we ought to be just as patient with other people's children. I think the Lord fits us in our home life for these responsibilities and He intends us to profit by those things we go through.

Now another exhortation, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." It has often been remarked that we are never told to keep the unity of the body because God has formed that unity and God will preserve that unity. As it says in 1 Corinthians 12:13, "For

by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free." We had nothing to do with forming the one body of Christ and we have nothing to do, brethren, with maintaining the members of the one body of Christ in their place in the one body. That is a sovereign work of God. We are not told to keep the unity of the body. Every true Christian in this whole world is a member of the one body. We didn't introduce them into the body of Christ and it is not our part to keep them there. But, we are told to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit. The unity of the Spirit is that we seek to go on in that spirit of love and obedience to the word of God and we seek to walk together in the path that God has marked out in His word with this forbearance and love and long suffering. We seek to go on in that path. I'll just quote a little saying my father used to have. He said, "Never introduce anything into the assembly that disturbs its peace, unless it is necessary for God's glory." I believe that is an important thing for us to remember; that the assembly is to be a place of peace. The first thing the Lord did when He appeared in the midst of His own was to say, "Peace be unto you." (John 20:19) He wanted those disciples to enjoy the peace that He had made. He wanted them to go on. When there was trouble in the assembly at Corinth, Paul could say, "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." (1 Cor. 14:33) "Blessed are the peacemakers."(Matt. 5:9) Now, I'm not saying we shouldn't be faithful. We have to stand for truth and holiness. But, sometimes we introduce things to upset our brethren quite unnecessarily and I believe it's very important for us to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Yea, part of the armor in this epistle is that our feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. So we see here the responsibility that we have endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit, seeking to go on walking in the Truth, seeking the good and blessing of our brethren, bearing with them in love, and endeavoring, as far as it is possible to walk together in peace.

Then, we have the clear statements here in this 4th verse, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." Here, we see a stated fact. There is one body. Not there should be, there is. I say again, every true believer indwelt by the Spirit of God is a member of the one body. That's a fact. It will always be so as long as the Church is here. There is one body. The body is looked at as being on earth we know, and the head in Heaven. There is one body and one Spirit. I think this little expression is important too, "And one Spirit." The Spirit of God always gathers on that ground and gathers to a Person. That is perhaps why it says, "One hope of your calling." If I asked you, "What is your hope?" Perhaps you would reply, and I believe rightly, "When the Lord comes, all His own will be gathered to Him." It says in 2 Thessalonians 2:1, "Now we beseech you, brethren by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him." That is, when Paul thought of the Lord's coming he thought of the gathering together of the saints. Did you ever stop to think, amid all the weakness that you see in Christendom today, that if the Lord Jesus gave the shout right now, every Christian would be gathered to Him? That's our hope, brethren. What is the Spirit of God doing now? He's gathering to a rejected Christ. In that time, we will be gathered to a glorified Christ. There were a few people that were gathered around David in the time of his rejection and he valued the fact that they wanted to be with him even though it wasn't an easy path. But he and all of his followers were looking forward to a time when all Israel would acknowledge him as rightful king. The time came when they came in vast numbers and they all gathered around David and crowned him king. Brethren, I believe you and I ought to value the privilege of being gathered to Him now in His rejection. When that day of glory comes, then all His own will be gathered around Him. So it tells us here, "There is one body and one Spirit." To me, it makes it very simple that the Spirit of God cannot be gathering to anything but one Person. He won't be gathering to systems of men. He won't be gathering to human organizations. He'll be gathering to a Person and that Person is the Lord Jesus, the same One we will be gathered around up there in the glory. We have the privilege of being gathered around Him now in the scene of His rejection. It's a rather interesting fact that the only time the Lord's table is spoken of is in 1 Corinthians 10 in the New Testament. That is the only time it's spoken of and it's in connection with being gathered as members of the body of Christ. I think that's important because, what is the Lord's table? It's the expression of that truth. In 1 Corinthians 10 the loaf is the symbol of the one body of Christ. I believe these are statements of fact; one body, one Spirit, one hope of your calling. We need to lay hold of this so that we see that this truth of the one body, the one Spirit, and the one hope of our calling are what we enjoy in our souls. Even if there are only a few that are gathered, still we can gather on that ground as members of the body of Christ.

I believe in the 5th verse we have profession. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." That is, it's what we might call the circle of Christian profession. One is introduced into the circle of Christian profession by baptism. I believe that is the meaning of the verse that says, "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27) When one is baptized, he enters the sphere of Christian profession on earth and he becomes responsible as bearing the name of Christ. You say, "Why are those things introduced here?" I just mention this because I think it helps to see the line of truth the Spirit of God is bringing before us. It is the testimony that God has given as to the fruit of the work of Christ. Where is the testimony rendered? It is rendered to all those who are true children of God. It's rendered in the world to profession. It's rendered also to the whole world in the form of the gospel. So you have the three circles here. You have the circle of reality, you have the circle of profession, and then you have the whole world. There is a testimony that is rendered in this whole world to what Christ has done. Here we have the circle of Christian profession in the 5th verse. And then in the 6th verse, "One God and father of all who is above all," (then he returns to the inner circle) "And through all, and in you all." That is, God is the source of life to all mankind. God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Gen. 2:7) It tells us when Paul preached on Mars hill he said, "For we are also His offspring."(Acts 17:28) Man is looked upon as being responsible to God. The testimony is rendered to that part of creation that stands in a position of responsibility to God. Animals don't. God "breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." He's talking about what God has done as a result of the work of Christ to render a testimony in this whole world as to the truth of what Christ has done, the place of blessing into which we can be brought. I believe in what follows here we have this brought before us. But, again, we have the circle of reality; one body, one Spirit, one hope of your calling. Everyone in this room who is truly saved, indwelt by the Spirit of God is a member of the one body, has one blessed hope that when the Lord Jesus comes we will all be there gathered around Him. Then we render a testimony to what we call professing Christendom, those who have entered that place of profession by baptism. But baptism is only an outward thing. Baptism doesn't save the soul. It just brings a person into the sphere of Christian profession. Profession is not enough, baptism is not enough, there must be reality. Then, we render a testimony to the whole world. Thank God for those who go out to heathen lands and proclaim Christ. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) How glorious and how full is the work of Christ! The One who has overcome death wants the announcement of the blessing that flows as the result of that work to go out to this whole world. In the end of the 6th verse when it says, "And in you all," he's talking again of what is real. The only person who can, in an intelligent and known relationship, call God, "Father", is the believer. "Because ye are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, 'Abba Father.'" (Gal. 4:6) How blessed to enter into and enjoy that relationship. We have the whole Godhead for us. We have the Father in His eternal purposes. We have the relationship we have been brought into, able to call God our Father. We have the Spirit uniting us to Christ and to every other believer and shedding abroad the love of God in our hearts. Then we have that blessed and glorious person, the Lord Jesus, our Saviour. What a place we have been brought into! Now we each have a function in connection with this. I believe the Apostle is bringing before us the responsibility in that way. First of all, that if there is one body, there is a scriptural way that we can gather and give

expression to that truth. If we are gathered, brethren, let's never forget this truth. We are members one of another. We have a responsibility to one another to seek to go on endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Then, there is the place that each one occupies in the body of Christ. The 7th verse, "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ." As we know in our physical body there are hands, there are feet, there are ears, there are eyes. There are all of those different members of the body. My hand is made to function as a hand. It has a certain work to do, different from my foot. God has given each of us a place in the body of Christ and He gives grace to fulfill that place. Perhaps you or I might say, "But He's put me in a difficult spot." Brethren, I can say this, if He's put you in a difficult spot, He'll give you grace for that spot in which He put you. Some of us have never faced what our brethren in other parts of the world are facing. We might say, "I don't know how I could face the situations that some of our brethren are facing," perhaps in Peru or perhaps in communist lands. But, I want to tell you this, if God puts you there, He'll give you the grace for it. Some of the Christians in those other lands are far brighter testimonies for Christ than those of us who have all the favors in this land. To me, this is a great comfort. If God has put you alone in some place, if the gathering where you are is small, if you have a great deal of difficulty and hardships as you seek to serve the Lord, remember if God has put you there, He'll give you the grace for the position in which He's put you. Just as God, when He formed my physical body, gave what was necessary to this hand to perform the functions that He intended this hand to perform. He'll give you grace. I think this is very precious for us. Let's never say, "I wish I was in somebody else's place." Look to the Lord for the grace to fill the position He put you in. If you are in an assembly where things seem kind of difficult, remember He put you there and He'll give you the grace to be a help. As dear Mr. Darby said, "Christianity is known by what it brings, not by what it finds." That's always been a blessing to me because we get too occupied with what we find. I've heard brethren say, "Oh, our assembly is in such a bad state." But Christianity is known by what it brings. What do you and I bring? When we come, do we bring the Spirit of Christ, the love of Christ seeking to help and build up our brethren or are we depressed by what we find? Well, God gives grace to each member to fulfill the God-given place according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Then he quotes from the Old Testament. This is from the book of Judges at the time when there was a great battle and Sisera was overcome in the battle and the victory was announced. (Judg. 4:5) It's also taken up in Psalms 110 to refer to what the Lord Jesus has done. As we know, Sisera was oppressing the people of God and God raised up Barak and Deborah. Barak went out and won a great victory and they came back singing, announcing the victory that had been won. Sisera was dead. His mighty army had been overcome. The Spirit of God uses this here and applies it again to the Lord Jesus. What victory did He win? I believe Sisera is a picture of Satan and the Lord Jesus has overcome all the power of Satan. It says in Hebrews 2:14, "That through death He might destroy (or annul) him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." I believe that is what Paul means when he says in 2 Corinthians 2:14, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of His knowledge by us in every place." That is, Paul visited heathen cities and there was often a lot of opposition. But he compared his visit there to a march of triumph in that city. That has always been a help to me, brethren, when I read that. In Rome, long ago, when there was a victory that was won there was a march of triumph through the streets of Rome. The spoils of the victory were seen before all the people. So Paul says, "When I visit Ephesus, or Colosse, or Corinth, we are leading a march of triumph to tell them about this victory that has been won." Just as those singers came back when Sisera was overcome and sang and announced the victory that had been won; we have an announcement to make to this world. Most people don't know that there is One who has come into this world who has overcome all the power of Satan and has provided freedom and blessing to every one who will receive the Lord Jesus and will receive what He has done for them. Isn't it lovely that Christ is up on high, but He gives us the privilege of announcing the victory. That is what it means here. He led captivity captive and He went up on high and all power has been given to Him. He said to the disciples before He went up, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." (Matt. 28:18) He said, "Go ye," and He sent them out. The Lord Jesus is up there. Who's going to tell this world about the victory that was won? Isn't this a blessed thought, God has given each one of us a little part in announcing the victory of Calvary. He has led captivity captive. Satan is defeated. Those who were his captives are now set free and the One who won the victory is up there and He fills all things. It says He is "Head over all things to the Church, which is His body." (Eph. 1:22, 23) Peter says, "Who has gone into heaven...angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him." (1 Peter 3:22) Brethren, we have a glorious announcement to this world. Sinners don't have the victory.

They are in bondage under Satan, but we carry this announcement of a victory that has been won. We are not asking them to do something. We are just, as it were, singing to them about a victory that has been won. It has been won so perfectly, so completely, and totally that all those who believe that, share in the victory. He fills all things.

It says in the 11m verse, "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, pastors and teachers." In the Darby translation there is not a comma after the word 'some' so I'm going to read it the other way. "And He gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers." We might say that the apostles and prophets were the ones who laid the foundation. We learn that in the second chapter It says, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone." (Eph. 2:20) Paul speaks of it too in 1 Corinthians 3:10. There he says, "As a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon." You find in the end of Romans that the truth of what Christ has done is made known by the commandment of God through the prophets: that is through the New Testament prophets. So brethren, the foundation of Christianity has all been laid and put down in this book for us. We will never learn any new doctrine beyond what is in this book. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."(1 Cor. 3:11) The apostles and the prophets laid the foundation.

Those systems that try to add something to this blessed book destroy the foundation. It has been laid. The apostles and prophets laid the foundation but there is the superstructure that is going on. The superstructure is carried on by the evangelists and pastors and teachers. That is, God has given those who are evangelists. We read about Philip the evangelist. I am not suggesting that anybody would officially take the place of being an evangelist. I believe that we have a promise from God that those gifts that are raised up of God to tell about what Christ has done, will remain with us until the Lord comes. It says in verse 13, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith; and of the knowledge of the Son of God." The evangelist goes out and announces the glad tidings of the work of Christ upon the cross, the blood that cleanses from all sin, the setting free from the power of sin. He announces this in the gospel. Then God has also raised up those who have a godly care for the saints; the pastors. Also, He has raised up those whom He uses to teach us so we would be established in the present truth. Suppose those singers came back after Sisera had been overcome and they didn't know whether Sisera was dead. They wouldn't have a very full message would they? But, if they could, and did announce that Sisera, the enemy, was dead, that God's people were free, what a grand thing this was for the people miles from the battlefront to hear about the full victory that had been won. Brethren, there are thousands of real believers who don't

know the security of the believer. They don't know the truth of the Church. They don't know deliverance from law. They don't know the wonderful things that God has given in His word. But God has raised up those to announce the glad tidings and all ministry ought to be announcing the glad tidings of what Christ has done. I say again, all exhortations are founded from what we possess. So much of Christendom is "You do this and you get that." In other words, it's by their own efforts that they get this. They get into a high spiritual plane or a victorious life or something. They think they can be eternally sure if they keep on living the way they should. But brethren, isn't it lovely. God starts by telling us, "Now you just sit down and I'm going to tell you what I've done. I've taken care of the whole case for you; the question of your sins, the question of the nature that produced them, the law, your position in Christ. All this has been taken care of and you just sit down and listen to this." Then knowing that, we go out in perfect liberty to announce the glad tidings. We have the evangelist telling the gospel. Then, we have the pastors, and as Mr. Darby said, "There is a lack of that pastoral care." I'm afraid, brethren, we don't have sufficient love and interest for one another. Mr. Darby's prayer was that the Lord would raise up pastors, those who care for the saints of God. You remember what the Lord Jesus said to Peter, "Shepherd My sheep."(John 21:16 JND) "Shepherd My sheep". Brethren, I feel we don't have enough interest in one another. How many lonely souls there are among the Lord's people and they just feel that their brethren aren't concerned about them. But the Lord cares and He wants us to have that care. Perhaps we could just turn for a minute to Acts 11 and see a little example of the three things brought before us, the evangelist and the pastor and the teacher. Acts 11:19, "Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spoke unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: 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." Here you see the three. They preached the Lord Jesus and a great number believed. Then Barnabas came down. Perhaps, he was not primarily a teacher but he was a good man. That word "good man" is not the thought of our standing in Christ, but it's a practical thing. The Bible says, "Peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die."(Rom. 5:7) The thought of "a good man" is a kindly, thoughtful person like it says about the Lord Jesus, "He went about doing good."(Acts 10:38) This man was one that if you were just saved, you would say, "Oh, that man cares. He's interested. He is such an encouragement to me." "Well, did you learn a great deal?" "No, but he really encouraged me." I can look back in my life and think of people that I am not sure taught me a great deal but I can remember to this day, little words of encouragement that they spoke. So, that's the pastoral care. Barnabas knew that they needed teaching too, so Barnabas got Saul who was as the Bible says a "teacher of the Gentiles in truth and verity." (1 Tim. 2:7) He came down and the two of them worked together and they taught much people. There was the evangelist and the pastor and the teacher. God has provided these in the Church for the good of His people. These people, as we see, are not just enablements, they are gifts that God has given to the Church. They are people whom God has raised up and fitted "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." What is the object of all ministry? It's to draw the saints together to Christ and to produce Christ-likeness in them.

Ministry ought to have that character, brethren, for the perfecting of the saints. When it says perfecting, the thought there is full growth. As someone has said, "God doesn't want us to remain babes in Christ all our lives." Paul felt grieved that the saints in Corinth, though they were really saved, were still babes. He said, "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat; for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."(1 Cor. 3:2) They remained babes. We love to have a baby born into our family, but we don't want them to remain babies forever. We like to see them grow. We like to see them develop. God likes to see His children grow too. There is the thought of full growth here for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. I believe, brethren, if I might speak plainly, that whatever part we take in the meeting that we ought to remember the need of edifying the saints. It's not just stating facts. We can state a lot of facts that don't really edify. I've sometimes said to the young people up at Otter Lake, suppose we sat down to the meal table and before we started to eat we said, "Now listen for a few moments while we tell you how many slices of bread are on the table, how many ounces of butter and how many minutes it took to prepare this meal." Then we would talk about how many pounds of meat there are, and how many potatoes there are, and who did all the peeling. I think I can hear them all saying, "Oh, please, please let's eat." Brethren, somebody needed to know those things. But I believe when we come together, it's important that we feed the flock of God. I'm impressed with that as I read in the Old Testament, "That there may be meat in mine house."(Mal. 3:10) Then the Lord saying to Peter, "Feed My sheep"(John 21:16) and Peter again saying, "Feed the flock of God."(1 Peter 5:2) Then Paul saying to the elders at Ephesus to feed the flock.(Acts 20:28) We all know when we have company to our house, we like to feed them with some good food. We don't just have them to the house and do a lot of talking and give them a lot of information with no food. I believe it is important, when we come together, that each one that takes part be exercised. Feed the flock of God. What is the desire? "Till we all come in the unity of the faith," (not schools of opinion) "and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect Man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Isn't it nice to go away from the meeting feeling, "I think I know the Lord better than I did before." When you meet somebody who is a very nice person, you perhaps say, "Oh, I would like to know that person better." Well, brethren, there's One that is altogether lovely and the more you get to know about Him, the more you come to love Him. Ministry ought to lead to a better acquaintance with the Lord Jesus. That's why it says here, "And of the knowledge, of the Son of God, unto a perfect Man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Then, we recognize, that the enemy is busy, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things which is the head, even Christ." You remember when the Lord Jesus spoke in the 16th chapter of John about the Spirit of God coming, he said, "He shall guide you into all truth...He shall glorify me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you."(John 16:13,14) One has often made the little comment, "You can make a simple test of any doctrine that is presented by asking one question, 'Does this line of teaching exalt Christ or does it exalt man?'" You will find that false teaching always points you to yourself. That which is from the Spirit of God occupies you with Christ. I don't mean that we don't have to judge self, but I mean not to occupy us with ourselves or our own attainments or anything like that. It points us to and occupies us with Christ. Let's speak of this teaching that you can be saved and lost. What is at the basis of that? Something in yourself, isn't it? The Lord saved you, but you have to do things to keep saved. Doesn't that point you to yourself? What about the teaching that a person can't have their soul saved and be fit for heaven unless they are baptized? What I am really saying is this; that the work of Christ is not enough. There had to be some man do something to you or you

couldn’t be in heaven. You see, at the bottom of all these false teachings is something that points you to yourself. Take those who teach that the Church has to go through the tribulation. What are they doing but keeping you from the present hope of looking for the Lord Jesus at any moment? They are occupying you with world events instead of saying, “He might come at any moment.” Brethren, I say again, the truth of God points you to Christ. “In the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God,” and again, “Speaking the truth,” or the margin says, “holding the truth in love.” I think if we are holding it in love, we’ll speak it in love. If you have good feelings toward somebody and you really want to show them kindness, then you speak in love. So it’s hold the truth, and if we are holding it, then we’ll speak it in love.

“May grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.” We’ve spoken a little bit about the gifts, but I think this 16th verse reaches out beyond those special gifts that are mentioned in the 11th verse and shows us that the body functions as a whole. It’s not just the hands that you can see and the feet that you can see and the eyes that you can see, but there are a great many hidden members of my body. They are not performing a less important function than my hands, perhaps, even more important, although you’ve never seen them and probably never will. But they are doing a very important service in my body and in the proper function of my body. Brethren, you might think, “Well I haven’t been given the gift to preach.” Sisters might feel, “We’re not doing very much because we’re not in a public place.” But, brethren, the hidden members can be so important. We were talking about Barak when he went out to fight against Sisera, but who was it that stirred him up? Who was it that encouraged him? It was Deborah. God gives Deborah a place of honor. She didn’t head the army but she filled a very important place. We were noticing the other day in the 45th Psalm, there’s a view of coming glory. Then in the 46th Psalm we have a chorus of female voices singing and celebrating, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psa. 46:1) Brethren, let’s not think that because a person is not on the platform that they are not important. I’ve often said that the more our service puts us in the public eye, the more danger there is of doing it for the eyes of men. But to carry on a function in the body of Christ that is not noticed, that is not seen by the eye of men, takes a lot of spiritual energy. I believe in that coming day of manifestation we’re going to have many surprises. We are going to find out that some people we didn’t know anything about, hidden members as it were, in the body of Christ were performing a very important function. How wonderful it is to know that God is making a true appraisal of all. “The Lord is a God of knowledge, and by Him actions are weighed.” (1 Sam. 2:3) I have hands and feet and eyes and ears, but I also have a lot of hidden members and if one of those hidden ones goes out of order, the rest of the body is going to be out of order too. Those little things that we might say or do that seem to be hidden from the eyes of others can be a help or a hindrance. This certainly speaks to my heart. God opening up in the first three chapters all that He’s done for us and then He says, “I’ve done all that for you. You have the privilege of walking worthy of the vocation. You have a part that you can fill in the functioning of the body of Christ here in this world among the saints and in outreach to those who are lost too.” May the Lord give us the grace that we need. He is able. He gives grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. We only have a little time left. What a privilege to serve so worthy a master, when we think of all that He has done. When He was here in this world He never did one thing to please Himself. May the Lord help us to seek His glory and the blessing of His people and the blessing of sinners until the Lord comes again.

Hymn 253 “Since Christ and we are one...”

Toledo Conference: 1978, Purpose and Power of God

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

There are two things I'd like to speak about this afternoon, dear young people, and those are a purpose and power. There needs to be a purpose in our lives and we also need power to carry out that purpose. And first of all, I'd like to turn and speak about God's purpose and the power that is going to be, that is going to carry out all of God's purpose, so. So let us turn first of all to Ephesians. And the. Chapter Ephesians, and the third chapter beginning at the ninth verse. And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hitting God, who created all things by Jesus Christ, to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church. The manifold wisdom of God according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Himself. In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him. And then in the first chapter of Ephesians, the 18th verse, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that she may know what is the hope of this calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance, and His saying, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe. To the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in heavenly places, far above our principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And I put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the Church, which is his body. The fullness of him that Philip All in all, and justice. One more verse this time, and Isaiah, and the 14th chapter. Isaiah and the 14th chapter, and the 26th and 27th verses. This is the purpose that is perfect upon the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out. Upon all nations. For the Lord of grace hath purpose, and who shall dismal it? And his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back? Well, we've noticed here in these verses that we have read that God has a purpose, and also that He has the power to carry out those purposes. First of all, in Ephesians 3, we have His purpose in regard to the blessing of His own. And then in the pathogen Isaiah we. Purpose in regard to the earth and how God is going to accomplish his purposes in the earth. Well, in the first one it is indeed a great comfort to us to know, but God does have such a purpose and eternal purpose that tells us and that He's going to carry out that purpose too. And it's a song saying when we think that God has a purpose in regard to this world. And he's going to carry out that purpose. Things are truly in a state of confusion in this world. And if we didn't have such a book as the Bible and we didn't have such assurance as this, we might well be concerned. Men in the world are concerned. The Lord Jesus spoke about these last days, and these words destroy some nations with perplexity. And that's surely what we can see. Men just don't know what to do. They are perplexed. They wonder what what is going to happen and isn't it a wonderful thing that you and I? Not only have the Word of God to tell us what is going to happen, but to know absolutely assuredly that it is going to happen, because when God purposes something, it is sure to be carried out. And so God's great purpose is, and that His beloved Son should have his rightful place. This purpose in regard to the church and in regard to the redeemed is that the Lord Jesus should be the center. Of a whole new scene of glory, heavenly and earthly, as it tells us in Ephesians one and verse 10. That in a dispensation of the fullness of times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. Even in Him. God has a man of His counsel. He has one who is going to carry out all these things, and it tells us in this passage in Ephesians 3, that it's an eternal purpose.

Isn't it a marvelous thing, doesn't it, through your heart? To think that a way back in a past eternity, before this world was ever made, before there was such a city as Toledo, that God had a purpose, and that purpose was that He was going to have a people who would be brought into

blessing in association with His beloved Son. And doesn't it thrill your heart to think that you're one of those ones that he was thinking about? A way back in a past eternity. Sometimes a person comes up to you, perhaps these meetings, and says. I was thinking about you yesterday and this gives you a little lift to think that somebody that you didn't know was thinking about you. Perhaps he tells you he was praying for you and what an encouragement this is. But doesn't this sound still more wonderful that a way back in a past eternity? I say there was a purpose in the heart of God and that purpose was going to cost something. In order to have a people who would be able to share, enter into His heart and share that glory. A people that could hold fellowship with Him and enjoy all that he himself enjoys. And there was a cost. Oh, how great was the cost? We can never, never measure what the cost really was, because we'll never know what it is to have to suffer for sin. But there was one when that purpose was spoken about in the glory. I like to think of those words. In Isaiah the 6th chapter and as it were, hearing the Lord Jesus himself. A re echo those words Jeremiah send me. Just think of that blessed one. If God was going to fulfill that purpose, there was a cost and there was one who was willing to come and fulfill that purpose at so great a cost. We trace His blessed pathway through this world, showing kindness and love and grace to man on every hand. If man would only be reconciled, if they would only see what was. Heart of God, Do we wish to know what God was like? Just trace the pathway of the Lord Jesus. And there we see God's heart in display. See him standing still at the cry of a blind man. And I say, that's the God who's my father. I see him weeping at the grave of Lazarus. And I say, that's the display of the heart of God my father, and of my precious Savior. See him entering into all of his disciples. Went through and giving them credit for things they would never have taken credit to themselves for when he would say, are they which have continued with me in my temptation, always say again, that's the heart of my Father. The Lord Jesus could say he that hath seen me, hath seen the Father, but man refused to be reconciled. They wouldn't, they wouldn't pay any attention to that blessed one. They rejected Him and despised Him, but there was a purpose, and that purpose was for blessing. How could the blessing come when they despise and rejected Him? All it tells us we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son. And so the precious Savior goes on to Calvary, and He takes the load of judgment that we deserve. He bore all the wrath and judgment and exhausted it. He cried at his finish. His precious blood, as we have been having in the meeting, has cleansed us. And more than this, we are in a new position so that God looks upon us now not only as being forgiven, but be accepted in the beloved holy and without blame before Him in love. But I say again, what about the cost? Oh how great it was. There was a cost to fulfill this purpose, and the Lord Jesus was the one who paid the price. He gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time, and that glorious work is now completed. And there's a mighty power that has raised him and seated him up there at the right hand of God. He's head over all things to the church, which is his body. And God is now showing, as we have in our chapter, He is showing to the angels as they look down this purpose of God.

Carried out that's the meaning of that word you'll notice in the ninth verse of Ephesians 3. It says and to make all men. The word man is in italics. It's really unto make all that's all created intelligences. See what is the administration of the mystery which from the beginning of the world has been hidden. God who created all things by Jesus Christ and so the angels look down and. Most amazing thing taking place. Men and women who had rejected God's beloved Son being brought out to share a place in association with Christ as his bride. There's a display that is being made before all creative intelligences of God's marvelous grace in bringing out from this world a people because God had a purpose, and I say as the power to carry out that purpose. And then it tells us in the 12Th verse, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him. Oh, isn't this precious for us? We not only know this purpose, but we have access to enter in, to enjoy it. We possess the life by which we can enjoy the very thoughts of God. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, man with an ignorance of God. But God has communicated a life now to the believer by which we can. Have a fellowship with God, enter into his thoughts. And it often amazes me as I think here, a group of people sitting together and entering into the very thoughts of God councils that were made in the past eternity, sharing them, enjoying them, talking about them to one another and singing about them. What a marvelous thing. Isn't any wonder that the hymn writer put it in connection with the gospel. Poor Angel hosts are musing or this fight so strangely sad God beseeching man refusing to be made forever glad he looked down and they see this and then to think that you and I can enter into these things and as it tells us to in the first chapter that Christ is head over all things to the church, which is his body. I often. Great comfort from that, and I'm sure you do too. To think that he's concerned. A husband who loves his wife is concerned about everything that concerns her, her happiness, her good, her enjoyment. He's concerned about it. Oh Christ has had over all things young people, do you have a problem? Do you have a trial? He's concerned about it. He's the head, and we are the members of his body. And it says Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. But sometimes the husband might be concerned. But he still has to say. But I'm sorry I just can't help in this situation. I wish I could, but I can. But there's One who has all power, and it tells us that that mighty power raised him and seated him there, and he's above all principalities and powers and might and dominion. There isn't a force or a power in this world that he isn't above it, not even in this world or in the world to come. He's above it all. Oh, what a grand thing, this purpose and this power. And then in regard to the passage that we read in the 14th chapter of Isaiah. We see the world in a mass. We see things getting worse. New to your young people as you have to go out to school and to work and meet the world in its present state. We feel for you in some measure. We who are older try to enter into it. We can't fully because we don't just realize exactly what the situation is and what it is that you have to meet day by day. But isn't it a good thing to know that there is one who has a purpose in regard to this earth? And there is going to be a time when this earth will be brought into order. Everything suited to the mind and character of God. And so instead of looking to some great leader or expecting that some new politicians or some new psychological approach to problems is going to clear them up, it's going to get worse. It's not going to improve. God says I will overturn, overturn, overturn it, and it shall be no more till he shall come.

Right, it is, and I will give it to him. Things are just going to be overturned. It's going to be that way, and we can't expect it to be improved. But I say again, the one who has purpose for your blessing and mine and whose hide will not be satisfied until we are supremely blessed with Christ, is the one who holds everything in this world in His. He's behind all the scenes, He moves all the scenes. Nothing happens by chance. God knows the thoughts of every man. He even controls people's attitude, as we have observed sometimes in the 107th Psalms. It tells us in that Psalm on one occasion that He said to great men, touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm. And he wouldn't allow them to harm his people. But then on another occasion in that chapter, it says. He turned their hearts to hate His people, to deal subtly with His servants. So I say God is in control of everything and He's going to bring everything into order in His time, in His time. close and hard for us to wait His time, isn't it? We're impatient people. We find it hard to stand still and just wait God's time. To be still and know that he is God. And to know that he is over all things. And so I say God has a purpose for blessing to his own. And He's going to carry that out. He's going to bring us into that blessing. And what I wanted to impress upon you is what it cost God to bring about this purpose of blessing that He has. And then He has a purpose in regard to this earth, and He's going to bring it about. And absolutely nothing is going to hinder him who has purpose and brought it to pass when the Lord commanded it not. No one can do anything to hinder the fulfillment of those purposes of God. But now let us think of it in regard to ourselves. Dear young people, when we think of this purpose that God has in regard to His beloved sons and for our blessings, it thrills our hearts, it lifts us up, it reminds us of fresh of His wondrous love. But now what about ourselves? Isn't it true that today

there's a great lack of purpose? It seems that so many people are just content to drift along. And sometimes we are incontent to go along with them, just to drift with the crowd. It's the easiest thing in life is just to drift along. And when you go to school, to just drift along with things that go on at school, when you listen to what people have to say, to just sort of go along. It's easy, any dead fish can float down the stream. But to an Israelite? There are only fish that were clean to him were the ones that had fins and scale. The ones that had the fins, they could go against the current. And if you've ever watched fish in a very swift current, well, I watched them one time in a very, very rapid river and it was really something to see them make a dash and perhaps the current would push them back. They make another dash, they might only gain a few inches, but they never give up on that trial to go against the current because they had fins, they could propel themselves against that current. And then they have scales too. What were the scales for? Well, the scales were like an armor and we need the armor of God. And this civil scales kept out all the defilements that they passed through. Water. Why? They could keep the muddy water out because they have the scales on. And so you and I need to go against the current of this world. Dear young people, we need to have a purpose. Do you have a purpose in your life? Do I have a purpose in my life? And if it is true that we have a purpose, I ask myself, and I ask you, what is our purpose? Perhaps you, if I were to ask you. What do you intend to do when you get through school? You could tell me what your plans are, what you have before you. Perhaps they may work out and perhaps not. But at least you evidently have some kind of a plan of what you intend to do. And we have plans about where we intend to live. And we have sort of in our minds, a pattern of the kind of people that we like to choose for our.

And perhaps every boy and girl has some kind of a model in their minds of the kind of boy or girl that they would like to have for their partner. We all have some kind of a purpose, but it's a sad thing to see young people and older people who have no real purpose in connection with their spiritual life. No real decided purpose to go on for the Lord Jesus. When we think of His purpose, when we think of what it costs Him to fulfill His purpose, when we think of His marvelous love to us and that He is not going to be satisfied until we are supremely blessed, until we're eternally happy in His presence. Nothing less than that will satisfy the heart of. Savior. And when I think of that, does it not touch a cord in my heart? Does it not touch a cord in your heart and give you some kind of a purpose in life? And I say not only in natural things, but in divine things, in spiritual things. Do you have a real purpose? Let's notice about some young believers in the 11Th chapter of Acts. The 11Th chapter of Acts and the. 21St verse. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem, and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch, who, when he came and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord, for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith. And much people. Was added unto the Lord. Here was the beginning of the work among the Gentiles are not speaking now what happened in the House of Cornelius, but this was the beginning of the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles. And isn't it very lovely to see what took place down here in Antioch at the hand of the Lord was with those who were proclaiming the word and a great number believe and turn to the Lord. And Barnabas came down to see these young believers, and what was the exhortation that he gave to them? It appears that Barnabas was not characterized by being a great teacher. We're not told that he particularly seemed to have the gift of being a teacher, but it does tell us that he was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith. He was a man who had a love for these. Can I trust in my heart? Dear young people, there is a love for you now. There is a desire for your blessing. And what was the particular exhortation? It says He exhorted them all that was purpose apart. They would cleave unto the Lord. Now it doesn't tell us, as I say, that He gave them a great deal of instruction at this point. Although it follows on that they met together for a whole year. And they were taught by Saul when he came down. More of the truth of God. But this was, so to speak, the starting point of their Christian life. And there's a lot of young believers here this afternoon, many of you starting out in your Christian life. Oh dear young people, is this the purpose of your heart? Have you really looked up to the Lord Jesus and thanked him for saving you and then just sat in a simple way? Lord Jesus, I want to live my life in Thy company. I don't think there's anything that would please His blessed heart more than that. You say, well, there's a lot of things I don't know. Well, there's a lot of things I don't know either. There's a lot of things in life that are hard questions, and some of these questions will never get answered till we get home to glory. The Queen of Sheba had a lot of hard questions and she didn't get them answered until she met Solomon and saw the glory.

And so I'm content to leave a lot of questions until another day. But this is something that the youngest believer can have a purpose in his heart and this purpose is so simple. It's just put in such simple words and that is purpose of heart to cleave to the Lord. Please just simply means to keep close to the Lord and all your young people. If I can say nothing else to you this afternoon, if it's one thing I could impress. Heart and mind keep close to the Lord. You'll always be safe at his side. Remember what we were just reading the other day about David and how he said to Abiathar? He said. There was danger for a biotherm. Saul was seeking his life and he was seeking David's life too. And so David said to him, he said that Arthur, stay with me. He said the person that seeks your life seeks my life, but with me you'll be in safeguard. And you know, isn't this nice for us too, if we just keep close to the Lord? That's the place of safety. We sang in our closing hymn this morning. O Lamb of God, still keep us close to thy peers inside his only there in safety and peace we can't abide. Oh how much we need to cleave to the Lord to keep close to Him in that nearness where there is safety. And if we are near to him, then he also says. I will guide thee. With mine I be not as the horse of the mule that have no understanding, whose mouth must be kept in with bit and bridle. The new translation renders that nicely. I will guide thee with mine eye upon thee. Don't you like those words now? That is, he's just watching us all the time, and when we have a little problem, when we look up, we see who's looking. You know, even when dear Peter denied the Lord, he looked up, and what did he see? Well, he saw the Lord die was upon him. Jesus looked on Peter, and you know this is the way His eye is upon you. Dear young people, when you go to school in the morning, when you return, when you come to the meetings, in all your fun and pleasure, His eye is upon you. I will guide thee with mine eye upon thee. Are we always conscious? This do we say, Lord, I want to keep so close that at any moment I can just look up and there see that thine eye is upon me. So this was the exhortation that Barnabas gave to these young believers, and it tells us. That he was a Goodman, and full of the Holy Ghost, and of faith, and much people was added unto the Lord. And we're not told here that Barnabas did any preaching, but it seemed that his influence was so great, that not only was he an encouragement to these young believers, but also it says much people was added unto the Lord. I was struck by a remark in Mr. Darby's writings, in which he. He said our testimony to the world is our joy in the Lord. Last night we were hearing about those people who had very little of this world's goods, who were suffering physically, but what a testimony their joy was in the Lord. And dear young people at school, there's a lot of those young people and they're trying drugs and they're trying. All the immoral path of this world is treading today. And they're telling you that they're having fun and they're telling you that how can you live without the pleasures that they are having? But they are watching you just the same. And you know what? They are watching to see. They are watching to see whether you're finding joy in the path in which you're going. They're watching to see. And if you and I are near, the Lord will certainly find it to be a happy path. What impressed me as a young man as I watched others. Without them, not so much what they said as to see their joy in the Lord. Everyone has a desire to be satisfied and it has been said, you know, that the desire in every heart is to have two things satisfied, affection and understanding. And I believe that this is in every heart and that's why people are

plunging into all these kind of things they're trying to find.

Satisfaction for their affections. And so they think that the way they're going, they're going to find. Satisfaction in these pleasures of sin, but they are only for a season. The man that souls that way reaps and oh what sorrow they reap. If you could just watch the lives of many of these deer, these people that you have seen at school and see as a few years passed by, they'll have to acknowledge to you. There's nothing satisfying at this. But you have something and you and I have the privilege of being a testimony before others. So here we find that the exhortation was that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord, and the testimony, the personal testimony of Barnabas was the cause that many turned to the Lord. Now there's also another passage that we have looked at before and Daniel, but I just like to turn to it in this connection. Daniel chapter one and verse 8. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the King's meat, nor with the wine which he drank. Therefore he requested of the Prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. How The purpose that we were Speaking of in Acts 11 Could perhaps be called a positive purpose, a purpose to cleave unto the Lord. This might perhaps be termed a negative purpose. You know the children sing a little song and always just a little word, and so is YES, but all the difference they do make no one could ever guess. And you know dear young people practice the habit of saying no, the habit of saying no never to the Lord, but when other things come along that you know are going to rob you of your. Lord are going to lead you into a path of disobedience. Why? It's a good thing just to be able to say no. You say, well, I, I can't always explain. Well, you don't always have to explain. The man in the 9th chapter of John, when they perplexed him, he he was willing to admit there were things he didn't know, but he didn't talk about what he did now and he wasn't going to be LED from the path of making of following the Lord Jesus. He was one of his disciples and that was settled in his heart. And in this day when such strong pressures are placed upon you to conform, to go along with what's going on in the world, some of us older ones, when we went to school, we went to school to learn how to prepare ourselves educationally. For the responsibilities that we had of earning a living. But today the school system has undertaken to train you in everything, to take over the planning of your life, in sports, in morals, in psychological affairs and just everything they undertake to take this over. I tell you what my father used to say to us and I thought it was very good scriptural sound advice. He said that. Whenever they tell you anything in school about. Mathematics and geography and a whole lot of subjects like that and physics, he said you can listen and take it in. They know a lot more about that than I do. But he said when they start to talk about moral and spiritual subjects, don't go by what they say, go by God's word. And I want to impress that on your dear young people. I want to impress that on you. Remember these people who have not read their Bibles, They're not born again. They're not acquainted with the God whom you know. They will not give you good advice in moral and spiritual matters. But we do have a book. We have God's precious word. And when Daniel was going to school in Babylon.

Didn't matter what the customs of Babylon were, he had a purpose. And what was his purpose? His purpose was to please his Lord. And it didn't matter what they thought of the ancient Mosaic law that said that they were not to eat certain kinds of meat. That didn't matter to him what they thought about that in Babylon. That was quite immaterial. What they thought He was going to be subject to the God of Israel, his God. And so when they wanted him. To disobey his God. He had one little word and all and all. Now this cost him something. And as I was mentioning before that some of the others young people, why I've often thought of poor Daniel as he sat down day after day and had to eat that pulse that was given to him, how they must have reproached him. Can't you just see the other young people passing the table and saying, ha, look at those guys. And laughing at them because what? Well, they were obeying their God. They were just doing what God told them. They had a purpose. They had a purpose. Did they have a power? Yes. They relied upon that power that comes from above and they were able to take a stand. And this is this is seen all through Daniel's life. It didn't end in school days. Later on, at the very end of his life, when he was an old man. He refused to give up his praying and he was cast into the den of lions. He had a purpose. And dear young people, I say, if you don't have a purpose in life, if you don't have a purpose in youth, very questionable whether you'll have one later on. The time to start is when you're young. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the King's meat or with the wine that he drank. Didn't matter what anybody else said or thought. He could have said, well, there's a lot of other people here and they go along with things, why shouldn't I? That didn't matter. He was answerable to the Lord. So Daniel had a purpose. It was a negative purpose. It's true. It was the purpose to say no. And again I say, I hope the Lord will give you grace. Many and many of the young people person who wishes today. He had said no, wishes he'd said no, but he allowed someone to push him. He allowed someone to influence him or her. And now they're sorry. They look back on it. They wish that they had said that little word and all. But in contrast with this, a dear brother, perhaps known to some here, he told one time when he was speaking about a businessman whom he knew, and he had. Sign on his desk and it just had two words on it and that was those two words were yes Lord, yes, Lord. And that was on his death. And I've often thought of that. I hope, I hope it's always before each one of us. Why did he put it on his desk? He never wanted to say no to the Lord. He might have to say no to 101 Things that go on all around us day by day. But never say no to the Lord. Never. He and His wondrous grace had a purpose, and He has brought us into blessing. May we always say yes Lord, Yes Lord. So this was a negative purpose that He had. Now let's turn over to 1St A, second Timothy and the third chapter, Second Timothy on the 3rd chapter. The 10th verse. But thou hast fully known my doctrine. Manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, charity, patience. Persecutions inflict afflictions which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra. What persecutions I endured, but all of them, all the Lord delivered me. Yeah, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution, but evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned. Been assured of knowing of whom thou hast learned them, 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. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, or reproof, or correction, or instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, truly furnished unto all good works.

Notice when Paul speaks about his life, he said, Thou hast fully known my doctrine. Manner of life. And then he says purpose, faith. So how we find here that the life of the apostle Paul was characterized too by a purpose? He begins by Speaking of doctrine. Because, you know, we can be very determined in the wrong direction and we can do a lot of harm to ourselves and to others by being determined in the wrong direction. So he puts my doctrine and manner of life. Before purpose, because before we set our minds to something, we should be sure that we have the word of God for the stand that we take. We should be sure that we have that direction, because we know that very often that that unwillingness to give in has caused a great deal of trouble. But here we find with the beloved apostle that he could speak of my doctrine, manner of life. And then his purpose, and his purpose was as we know to. Honor the Lord in his life, and He tells us that it was a costly thing. It was not easy for him, for he tells us that he suffered at Iconium, at Antioch, at Iconium and Lystra. In all these places he was persecuted. The persecution took different forms. At Antioch the people came and contradicted what Paul said. At Iconium they came and spread bad reports about him. At Lystra, they took another approach. They were going to do sacrifice to him and worship him, and you find this, This is the way the world acts. They will contradict what you say. They may even spread bad reports about you that are not true. And then they may flatter you. They will use any approach that they possibly can to try and trip you up and turn you aside. And unless there is a purpose in your life,

dear young people, you and I may get trapped when people contradict. Why? Unless we have the word of God for what we say, and then we'll find that we have, we're unable to take a firm stand. And then two and people spread wrong reports about us. Are we going to say, well, I give up because they're saying things that are not true? Always remember this to your young people. The Lord always has the record straight. He never makes any mistake you can you can leave it all with him. There's a verse in the 27th Psalm that I think is very comforting. The apostle, the rather the psalmist said that he said deliver me for false witnesses are risen up against me and such as breathe out cruelty and there may come times in your life. When all you can do is say deliver me, people will say things and you can't prove that they're not true and you just have to leave it with the Lord. But the Lord knows and you can say deliver me. So in the contradicted and blasphemed, when they spread the evil reports, and then when they were going to worship Him, then He refused their flattery and so they stoned him. And he was taken for dead on that occasion. But that might have been the occasion where he got the most wonderful revelation. Some have thought that was the time he was caught up to the 3rd heaven. I'm not prepared to say for sure, but perhaps it was. You can always be sure of this, that when you seek to please the Lord, He's going to repay you in a wonderful way. You may have to suffer, it may cost something, but it's a grand thing to commit your way onto the Lord and trust in Him. But now just to notice these other verses here. From a child Timothy had known the Holy Scriptures, and Paul brings this before him as being so important, not only as regards salvation, but he says that the man of God may be perfect, truly furnished unto all good works. And this is another thing I'd like to bring before you in connection with purpose.

Because he says here in connection with himself, that is, Paul says, thou hast known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose. And now he commends this to Timothy, that he would be well instructed in the Scriptures and. It's a wonderful thing, as you have often heard me mention before, to store your mind with the Word of God when you're young. You know, as we get older, we can't retain things that we hear as well. But there's no better time than when you're young. It's a grand opportunity. Or you say, I know I'm saved. I know the word of God tells me when I see the blood, I will pass over you. The word of God gives me the assurance and I know I'm saved. But you have the word of God for your pathway. And if somebody asks you, well, why do you do this or that? Why do you meet the way you do? Are you acquainted with the Scriptures? Oh, you say, well, my family has always gone to the meetings like that. Is that your answer or can you say, well, will you sit down and we'll look at it from the Scripture? Well, Paul not only encouraged Timothy in regard to going on in the past of. Devotedness, but he brought before him the importance of the Word of God. And my desire for you, dear young people, you know, some of us, when we went to school, we didn't go quite as far in school as some today. Many of us left school a little bit earlier than some others. But you know, you can get so you can spend so much time and forget the importance of the word of God. And I'm not against education. I thank God for those who have used what. For the Lord. But I do say this, don't allow the education and all those things to take up so much of your time that you don't have time to read the word of God, the world, as perhaps you remember there was one the first judge in the book of Judges was the man who overcame. Persia Seifer, and that means the city of books. And he was the first judge in Israel. He overcame the city of books. And you've got to overcome the city of books if you're going to be any good to the people of God. The world is full of the making of books. There is no end. The Bible says it's just full of books. And you can just be reading these kind of things all the time. And I encourage you to read God's Word to appreciate the precious ministry that we have. And this is. This requires purpose, you know, it requires purpose. There's a day set for exams and it requires purpose to get your lessons ready and someone says will you come out or have an exam tomorrow and so you study well, do we have that purpose in connection with the things of God? Are we really in earnest that we do desire to overcome the city of books and to be able to. Be useful to the people of God. Dear Timothy wise, he had a purpose. And so the purpose was, I believe we could say in this to become acquainted with God's word. Now I'd just like to turn to one other passage, two other passages, one in in Acts chapter. Acts Yes, the 19th chapter and the 21St verse. After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the Spirit. When he had passed through Macedonia and Aqua to go to Jerusalem, saying after I have been there, I must also see Rome. I just wanted to speak briefly about this. And that is a purpose in connection with service. Now as far as Paul was concerned, he's going to Jerusalem, did not have the approval of the Spirit of God. But what I wish to bring before you was that Paul did have a purpose in connection with his service. And this only emphasizes the fact that in our service we need to be careful to be directed by the Lord, to be directed by him, because even the apostle Paul, wonderful person though he was. We're informed by the Spirit of God that He did not have God's mind in going to Jerusalem. And you know, I hope you, dear young people, will grow up to be very useful. And the Lord has a service for every one of you. He has a service for me.

And he has a service for you. Everyone has some part to fulfill in the Church of God. It says, Every man shall bear his own burden. Let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone and not in another. An American said to the young people. And I wish to bring it before you again, that I believe each one of us should seek to discover. What the Lord has for us to do? I believe he has something for every young person and every older person to do a little service. Every Levite had something. Some carried the board, some carried the pins, some had the service of carrying the holy vessels, the ark, but everyone had some service. It's a sad thing to go through life and never to find out what the Lord wanted you to do. It tells us about a man named Archibus that he had a service but he wasn't doing it. And Paul had to say in the epistle, he said, say to Archippus, take heed to the ministry that thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it. And I've often looked around and thought of young men of ability that I've seen and wondered if it wasn't possible for us to spend all our abilities on things that pass away instead of devoting. Of those abilities to the Lord, I don't want to call anyone to service. That's the master's call. He's the Lord of the harvest. But I do say he has a service for you and a burden. Do you have a purpose to find it out? Have you ever really looked up earnestly from your heart and said, Lord, what will thou have me to do? I believe if you do, he'll show you something. Mr. Darby once said it isn't the need that puts us to work. It's the Lord's call. He said there are needs everywhere, but. The Lord has a call for each one of us, something for us to do for Him. Now, last of all, I'd just like to we spoke about purpose and power. So I'd like to turn to two passages about that. Philippians chapter 4, Philippians chapter 4, and verse 13. I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me. And then in Colossians chapter one, beginning at the ninth verse. For this 'cause we also, since we heard of it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that she might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might according to His glorious power. Unto all patients. And long-suffering with joyfulness always spoke in the beginning of God's purpose and the power that was going to carry it out. We talked a little bit about purpose in our lives. Purpose in connection with cleaving to the Lord. Purpose to be able to refrain from things that would be a hindrance to our Christian life and testimony. Purpose in connection with getting a knowledge of God's Word. Purpose and connection. Our service and our pathway here for the Lord Jesus. But what about the power? How did this great apostle do these things? And was it because he had such a strong character that he said, well, I'm just a man of purpose and I can accomplish this and that? No, not at all. He said, when I am weak, then am I strong? He said, I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me. And here he says to the Colossians, strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power. Unto all patients and long-suffering with joyfulness all your young people. It may and it does cost something to have a purpose in our lives, but oh, it's worthwhile. As Paul looked back at the end of his life and did he look back with vain regrets that he had followed his Lord? Oh no, He finished his course with joy. He sought to complete the

ministry the Lord had given to him. And all as I look into your young faces. If the Lord doesn't come and he leaves us here, great responsibilities are going to fall upon you. You're going to face more difficult days than your elders and Janelle. The Philistines, a long while ago, they did their very best to keep all the Hebrews from having swords in their hands. He didn't mind sharpening their tools, but one thing he didn't want them to have a sword in their hand so they'd be weak in the day of battle. And he doesn't mind you coming and having a fine time with the other.

People, and neither do I just love to see you together and having a nice time. But oh, there's going to be a battle ahead. If the Lord doesn't come, days are going to become more difficult. May the Lord grant that we will have a purpose that will draw upon those resources of power that we have and that there will be in our lives, and that which will abide for His glory. And when we find ourselves in that glory above and think of what it cost God. To fulfill his purpose and bring us there and make us forever supremely happy. Do you think we'll be sorry for any purpose that we had? Do you think we'll be sorry for any sacrifices that we made for Him? All I believe we'll all say, oh, it's all worthwhile. Why didn't I live more for such a wonderful savior? Oh, May God grant that these things may lay hold of us now. That the washing of water by the word may give us to enjoy. More part with him.

Toledo Conference: 1988, God's Grace

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Fights to act in grace, and grace is his undeserved favor. Well, I'd like first of all just to look at a well known verse in Ephesians chapter 2, Ephesians chapter 2, and the eighth verse. Or by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. That was the beginning. Brethren of our Christian life. I trust each one here knows the Lord Jesus as Savior. What did God do to bring us to the knowledge of salvation? He brought us to the end of ourselves. He brought us to the point where we recognized that there wasn't one good thing in us. We had no righteousness of our own. There wasn't even a movement in our hearts toward Him. We didn't even have the faith to believe. We're in a position where we were just totally. Up and when we came in that bankrupt condition, realizing, I say, that we had nothing but sin, we didn't have any faith, we were totally helpless to save ourselves. That was where he met us. That was where he brought salvation by grace. What is grace? The undeserved favor of God. By grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. That is, even the faith was not of ourselves. We came in all our unbelief, and we found that the Lord met us. He pointed us to that blessed finished work. He gave us to see that everything was done to meet our need as sinners, and we found salvation. A full salvation. A complete salvation, because it's all a gift. Wasn't something that even after we had faith that we had to work for, the very moment we received the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we were blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ. It was totally undeserved. Brethren, that's the way we began our Christian journey. Oh, let us never lose sight of this and brethren, its grace all the way. It's grace that meets us in every situation we can possibly meet. Along our Christian life, and I believe we need to have a deepening sense of this. You notice how often in the Bible, in the salutation, its grace and then peace. And I believe our brothers spoke of many who were discouraged. I believe it is because we don't have a sense of grace. We think, well, I failed in the fall that I have done so I get discouraged that I have failed. Perhaps you feel the same thing in your soul too. I failed. In my life as a Christian and so you get discouraged, but you know the the Sinner had to come to the end of himself and rest upon the finished work of Christ and then he found peace and in all the circumstances of life, we have to come to the point where we realize we can't handle them. They're just totally beyond us in our own wisdom or in our own strength. That's where the Lord comes in and that's grace and I just look like to look at a few if you. At First Chronicles chapter 17, First Chronicles chapter 17 and verse 16. And David the king came and sat before the Lord, and said, Who am IO, Lord God, And what is mine house that thou hast brought me hitherto? And yet this was small, as this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God. For thou hast also spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and as regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O Lord God. I like to think of this passage in connection with the family. Here was a man who came right to the end of himself. He couldn't say that he had been a faithful father, for he hadn't. He had failed greatly in his household and all. There was a lot of sorrow that came into the household of David, as we all know. And here he comes into the very presence of the Lord. He sits down in the presence of the Lord and he says, who am I? Oh, we need to do that, brethren. We need to come to that point where we say, who am I? What can I do? I can't boast that I've been a good father. They can claim blessing for my household because I've done all the things. There's a great many necessary things that have been brought before us, but I think many of us hang our heads and say, well, I just haven't carried out those things. I failed in them. Can we still count upon God in such circumstances? Isn't this lovely to see David here coming and sitting before the Lord and saying, who am I?

Why should God act in this way? And blessing in my household said I didn't deserve it. I've been an unfaithful father. And he said God has come in, in his grace and he's made promises. And so we know that in a coming day God is going to bring blessing to that household. And we know that an actual lineal descendant of the House of David will yet set upon the throne. Our blessed Lord Jesus was spoken of as the son of David. Was it because David? A good father. No, it was grace, brethren, and that we find here then, and I say, I just pass on this little flat race in connection with the family. There might be some here who are discouraged about the family. Well, let's do what David did. He just went in and sat before the Lord and he said, who am I? But he still had that confidence in God. And he said, I must also spoken of thy. Servants house for a great while to come. The Lord knows that future. We're just saying now that when Abraham said to the Lord, how shall I know that I possess the land? The Lord said, oh David, I can tell you what's going to happen to your nation for 430 years. I'll just lay out the history for you so you'll know everything is in the hands of God. Where does He meet us? He meets us in grace. Let's cast ourselves upon His grace then. That's what we did as sinners, and we received a full and a free. Salvation, and we can do it as regards our families. Now let's turn over to Second Chronicles chapter 20 and the 12TH verse. Or God, wilt thou not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us. Neither know we what to do, but our eyes are upon thee. And all Judas stood before the Lord with their little ones, their wives. And their children. Well, here we find too another case. Perhaps I could think of this one in connection with assembly problems. I don't suppose there's an assembly represented here that there aren't very real problems that we face, situations that arise. The enemy just seems too strong. Situation is more than we can handle. And this was the way it was at this time. Could Jehoshaphat claim that God would come in because he had been a good king? Well, perhaps we remember a little bit about for Jehoshaphat and how he made an alliance with Ahab and how he had to be rebuked just to miraculously delivered by the Lord and had to be rebuked by the prophet. In these words, shouldst thou love the ungodly and help them that hate the Lord? The Lord had to speak to him, so he couldn't make any claim in this problem that he had been a good king so he could count upon God. Come in and help them in this problem which confronted them as an assembly. And So what does he

do? Well, they all come together, little ones and wives. They all come and they say, Lord, we don't know what to do. It's just a problem that's totally beyond this. You can't handle this situation. And so they turn to the Lord. They cried to him to come in on what ground your. Grace thoughtfully undeserved. Was the Lord able to come in? Well, the time is short. We don't have time to go into the details of this case, but perhaps you remember how wonderfully the Lord came in in the. 26th verse Let's read these two verses. And on the 4th day they assembled themselves in the valley of Barakah, for there they blessed the Lord. Therefore the name of that place was called the Valley of Barakah unto this day. Then they returned every man of Judah and Jerusalem and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy. For the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies, and they came to Jerusalem with salt trees. And harps and trumpets unto the House of the Lord. Here we we have taken time to see that they were actually days gathering the spoiled. The Lord came on in far, far beyond their expectations, worked a tremendous deliverance, and saw that they just came and celebrated his grace and goodness and came back full of Thanksgiving and praise. Haven't we experienced this? How often we have tried. To solve problems that have come up in the assembly, and we have just wished there was somebody there that was wise, somebody who could give us some good advice. And it just seemed that the things seemed beyond us. And then when we were totally cast upon the Lord, He did far more, as the Scripture says unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. I say again.

Was it because Jehoshaphat was a good king? Was it because the people themselves had deserved it? There had already been a split between the tribes of Judah and the other 10 tribes, and there had already been much failure in the 2 tribes. But God came in brethren, was grace. It was grace just the same as it is in our family situation. So it is in the assembly, and we need to have the realization of this. Because when we come together, perhaps in those situations, maybe that many assemblies are facing even here and now that we don't know what to do. Well, we can turn to the Lord. We can count upon His grace. Well, there's another one I'd like to turn to in First Chronicles, again in the 29th chapter and the 14th verse. I'll read from the 12TH verse. Both riches and honor come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all. And in thine hand is power and might, and in thine hand it is to make great and to give strength unto all. Know, therefore, our God, we thank Thee and praise Thy glorious name. But who am I, and what is my people that we should be able to offer? So willingly after this sort. For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee, For we are strangers as before thee, and sojourners as were all our fathers. Our days on earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. Well, here the Lord had to come in and provide it in a very miraculous way for the temple that was to be built. And provided all that was necessary for the building of the temple, He might have become proud. We do. Sometimes we see things working out pretty well. Some situation comes perhaps in our personal lives or in some service that we have sought to do for the Lord. Things seem to have. Come along very well and there's always a tendency for us to kind of look back and say, well, I think I made a good job out of that I think I really went about that in the right way. Look how things seem to have prospered and done so well and David could in a certain sense look back and think, well, things have really come along there's been a great deal of material gathered together and I've done it I've gone out I've. My life, I've fought valiantly upon the battlefield and all this is the result of all these efforts that I've put forth. But what does he do? He takes the humble place before the Lord. He recognizes that it wasn't his doing at all because everything came from the Lord. And if there's any desire in your heart or mine to do something for the Lord, to devote our lives to Him or to serve Him or give to Him, who does it all come from? Who gave us our health? Who gave us any strength or ability that we have? To enabled us to undertake. Some service and carry it out. How easily he could have hindered, but wasn't that his goodness? And instead of getting puffed up, then, brethren, when we have done something and perhaps the Lord in goodness has helped us. I think we can say that about these meetings here. How good the Lord has been and how he has come in. But let's be humble before him. And then He can continue the blessing toward us. And so we see here when all. This great amount has been amassed, and David might have boasted about it instead of this, he said it all came from the Lord. It wasn't me. I didn't really do anything like I heard about dear brother Yamanaki when somebody went out to Japan and was going to do a little bit of help in the work that was going on there. And his comment to the brother was. He said. If you see anything right here. It's in spite of Yamanaki, not because of Yamanaka. Well, that was a lovely spirit, wasn't it? And that's the spirit that we need to have, brethren. That's the spirit, whether it's seeking to undertake some service, and I trust all of us, they'll be stirred up to undertake some service for the Lord. But let's keep on our knees and recognize that if there is any blessing from anything that we do, all things come of thee. And what does he say of thine own?

Have we given me since the Lord gave it to me and I just had the privilege of returning it, and that's all that we can do. He gave us health. We have the privilege of using that health for Him. He gave us some means. We have the privilege of using it. Where did it come from? It all came from Him. The silver and the gold are His. The strength that we have, the little bit of wisdom that we have that He has given to us to know how to go about something and His service. Now let me read that again, but fourteenth verse. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able so willingly to offer so willingly after this people? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. So what we see here that it was, he confesses that it was all of grace. Let's turn over now to 1St Corinthians 15, verse 9, for I am the least of the apostles. And I'm not meat to be called an apostle because I persecuted the Church of God, but by the grace of God I am what I am. And His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. How lovely an expression this is too. By the grace of God, I am what I am. The enemy delights to get us puffed up. Indeed, I believe He works one way or the other. He tries to get us discouraged. If we think we have made a mess of things, and we often do, we look back and think of how we just seem to make a mess of things we tried and didn't seem to accomplish. And especially when we see other people that seem to have accomplished something and we seem that we couldn't do it. And we get discouraged. But isn't this very beautiful? This seems to me to reduce it right down to the personal side of things. We've talked about the family and about the assembly and about our service. But here it seems to me to reduce it right down to the personal side of things. Every one of us have personal lives. How have we conducted ourselves personally? As we look back, do we feel like patting ourselves on the back? Oh, didn't, he said? I said I'm a ****. I'm ashamed. When I looked back, he said I persecuted the Church of God. I can't boast about my past. It's just a black spot that I I don't even like to think about. I was a chief of sinners. But he said God in his goodness has brought me to this point. Do I have anything to boast about? Do I have anything in which I can glory personally now? He says by the grace of God. I am what I am. Let's always remember this. We remember we've been speaking a little bit about the children of Israel. They came into the land. It was marvelous the way the Lord caused the walls of Jericho to fall down without them lifting a sword at all, just marching around the city. And they thought, well, if we can take a city like that so easily, there's a little place called AI. It's only got about 3000 people. There'll be no problem there. We can handle that and so we know the story, I think. They went down and the men of AI put them to play. In fact, they were so secure that they said we don't need to all go. There's just a few of us will go to handle that little city. But the people of AI put them to flight. Haven't we often thought so? We thought, oh, I can handle that situation. There's some things that are beyond me, but I can handle that. And that's the very one we broke down on. We didn't think we would. We thought we could handle it. Why? Because we didn't realize, by the grace of God, I am what I am. It's not on the basis of what we deserve. It's all undeserved favor from God. It says it's a good thing that the heart should be established in grace. Peter says, But grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The better we get to know Him, brethren, the more we'll be the sense of grace in our souls.

And God, I believe, wants to teach us this for getting near the end of the dispensation. The Lord's coming is near.

And we can get discouraged because we see. Weakness and breakdown or we can get kind of a little puffed up because we think at times we've accomplished something. But oh, let's do what they did after victory, if they were going to have the next one. They went back to Gilgal. They said we're nothing. We're nothing. They lifted, so to speak, afresh the knife on self. And they said it's all grace. And when they did that. So wonderfully, the Lord came in enemies more than they could handle. And there are situations that may meet you tomorrow that are more than you can handle. There are situations the assemblies are going to meet, they're going to complicate. A sign goes on, but the Lord is sufficient and it's all of grace. Well, let's turn to another passage in first Peter. I believe it is. First Peter chapter one. First Peter chapter 1 and verse. Chapter 13 Wherefore it gird up the loins of your mind, be sober and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Have we spoken about how it's grace it saves, It's grace for assembly matters, it's grace for service, grace for family situations, grace for those personal things that come. And then there's going to be in a coming day a manifestation of our lives. Our lives, everyone of us are. Going to pass into review. The Apostle Paul, I believe, is going to get a great reward for his devotedness and faithfulness to the Lord. Some have been exceedingly faithful. And is the apostle Paul going to stand up and boast that he was the number one on the list? That's the way things go at school. There's a person who's 1St and 2nd and 3rd. Is the Apostle Paul going to do it? Is Peter going to say, well, I was a. Great disciple, I preached one time and 3000 people got saved. You think he's going to say that when his life is manifested? Oh, he's going to say it's all of grace. It's all of grace. I don't know why the Lord used me. I was really nothing. It was only his goodness. And I was thankful that he was able to use me, but I really was nothing. And that's what we're going to do in that day, brethren. And so we have. I won't take time, but we all know the scene very well. In Revelation chapter 4, and we see there the whole redeemed company around the Lord. The results of the judgment seat of Christ, as we know, are that crowns will be given for faithfulness to the Lord in various things. The crown of life, the crown of glory, the crown of righteousness, the crown of rejoicing. There are different rewards that will be given. Because even though it all comes of grace, grace will give rewards too. And will we say I got 2 crowns or I got one? Or are we going to do something like that now? We're just going to cast our crowns at his feet and say thou art worthy and that's all. That's going to be the end of the journey. We need to learn it down here, brethren. The Lord's trying to teach it to us. He's passing us through a lot of things and I know there are those here who feel well. I just feel I've tried and other people seem to be able to make a success of things. Other people seem to be able to handle things. Other assemblies don't seem to have the problems we have and I I just get discouraged. Brethren, cast ourselves on his grace and if we are in any of the situations. Where we feel at the end of the resources, that's just where God intended to bring us. Where we realize that we are nothing and we have nothing of our own. And if we can give anything to Him, we only have to say of thine own have we given thee. And when our lives are manifested, if there is something that He can pick out and reward, it will be His joy to do so. But what will we do? We'll say it's all grace and we'll cast our crowns. At his feet, and say, Thou art worthy.

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Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Now that we have heavenly truth brought before us, and in this portion we see that God is making known to us what was in His purpose as a way back in a past eternity. And that is that in this epistle to the Ephesians we see that His purpose was to bring a people into blessing associated with Himself, to share all His counsels and purposes. And we see that there are two. Purposes of God revealed here It says that in the dispensation of the fullness of times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in Him. We see as we were looking a little bit yesterday, that the Lord Jesus Christ, the blessed Son of God, is the center of all God's counsels and purposes. And when you and I have taken the Lord Jesus as our Savior, and then we're brought into a wonderful position, it says he's abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence. Having made known unto us the mystery of His will. How marvelous that God has given us these things in His precious Word. That in all the movements of events as we see them in this world, that we have the secret of the Lord, we have his mind revealed to us in His Word. And as one is often said, the Christian is the only person who has an intelligent outlook in what is going on in the world as far as men of the world are concerned. It's just like what we read in Daniel. When Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. Tells us that he saw the course of Gentile power as a great image ahead of gold and silver and brass, and then iron and iron and clay. That was the way it appeared to men, and then that they see great kingdoms in the fall of kingdoms, and others replacing it. But when Daniel saw them, he saw them as wild beasts striving on the great sea, and then he saw the one who was going. Set everything right. The Son of Man, the Lord Jesus, the one who is the only one who can set things right in this troubled world. So I say as far as men are concerned, they look out and think of monarchies rising and falling, and they seem very great and important to them. But in the Scripture, as we look at it by faith, we see that it's man acting in this world as though it were his own. The kingdoms of this world are going to become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. The earth is the Lord, and the fullness thereof, and there's one who is in control of everything it says, who hath purposed and brought it to pass, when the Lord commanded it not. So you and I, brethren, as those who know the Lord Jesus as our Savior, not only those of us here, but everyone who knows the Lord is Savior, God would have us to be in the intelligence of His purposes in regard to this earth, in regard to the heavenly glory. And this verse tells us that God has these two distinct purposes. In prophecy, we see what is taking place upon the earth. But as we read. In the mystery that was revealed to the Apostle Paul, we see a people being gathered out of this world for heavenly glory. As we were talking a little bit on Saturday night, the position of the Christian in this world is like an ambassador. What is an ambassador? Well, he's a representative in another country that is not his own, but he represents the country that he belongs to. And brethren, you and I, when we are saved, we. Became heavenly man by birth. We belong to heaven, and we're here in this world to represent heaven. But we also can look out and see what's happening in the world, and know that God has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known unto us the mystery of His will. What a wonderful thing it is to be a Christian and to know. With divine assurance that absolutely nothing. Something can happen in this world now that isn't allowed of God and ordered of Him in the accomplishment of His eternal purposes. What a peace it gives to the Christian. And so how wonderful I say this is. Well, I want to repeat again that when we are saved, we are no longer part of this world. We live here. We're like ambassadors here. We're to represent Christ here, but we don't belong to it. The Lord Jesus said in his prayer in the 17th of John, ye are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. When he was in this world, he was.

In this world, but not of it, he was. A perfect display of all that God is so that he could say He that hath seen me has seen the Father. But he was despised and rejected here. He's gone back to heaven. He's now crowned with glory and honor. He's the man of patience. And as

believers, we're companions in tribulation, in the Kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ. We're waiting. But I say, brethren, God has given us to know that certain things would take. Place in this world before the time comes when the Lord Jesus takes the Kingdom. And before he begins those judgments that will fall upon this world, he's going to call his church away, just as an ambassador is taken out of the country before war is declared. So we know that the ambassadors, the Christians, the one who know the Lord as Savior, will be caught up when the Lord Jesus. Descends from heaven with a shell. And then God will begin to deal with this world. And we'll see by looking at a few scriptures that there is going to be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even unto that same time. It's called in scripture the tribulation. It's called the time of Jacob's trouble, and the latter part of it particularly. Is called the Great Tribulation. When God begins to more openly interfere with the affairs of this world. And so. Seeing God has made known his counsels and purposes, He lets us see how events in this world begin to move in that direction when the time of the Lord's coming draws near. And that's what you and I are witnessing as we look out. Whether it be in the Middle East, whether it be in Europe, or whether it be in connection with Israel, we see the hand of God. Behind these events. The first scripture that we could look at I just like to before we begin to look at second Peter chapter one verse 16 for we have not followed cunningly devised fables. When we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His Majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory. This is my beloved. Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven, we heard when we were with Him in the Holy Mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy. Crumble ye, do well that ye take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the day Star or the morning star arise in your hearts. Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation, 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. This epistle is written to Jewish believers. They were looking for the Kingdom that will be established upon the earth, For in the millennial period we know that Israel will be the center of the earthly glory, and Jerusalem the city of the great King. And so these Jews were looking for the establishment of the Kingdom to perhaps you remember that just before the Lord Jesus ascended, his disciples said to him, Wilt thou at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel? And his answer was, It's not for you to know the times and the seasons which the Father have committed into his own power. And so they were looking for that Kingdom. And when the Lord Jesus was rejected as Israel's king, they said, we have no king but Caesar. The Kingdom was postponed. And some of these Jews might feel, well, is it ever going to come? Well, what Peter is saying here is, yes, it's going to come. We saw a little preview of it on the Mount of Transfiguration. If you heard that one of the car dealers was going to put out a new model and it seemed to be delayed, people might say, well, I wonder if they're really going to put it out. But if you'd seen a preview of the car, you'd say, oh, it's certainly going to come. I saw a preview of it, and this is what?

Peter is speaking about here. He said it's all going to come, but he said you'll never understand the ways of God until you see Scripture as a harmonious whole. These two distinct purposes of God must be fulfilled, the purposes that he has in connection with this earth. But when Israel rejected their king and said we have no king that Caesar, then we read in the book of the act. God has visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for his name. And in this present period, called in Scripture the fullness of the Gentiles, we read that God is gathering out of people who are not of this world. When they. The Lord Jesus was going to the cross, his disciples wanted to fight. They wanted to maintain his rights by fighting. And the Lord said, if my Kingdom were of this world, then would my servant fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews, but now is my. Thy Kingdom not from hence being rejected, we have the introduction of what began on the day of Pentecost, and that is the period that is the birthday of the Church, the Lord said in the 16th chapter of Matthew. On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. What I am building, but I will build. And that began on the day of Pentecost. I might just add here that that was the reason for the gift of tongues. People get very confused about the gift of tongues, but in the Old Testament God was dealing with a particular nation. When He sent out that disciples, He said go not into the way of the Gentiles. Or into any cities of the Samaritans of the Samaritans entering Enoch. But go ye rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. The time of Israel's blessing hadn't yet really closed until they rejected their Messiah. But when the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, then he said, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. And what more significant proof that the Word was to go out to all nations than to have an assemblage of people? On the day of Pentecost from every nation under heaven, and they heard in their own tongue the wonderful works of God. And so it tells us very clearly in First Corinthians 14, tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not. It was a testimony to this world that God was going to do something new and different, and that was to reach out and the Church of God. Is formed of all those of any nation. Who accept the Lord Jesus as savior. And you don't have to join the church. The Bible says the Lord added to the church daily. The moment you got saved, you became part of the church. You might have been a member of some human organization before, but you weren't part of the church, as the Bible talks of it, until you were saved. And when you were saved, you didn't have to join it. The Lord added you to his church. You became part of that. Company that belongs to heaven, that your home is in heaven. And you see very clearly that. That it says an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away reserved in heaven for you, for the hope which is laid up for you in heaven. We have a building of God and house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. That wasn't Israel's hope as a nation. Israel's hope as a nation was the blessings of their. In on the earth and that will take place in the millennial age, but now God is gathering out a people for heaven, but I want to just read that this little portion to show that. The looking into prophecy is important because it says, Unto which ye do well, that she take heed as unto a light that shine us in a dark place until the day dawn. You know, when the Lord comes again to deliver the nation of Israel, He's spoken of as the Son of righteousness with healing in his wings, but when he comes for the church, he comes as the bright and morning star. The Morning Star rises before the Daybreak. And as I study the things that God has told us about prophecy and as you consider them, I hope the effect will be upon me and I hope it will be upon you that the morning star will arise in our heart, that we will be saying, oh, isn't this wonderful? What's happening in the world just shows me that the coming of my Savior is, is near. Because when you see these things begin to come to pass, look up, lift up your head for your redemption.

9 And so as we see the movement of events, we know that before Israel's day of blessing comes, before the awful judgment of the tribulation comes upon this world, the Lord Jesus is going to come and take his own away. We look for him as deliverer from the coming wrath. Well, now if you go back to Isaiah chapter 18, O to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, that sendeth ambassadors by the sea, even in vessels of bull rushes upon the waters, saying, Go ye swift messengers, to a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto, and nation meted out and trodden down, whose land the rivers have spoiled. All the inhabitants. The world and dwellers on the earth, see ye when he lifteth up an Ensign on the mountains, and when he blows the trumpet here ye. For the Lord said unto me, I will take my wrath, and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, and like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest. For a for the harvest, when the body is perfect, and the sour grape is ripening in the flour, he shall both cut off the springs with pruning hooks and take away. And cut down the branches, they shall be left together unto the fowls of the mountains, and to the beasts of the earth. And the fowls shall summer upon them, and all the beasts of the earth shall winter upon them. Here the Spirit of God calls the attention of the whole world to what has happened to this nation that was scattered and peeled. I can remember in 1948 when Israel became a nation back at

home. The heading on the paper in the city of Ottawa was after 2000 years, Israel is a nation again. And God says everybody in the world looked on, something's going to happen because I have purposes in connection with this earth. I have blessing for my people. Because as we read very clearly in the Psalms, Jerusalem is the city of the great king. We lead in the end of Zechariah that all nations will have to come up and worship at Jerusalem to worship the king, the Lord of hosts. And so here we find that. The Spirit of God records how that God would use some power to open the way for that nation to go back and establish themselves in their land. Now they're doing a lot of boasting about their progress, but what does God have to say about it? He says. In the fifth verse for afore the harvest, when the body is perfect and the sour grape is ripen in the flour, he shall both cut off the springs with pruning hooks and take away and cut down the branches. They're going back now is an unbelief. They're going back now is only to be there for what the Scripture calls the time of Jacob's trouble, and there's a lot of trouble. Ahead for that nation there. And the rest of the world realizes that there is something going on and something going to happen. Well, the Christian knows. The Christian knows God has a people whom he has purposed. He made unconditional promises to Abraham way back in the book of Genesis. He told them what the limits of their land were. Now they have just a little piece of land there. But their land, if you read it in the end, I think it's the. Of Genesis reaches right out to the Euphrates, and God has said that he gave it to them. He gave it to them on the ground of a sacrifice. And then as you read in the Psalms, I've forgotten which one it is, it says he gave it to, He gave it to Abraham, He gave it to Isaac, and he gave it to Jacob for 1000 generations. In other words, it's going to be given back to God. People, but they're going back now in unbelief. They're still rejecting their Messiah. You find that they still will not recognize. I don't mean there aren't some Jewish believers, but I say that as they're going back now. They're going back in unbelief. They're trying to establish themselves in that land and still.

Have rejected our continuing to reject their Messiah. What a solemn thing. Well then, if you want to turn a little more you'll see in the 83rd Psalm. Now here's what their enemies think about this Psalm 83. Keep not thou silence, O God, Hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For LO thine enemies make a tumult, and they that hate thee have lifted up the head they have taken crafty. Against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones, they have said, Come, let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance, for they have consulted together with one consent. They are confederate against thee, the tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites of Moab, and the Hagarines, Gibell and Ammon and Amalek. The Philistines, with the inhabitants of Tyre asser also. Is joined with them, they have hope and the children of Lot. Well, isn't this just what almost word for word what they're saying? Come and let us cut them off from being a nation. It may not be agreed at many things among themselves, but here is what the Scripture might call the Arab Confederacy. They don't like to see Israel back in that land. Turn over to Ezekiel. The 35th chapter of Ezekiel and the 10th verse. Notice this verse. Because thou has said, these two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess it. Or as the Lord was there, they didn't realize that, did they? They'd like to say, well, we're going to take back this land. Israel's not going to have it. And they left it. They've been out of it for about 2000 years, and they're not going to have it back. But it says the Lord was there. The Lord was there. It's the Lamb that he promised to give to that nation. And so here we see these nations. Nations coming together with the express purpose of. Wiping out the nation of Israel. Well, God is allowing this. We see it happening before our eyes. Now, I want to say that we're not going to see the fulfillment of these things while we're here. All that we see while we're here is the nations getting into their places for the final time when God brings events to their climax. When the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. That's why it's not really accurate to say that we see Scripture being fulfilled, we see the preliminaries, we see them going back, but we don't actually see the finality of it because it won't be until after the church is gone. If you just like if there was going to be a game and all the players, that defenseman and all the different ones got into their places, but the game doesn't start until the whistle blows and then. All everything starts to move but the players. Had to get in their places 1St and what we see taking place now is these nations lining up to get into their places for what is going to happen in the latter days. Now if you you'll see here, I might say here that these names that are given Edom, Ishmaelites, Moab, Hagarin and the Philistines, these are the ancient names. This is a stock from which those nations came. They're all more or less related to Israel, but they now. Have different names, perhaps even the Philistines are what's known as the Palestinians today and here we see them all and Aser Hesher join with them. What a picture we have here of what is lining up for the final action in the coming day. Well then if you turn over also. To if you turn over also to Daniel chapter. Chapter 11 and verse 40 And at the time of the end, shall the king of the South, that's Egypt, push at him, and the king of the North, that's this confederacy that we read of in the 83rd Psalm. The King of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with Chariots and with horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall enter into the countries, and will overflow. And Passover he shall enter also into the glorious land. And many countries shall be overthrown, but these shall escape out of his hand. Even Edom and Lob, and the chief of the children of Ammon, he shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries. And the land of Egypt shall not escape, but he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt.

And the Libyans and The Ethiopians shall be at his steps. The tidings of the East and out of the north shall trouble him. Therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy and utterly to make away many. Ye shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. Here we read of this attack that will be made by this Arab confederacy at the very end of the tribulation period, and we see how he'll come in you turn over to Zechariah chapter 13, chapter 13 and verse 8, and then shall come to pass, and all the land, saith the Lord 2 parts therein shall be cut off and died. But the third part shall be left therein, and I will. Bring a third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried. And they shall call on my name, and I will hear them. I will say it is my people, and they shall say the Lord is my God. Well, this is what will happen now we know and as we lookout, we can see that God is hindering things at this point because the time hasn't come for them to make this invasion of the land which they will make at the end of the tribulation period. But all that we can see is them getting ready. God is holding things back now. Why? But this is the day of His grace, brethren. This is the day of His grace, and He's waiting in long-suffering patience over this world. He's not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. And if there's anyone here that is not saved, the Lord hasn't come yet. Then he waits, and he waits. It tells us they are in Peter's epistle. The long-suffering of our God is salvation, and when all His purposes in regard to the Church, in regard to the heavenly company are fulfilled, then he will take His church away. But isn't it something that we see? All getting ready we see the enmity of these nations against Israel and yet it seems as though we see God holding things in check because this attack that we read of in Daniel isn't until the very end of the tribulation. Isn't it a blessed thing that God has given us his word with all these things to show us Well now if you turn back to. Revelation. Or I should say to Revelation. Chapter 13. I just like to say at this point that the Bible shows us that there will be 3 great confederacies that will be formed. The first one that we've just been reading about we might call the Arab Confederacy who hates the land of Israel and wants to exterminate that nation if they possibly can. And then there's also the great, shall I say, the Roman Empire. And for a long, long time, as we know. Europe was divided into many nations, but we see before our very eyes coming together of that nation. So as it has been said in the news, a person will no longer say. I'm Spanish or I'm I'm Swiss or I'm German. They'll say I'm European. I'm European. And here we see something amazing happening, the revival of the Roman Empire. To appear in here to this 13th of Revelation. And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having 7 heads and 10 horns, and

upon his horns 10 crowns, and upon his head the names of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth. As the mouth of a lion and the dragon gave him his power and his. Seed and great authority. And I saw one of his heads that were wounded to death, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon, which gave power unto the beast. And they worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast, who is able to make war with him? And it was given unto him a mouse, speaking great things, and blasphemy and power was given unto him to continue.

40 and two months and he opened his mouth in blasphemy. Against God, to blasphemy His name and his Tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the Saints, and to overcome them. And power was given Him over all kindreds and tongues and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him whose names are not written in the Book of Life. Of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The 11TH 1St. And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth, and that them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of man, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by means of those miracles. He had power to do in the sight of the beast, saying to them that dwar on the earth that they should make an image to the beast which had the wound by a sword, and it lived well. Here we find if you turn over also to the 17th chapter, you'll find a little more about this first verse. It was given. And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come, hit her. I will show thee the judgment of the great *****. That sitteth upon many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness, and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having 7 heads and 10 horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and colored and decked with gold and precious stones. And. Pearls having a golden cup in her hand, full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication. And upon her head was a name written Mystery Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the Saints, with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the Angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee Mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carries her, which hath the seven heads and 10 horns. The ninth Verse. And here is the mind that hath wisdom. The seven heads are 7 mountains, on which the woman sitteth. There are 7 kings, five are fallen, and one is and the other is not yet come. When he cometh, he will continue a short space. And the beast that was and is not even he is the 8th, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. And the 10 horns which thou sawest are 10 kings, which have received no Kingdom as yet, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. And these have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of Lords and kings, kings, and they that are with him are called and chosen and faithful. Now here we see in the 13th chapter of Revelation brought before us 2 beasts. The first one is the political or civil head of the revived Roman Empire and the second one is the Antichrist. Many people get these confused but there are two distinct ones. The first one, I say, then, is the political head of the revived Roman Empire and what we see in the very day in which we're living and very soon to be completed, the unification of Europe and that that old Roman Empire which was not for so long revived and brought back. Into such a position of power that if you read anything in the news, you'll see they're already boasting and saying that they'll have 400 million people under their power. And they threaten, as it were, the world saying who's able to make war with the beast. Don't we see this happening right before our very eyes? Everything getting ready. Oh, you say that there are 12 nations. Well, that's why I say Scripture is not yet fulfilled, but it's the preliminary things are getting ready. We see the Great Arab Confederacy taking its shape. We see the Europe coming together.

And uniting itself into a great power that can threaten the earth. We see till a religious power and so we see the false church here. And the reason it says she committed fornication is because as the church, as Paul said, I have espoused you as a chaste virgin to Christ. You and I are untrue to Christ if we form links with this world. Who cast out our Savior? We're to keep our affections. We're to keep our affections for that one who is the head of the body, the church. But the false church links in with the world, makes itself part of it really takes control. And so we see this woman rides the beast, tells you the seven heads are 7 mountains on which the woman sitteth. Rome is built on seven hills. And then we see these nations. Coming together. And it's not by conquest. When the Caesars went out, they conquered Europe. It was brought about by force. But that's not the second one's not brought about by force, it's by mutual consent. And people are wondering how can they, we can see little write ups, how can they expect all these nations which have been separated for so long to have a common currency, to have a common citizenship? God said it was going to take place. Who hath purposed and brought it to pass, when the Lord commanded it not? Every word of God shall be fulfilled. Not one Jack or one title will pass until all has been fulfilled. And so we see them by mutual consent, coming together, having a European Parliament. What does it prepare to be for? Oh, it's preparatory to the time when the true church will be taken away. Now, what is it that's hindering all these things from coming to the fulfillment? He who now hindereth will hinder until he be taken out of the way. 2 Thessalonians. The Spirit of God is here on earth, gathering out a bride for Christ, and as long as that work is going on, why then the forces of evil are held back while God completes His work in grace? Can you think of this country without one true born again Christian in it? That's what happened when the rapture takes place. That will happen. Everything that's now called a Christian country, all the true believers will be gone, and then the enemy will have power. And so we see a Trinity of evil. We see the worship of the dragon, who's Satan that's already pretty strong in its force. We see that they worship the dragon, and they're going to worship the beast, the head of this revived Roman Empire, and they're going to worship the Antichrist. It tells us in second. Thessalonians chapter 2 That he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. They rejected the Lord Jesus, they wouldn't acknowledge Him. And you remember what he said. I am come in my Father's name, and you receive me not. If another shall come in his own name, Him he will receive. Can't you see the world shaping up for this? More and more, even in our schools and everywhere, the deification of man is taking place. Man is to be the center of everything humanism and all this kind of things, all preparing the. Minds of people for the time when there will be 1 human, just a form Sinner of Adam's race who will actually sit in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God, and God will allow the power of evil to come out more unrestrained than it is today. It's hindered now, but if God will allow it to come out more. Definitely after the church is gone. Well now if you turn over to Daniel Chapter 9 and verse 2470, weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore, and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem.

Unto the Messiah the Prince shall be 7 weeks, and three score and two weeks. And the streets shall be built again on the wall, even in troublous times. And after three score and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself. And the margin says, and shall have nothing. And the people of the Prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary, and the end thereof shall be with a flood. And

unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week. And in the midst of the week he shall offer the sacrifice and the oblation to cease. And for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate even until. Consummation and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. Here a revelation was given to Daniel. If you notice we read in Peter. No scripture is of any private interpretation. We have to take the whole of scripture together. Here we find that Daniel was given this prophecy that there would be 7 and 62 That 69 weeks and these are weeks of years. We know that because from the time that the commandment was given to restore and build Jerusalem till the Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem to be crucified were 483 years, which is 69 * 7. And the last week is spoken of as time time. And half a time, that is half of it, half of it is spoken of is 40 and two months, which is 3 1/2 years. So we can see that these weeks are weeks of years and so. 69 of the weeks are past. There's one yet to be fulfilled. What is going to take place to introduce this week? Well, the Scripture shows us that when Europe is revived and comes together as one, they will make an agreement to protect Israel in their land for seven years, and that is the Tribulation period. And in the midst of that week, that's when the beast comes out, when the church is first taken away, there's a certain outward form that goes on for a while. But in the middle of the week, the whole profession of Christianity is totally abandoned in the earth. Israel, who had. Rebuild their temple because they're talking now. Isaiah tells us that they will rebuild a temple and they have now find out most amazingly that actually the mosque of Omar is not on the site where the temple was and are quite prepared now to build a temple there right close to that mosque of Omar, just as the 11TH of a revelation tells you. It says to measure the temple and then that worship therein. But the court that is. Leave out, for it's given unto the Gentiles so we can see how things are shaping up for this final time that God has told us. And saw that the Western world then agrees to protect Israel. And we see that they more or less have to lean upon them because they didn't lean on the Lord. So they think that they're going to get security by leaning upon them. Listen to what God thinks about this. Confederacy turn over to Isaiah chapter 8, verse 7. Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river strong, and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory, and he shall come up. Over all his channels and go over all his banks, and he shall pass through Judah, he shall overflow. And he shall reach even unto and go over, and he shall reach even to the neck, and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Emmanuel. Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces. And give ye all ye far countries good yourselves and ye shall be broken in pieces. Gird yourselves and ye shall be broken in pieces. Take counsel together, and it shall come to not. Speak the word and it shall not stand, for God is with us. For the Lord spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, Say ye not a confederacy to all them to whom this people shall say a confederacy? Neither fear, neither fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself, and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary, and for a stone of stumbling, and for a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, for a gin, and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And in the 17th verse. And I will wait upon the Lord that hideth his face from the House of Jacob, and I will look for him.

Turn over to the 28th of Isaiah. Verse 14 Wherefore hear the word of the Lord. He scornful men that rule his people, which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said we have made a covenant with death and with hell. Are we at agreement? When the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us. For we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood if we hid ourselves, therefore thus saith the Lord God. Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation. He that believeth shall not make haste. Verse 18 And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand. When the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it. From the time that it goes forth, it shall take you for morning by morning shall it Passover by day and by night. And it shall be a vexation only to understand the report. Well, here we can see what God has to say about this. Confederacy calls it covenant with death and an agreement with hell. He says it won't stand. Well, we can see how what it says in the 9th chapter of Daniel. He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week. In the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease to make a covenant to protect Israel. That's what Israel will look for is protection from the Arab nations round about them. They make it. God says it won't stand. When they come through, as we read in the 11TH chapter of Daniel. 2/3 of the land will be cut off. Doesn't matter what I believe that they've made or how strong this confederacy seems. God. Shall I say gives his word about it. And he says that the covenant with death and its agreement with hell, you can see how quickly it goes. It says shall pass over by day and by night, and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report. That's Modern Warfare, isn't it? It happened so quickly. It's day and night. You can hardly understand the report because things happen so quickly. And this is what God says will happen when this invasion takes place, when the king of the North comes in to invade. The land of Israel. And here we see then what's going to happen to the Roman power. Well, I just like to take a few minutes to look at what happened to the Russian confederacy. If you turn to Ezekiel chapter 38. And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against God. The land of Magog, the chief Prince of Meshech, in which the word Moscow comes. And tubal tubals. And prophecy against him. And say thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I am against thee, O God, the chief Prince of Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn thee back and put hooks into thy jaws. And I will bring thee forth an all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and Shields, all of them handling swords. Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them, all of them with shield and helmet. Gomer and all his bands. The House of Tagama of the north quarters, and all his bands, and many people with them. The eighth verse. After many days thou shalt be visited. In the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword that is gathered out of many people against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste, but it is brought forth. Explanations, and they shall dwell safely, all of them. Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, and thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Thus sayeth the Lord God shall come to pass. At the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought. And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages. I will go to them that are at rest and that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls and having needed. Bars nor gates to take a spoil and to take a prey. And then if you look at the next chapter in the 11TH verse, that shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto God a place. There are graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea. And it shall stop the Moses of the passengers, and there they shall bury Gog and all his multitude, and they shall call it the valley of Haman Gog.

In seven months shall the House of Israel. The bearing of them, that they may cleanse the land, and all the people of the land shall bury them. And then it goes on to tell us. That, uh. In the. I'll just read that verse, all the P And it shall be to them a renown. The day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord God. I should have also read the. 11 first, so that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any of the forests, for they shall burn the weapons with fire, and they shall spoil those that spoil them and rob those that rob them. Well, here we find what is going to happen to Russia. Now, you know, there were many that feared that Russia would attack Europe or it would attack United States. There's nothing in prophecy about. Russia make any attack at all upon the Western world. I don't say they won't, but it's not part of the prophetic picture at all. But the attack that Russia makes is after God has dealt with the nation of Israel, has brought them to repentance. When they see the Lord Jesus with the marks in his hands and they say, what are these wounds in thy hands? And they mourn and acknowledge their guilt and having rejected their Messiah. God allows them. He has judged the Arab confederate. He has judged the woman

confederacy and now Israel are back in their land settling in peace. Russia then comes down to make this final attack as though it would challenge the Kingdom under Christ, and it tells us that it's not a battle then at all. It's the Lord deals with them. Seven months they're burying the dead and seven years burning the instruments. That is what God tells. About the judgment of Russia and all those who are confederate with her. So God has shown us all these things. I might just say one thing more if you turn over to Revelation 19, because I think that perhaps to understand this. We need to just notice this passage. Verse 11 That I saw heaven opened, and behold a White Horse. And he that sat upon him was called faithful and true, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns. And he had a name written that no man knew that he himself. Then he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. The armies that were in heaven followed him upon white horses clothed in fine linen and white, and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations, and he shall rule, and with a rod of iron. And he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. The 19th verse. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies. Together to make war against him that sat on the horse and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them, that received the mark of the beast, and then that worshipped his image, These both were cast alive into a lake burning with brimstone. You remember how the Western powers made this agreement to protect Israel. So they come into the land, perhaps to fulfill their agreement to protect the nation of Israel when the king of the North comes down to destroy their land. And when they do, who do they meet? They meet the Lord. He's come to deliver his earthly people. And it tells us that on their part, they'll say, this is our God we have waited for. For him they had been worshipping the Antichrist, and God has dealt in judgment upon all those who have worshipped the Antichrist. And received the mark of the beast. And so God has dealt with them and now the Lord comes. He delivers those who are waiting for him and judges those who have been rejecting him. Perhaps I shouldn't say he had judged them. He will judge them at this time when he comes out of heaven and he delivers the godly remnant. He sets up his Kingdom. That's why it tells us that their expectation of being protected by the beast and his army. He comes in there but.

Instead of protecting Israel, he meets the Lord himself, who comes out of heaven, comes out of heaven with the armies of heaven, with you and I who have been caught up at the rapture. He comes back. The Lord my God, shall come in all the Saints with thee, and he comes to set up his Kingdom. So perhaps, just to put it briefly, we see these three great confederacies coming together. We see the Arab Confederacy, you see Europe coming together. Russia has sort of withdrawn and gone back, so she's not interfering so much with the affairs of Europe. And it's all preparatory, brethren. Israel are back in their land in unbelief. And now we see the rumblings of what is coming and what's taking place. But you and I, what should be the effect upon us as we see all these things? The Lord is going to come and He's going to set everything right as far as this world is concerned. But we belong to heaven. We're the heavenly company. We're going to be caught up at the rapture and as we see all these things taking shape. How wonderful to have this hope before us. That is, the Morning Star should be arising in our hearts. As we hear these things, our hearts should be saying, Even so come Lord Jesus. And I just like to say I want to turn to the Scriptures because the time is already overgone. But I just like to mention that I believe there's four things that He's asked us to do until He comes. He's asked us to remember him in his death until he comes. The enemy is bringing a lot of trouble among the Lord's people, and some Christians get really discouraged. But he's asked us to remember him until he comes. Let's not. Let's not give up. He's asked us to occupy until He comes. I know it's getting more difficult to get out and reach sinners because there's more and more darkness coming in. But the Lord would have us to be busy and reaching out to those about us with the wonderful message of salvation. Because when the Lord comes, it'll be the end of the day of grace for Christendom. For those who have heard the gospel and rejected it. Has also asked us to hold fast. We're living in days when a great deal of God's truth is being given up and compromised. He says that which thou hast already Hold fast till I come. This isn't a time, brethren, to give up any part of the truth of God. Let's stand steadfastly to what God has given to us and seek to walk in the good of it. The Lord's desire is that we would be watching and waiting as those. To wait for their Lord. And then the last thing is. Tells us about all kinds of injustice in James chapter 5 and the world is full of injustice and we find Christians banding together to triumph. Straighten out some of the injustice of the world. What is the message in James 5? Tells them that they're doing all kinds of things that are so unjust and God's people are being oppressed, and he says be patient. Therefore, my brethren, unto the coming of the Lord, let's not get mixed up in trying to fix up this world that's under judgment. We can expect things to get worse and worse. It's like trying to paint a ship when it's going down. There's no use trying. What we need to do is tell people to get to the life jackets, get to the lifeboats. There's a way of escape, and this is our place while we wait for the Lord to come. May we truly be found waiting and watching. I say again, remembering Him, occupying for him, holding fast the truth that He's given to us. And being patient, not getting involved. In all what's going on, as though the Christians business was to set the world right. We can't set it right. We know that there's only one that can and he's going to take us up and he's going to set things right. It says in Isaiah, when thy judgments are in the earth, then shall the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. They won't learn it by all our efforts. They'll learn it by the Lord dealing in judgment. Oh, how blessed for us. To have understanding of the times, to know the time in which we live, and to be like those who wait for their Lord. Well may He speak to each one of our hearts, drawing us out to Christ, our precious Savior, the Head of the Body of the Church and the true King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Conference: 1992, Enjoyment of our Portion Brbnk

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Like to turn first of all, brethren, to Ephesians chapter one, the seventh verse, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace, or any of the bounded toward us, in all wisdom and prudence, having made known unto us the mystery of his will. According to his good pleasure which he have purposed in himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in Him. This last verse that I have read has often been spoken of as the key verse to the whole Bible. Because God has two distinct purposes of blessing. He has a purpose of blessing for an earthly people, and He has a purpose of blessing for a heavenly people by grace. You and I who know the Lord Jesus as our Savior belong to the heavenly company. We are part of that church which He purchased with His own blood, and we know that God gave a testimony to Israel. He called Abraham out, and he chose that particular nation. He chose a city which was to be His Center for those earthly people, but the enemy was constantly at work to hinder the enjoyment of the blessing that God had purposed. Satan can never rob us of what is ours through the work that the Lord Jesus accomplished, but what He can do is rob us of the enjoyment of it, brethren, and that's His great attempt is to rob us of the enjoyment of our portion isn't a wonderful thing. To know that God has delayed in the sons of man tells us that when the foundations were of the earth were laid, his delights were with the sons of man. Well might we sing in a little hymn. And

couldst thou be delighted with creatures such as we, who, when we saw thee, took thee and nailed thee to a tree? Unfathomable wonder and mystery divine. The voice that speaks in Thunder, says Sinner. I am thine and I want to say to every believer in this room that God is for you. He's not against you if God before us, who can be against us? The Sinner thinks that God is against him, but when he learns what God has done for his blessing, he finds that God is for him. Have sometimes said God looked down after sin entered and said, you've spoiled this earth that I made for your happiness and blessing. But I love you so much that I'm going to invite you to a place that you can't spoil and I'm going to pay the. So you can be there. That's the God whom we know, the God who has been fully revealed in the person of his beloved Son. And I believe that we need to have this before us because the enemy is constantly at work to try and hinder our enjoyment. He did that with Israel, and we see that when God, by his power, he first redeemed them. Was brought before us about the Passover lamb. The blood sprinkled on their lentil and side posts and preserved them from judgment. But not only did God preserve them from judgment, He led them out of Egypt, and he brought them in to that land where he was going to bless them, and that land which in a coming day is to be the center of all His earthly purposes. Jerusalem is the city of the great king. No wonder things are moving in that direction today, because God has purposes in connection with His earthly people. But the enemy was at work. Robbed them of that which was assured to them in those eternal counsels of God and through the purposes of Christ and through the work of Christ, I should say. And so we find that he did everything he could to try and hinder Israel. After God had brought them into the land, they departed from him. God chose a Center for them to gather where they could enjoy His presence. He told them. When they were coming to the land, they should come there with their basket of firstfruits and rejoice before the Lord their God in the good land that He had given to them. But the enemy came in first of all. He got them to depart in their hearts from the Lord. And then we see how He made a great division among them, and their 10 tribes separated from the two. It doesn't. It didn't change God's center and God didn't preserve a remnant in Jerusalem because. The two tribes were better than the 10. He distinctly said that he would preserve a light in Jerusalem for his servant David's sake, whom he had chosen.

The ones who remained in Jerusalem could never boast and say, well, we were the faithful ones because it was because of the departure that had come in that God allowed this division to take place. And they were actually no better than the others. But it was the sovereign goodness and grace of God that had given them the promise of blessing. Well, the enemy tried to even spoil that company, those two tribes that remained in Jerusalem. And it wasn't long in the governmental ways of God that they were carried into captivity, carried into Babylon. Babylon means confusion. The two tribes were there, as well as the other ten who were scattered in Assyria. And so they were scattered from that center that God had chosen for them, the city where he had placed his name. But in his faithfulness he gathered back a remnant. And you find that. Brought before us in the book of Ezra and Nehemiah. Also the prophesying of the prophets. Haggai and Zechariah, they encouraged them in connection with their going back and I just like to read in Nehemiah Nehemiah chapter. Chapter 8. First Verse. And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the Watergate, and they spake unto Ezra the scribe, to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel. The fifth Verse. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. The eighth verse so they read in the book of the law of God. Distinctly and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest, the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto them, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God. More not nor weep for all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. And he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them, for whom nothing is prepared. For this day is holy unto our Lord, neither be sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. So the Levites steel is still all the people saying, hold your peace. For the day is holy, neither be grieved. Now in the book of the law was read to them, they realized how they hadn't responded to God's claims, and their hearts were indeed sad. And brethren, if we were to think of how we have failed, how God's people have failed as a testimony, we'd all be weeping too. Because if it grieves us, how much more it grieves the heart of God, Lord Jesus. Wants the blessing of His people. He desired the blessing of Israel. He brought them into that good land. He wanted them to enjoy that good land that He had given to them. But failure had come in and they mourned. But in His faithfulness, God had brought back a testimony and gathered them back into that land, back into the center. And it's very beautiful to see the order in which things took place when they came back. The first thing they did was to build the altar, Second thing they did was to build a house, and the last thing to build a wall. No, that's very interesting. Why did they build the altar first? Oh brethren, we need to give the Lord Jesus the first place in it in our hearts. There's nothing going to be right unless he has first place that in all things He might have the preeminence. And so they built the altar. And why did they build it? It says they built it to offer. Sacrifices, but also for fear of the people. That wasn't that a strange protection to think building the altar would be the first thing they do. Why not build a wall first? Oh brethren, the Lord is our safety, our security. If we give Him his place, we can count on Him. Well then they they built the temple, the place where they could gather according to His word and worship Him. And surely isn't it our delight too, and His delight too, to have the response of our hearts in praise and worship? He had a Center for His people all. Her failure hadn't changed the fact that was the city that God had chosen. There's only a small part of two tribes that had come back. But it's very lovely to see that when there was two, those two tribes came back.

You read in the 8th chapter of Ezra they offered 12 bullets for all Israel. God, lovely. God would always have us to see the Church of God on earth as one. There may only be a few that give testimony to it, but we must never never forget the Church of God is one. Israel were represented as one nation. God didn't choose another center. They had made another center but. There was just one center that God had, and here He gathered this little remnant back who came back to this center that He had. Well, they could have been all cast down and depressed, only a small portion out of two tribes there. We feel like weeping sometimes too, and we see the scattering and dividing that has come in among the people of God. But why did He say, don't weep, rejoice? Why? Because the Lord. Found his delight in a few that responded to his desires for His people. That's the force of that expression. The joy of the Lord is your strength, the joy of the Lord. Sometimes we take that verse as meaning our joy in the Lord, but it's His joy in US. Sometimes they use a little illustration just to make that thought clear. Supposing that your friends had asked you over to their home for the evening to enjoy a happy evening together. And it turns out to be very bad weather and awfully stormy. And you look at one another and say, well, you think we should go. Tonight is such bad weather. And then while you're talking, the phone rings. And they're on the phone. And they say, please come. Don't let the weather, India. You don't know how much we're looking forward to you being there. We really have planned a happy evening. We'll miss you if you're not there. That gives you a fresh spirit, doesn't it? And your goal? Because you're going to give joy to those people. They want you, brethren. The Lord wants us around himself. The Lord wants us. He wanted his people, Israel. They might well weep if they looked at the condition. And they were no better because they hadn't responded like they should either. It wasn't judging somebody else, it was themselves. Brethren, the joy of the Lord is your strength. How are we going to have strength to go on in an evil day as we give the Lord Jesus his rightful place and realize that he found more joy than we did, and a few of us being gathered around Him as members of His body with that one loaf that told us that there is one body. And so he found his joy, greater joy. Many of us found real joy. He found greater joy. Oh how to What a lovely thing to see this company. Rejoice, and we have a right to rejoice too, even in difficult times. Well, we know that Israel failed in their testimony, and they had

to be as I said. They were brought back, but oh how feebly they responded to the Lord's claims. But God into goodness preserved that testimony until the Lord Jesus was born. His first, his first coming, shall I say, coming into this world. He came and was born in Bethlehem's Manger. And there were only a very few that we're looking for him. It's interesting to read those names, Elizabeth and Anna, Mary Simeon. And what do you think of these names that I'm sure they weren't considered very important in the land of Israel at that time? But all they, they were looking for the Messiah and they valued his presence. They valued the center that he had established. And so that's where they came. Well, the Lord Jesus came and he, he was their joy. He was rejected. And we know that in the coming day, that precious Savior that we read about in Ephesians one and 10, he's going to gather together in one. In heaven and in earth. God is going to gather back his earthly people and I'd just like to read in the. Prophet Ezekiel. 37th chapter.

This is Speaking of a future day for Israel. The 11Th verse Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones of the whole House of Israel, behold, they say, our bones are dried, our hope is lost, we are cut off from our parts. Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord when I have opened your graves, O my people. And brought you up out of your graves. Then the 16th verse. Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it for Judah, for the children of Israel his companions. Then take another stick, and write upon it for Joseph the stick of Ephraim, and for all the House of Israel his companions, And join them one to another into one stick, and they shall become one in thine hand. When the children of thy people shall speak unto these, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph. Which is in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel, his companions as the 10 tribes, And I will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah as the two tribes, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in thine hand. And the stakes were on our rightest shall be in thine hand before their eyes, and say unto them, Thus sayeth the Lord God, Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whether they have gone, and gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land. And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel, And one king shall be king to them all, and they shall. They shall no more the two nations, neither shall they divided. Divided into two kingdoms anymore at all? Well, this is a lovely future to look forward. They're just a valley of dry bones. There didn't seem to be much hope, but God is going to bring that nation back and bring them in repentance, recognizing that they rejected their Messiah and He was going to fulfill His purposes, brethren, and He's going to bless them. He's going to make them one because it was His purpose. When the table was made in the Tabernacle, there were 12 loaves. And they were placed upon the table, and those 12 loaves represented the whole 12 tribes. This morning we had one, one love, because in Christianity there's one body, but God had these purposes for Israel. They failed. They broke down a little ram that was preserved in the goodness of God. But we look on to the day when that is going to be fulfilled, which God has said that in the dispensation of the fullness of times, He'll gather together in one. All things in heaven and in earth, God is going to fulfill His purpose in blessing to Israel. But now, in connection with the church, we know that. Let's turn over to Ephesians again. Chapter one and here we find this purpose that God has in connection not only with earth, but he gathered together in one all things in heaven and also in earth. Well, we've spoken of the earthly God is going to fulfill his promises. He had a testimony and there were those who valued that city of the great King, the place Jerusalem is going to be the center, the joy of the whole earth. When? In the coming day. But you and I, brethren, we belong to heaven, we're partakers of the heavenly calling, We're part of that church which He purchased with his own blood. And this is brought before us in the Epistle to the Ephesians. What a wonderful time it was on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit of God came down and they were all baptized by 1 Spirit into one body. Whether they were Jews or Gentiles, all were brought into that one body. How wonderful that was was formed. At first there were only those of Israel. Then we know that the door was open to the Gentiles and they were brought in too. But there is only one. Body and God gave a testimony in connection with that and I believe first of all we should see what the church really is. The church is the body of Christ. We have this in the prayer of the apostle here. If you notice in this first chapter.

The 15th verse. Ephesians 115 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the Saints. Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding, or your heart being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the Saints. What is the exceeding greatness of His power to us? Word, who believe according to the working of His mighty power, which he wrought in Christ when He raised him from the dead? And set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And has put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth All in all. Here's a secret that was in the heart of God. Was never revealed until it was made known to Paul who is caught up to the 3rd heaven. We've spoken of this earthly purpose, but God has a distinct purpose for blessing in the heavenlies and we who believe the gospel we are part of that heavenly company tells us in Philippians. Our conversation or our citizenship is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. When the Thessalonians were saved, they were waiting for God's Son from heaven. It says in Hebrews that here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come. Israel had a city, the city of the great king, and it's going to be blessed in the coming day. Brethren, we are heavenly people. It's very important that we realize this in connection with what the church is in this world. The idea of the church has been lost in the minds of many, and they think of an organization. But in reality, the church is not an organization. Perhaps it could be called an Organism because. It's composed of members of the one body, and the head is in heaven. And Pauls desire in this prayer for this was his prayer for the dear Saints at Ephesus, that they might, that the eyes of their hearts might be opened, and that they would know what was the real hope of their calling. I believe it's so important for us, I say again, to realize that we belong to heaven. We're not here to make this world a better place. The Church's business is not to improve this world. We're called from above and heavenly men by birth, who once were but the citizens of earth. Oh, may we be brought to realize this, brethren. And on the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God came down. And as I mentioned, with my one spirit, they were baptized. Into one body that someone has illustrated it there were be like if I had about 120 beads here and then I took a string and put it through them and I hold it up to you and now you say, well you've got a necklace now well there were about 120 individual believers, but when the Spirit of God came down those 120 were. Added were formed together. That was the formation of the Church, the body of Christ. Upon earth, people sometimes say, what's the head of your church? Well, there's only one head, and that is the Lord Jesus is the head of the body, the church. Now individuals are added, the Lord added to the church daily, such as should be saved. Very often in Christendom we hear it's sad. Well after you're saved and join the Church of your choice, but it's not our choice. The Lord Jesus said you have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.

The Church is his choice. He chose us out of this world to be part of the bride of His Son. Oh, when you think of these wonderful councils that were in the heart of God, hidden there from ages and from generations, and then revealed after the Lord Jesus had accomplished that blessed and glorious work upon the cross. So the head of the body is the Lord Jesus Christ. He's the head of the body. You don't join us when you are

saved. The Lord adds you to the church and you. One Well, when the day of Pentecost came in the second chapter of Acts, it says they were all with one accord in one place, and the Spirit of God came down and they were all baptized by 1 Spirit into one body. That was how it began. I say again, and now there's the adding taking place. How lovely it was at the beginning to see that oneness displayed. No one said that what he had was. They had all things common. There was a wonderful display of that oneness. But the enemy didn't like that. And through the book of the Acts we see how he brought in different things. He first tried to introduce evil, and then God dealt with that. And Ananias and Sapphira were smitten dead, and he tried to get them quarreling between themselves. And so that they would. Fiat murmuring between the Grecians and the Hebrews. Because they felt that some were getting a little bit more than another. But God ordered that that should be settled in a way that displayed His grace. And all through the book of the Acts, when the Gentiles were saved, there was little prejudice that didn't want to receive these Gentiles into this. But God showed that he had received them. And Peter explains how he had gone down there, and the Holy Spirit came. As on us at the beginning, there weren't to be two distinct companies, Jews and Gentiles, sad to say, and Christendom. We have what are called national churches, but there's only one church and that is that which was formed here that we have read about. And the apostles prayer in this chapter was that they might that the eyes of their hearts might be opened and that they might know the. That they had been brought into dear young people, do we realize the position that we have been brought into does that? Does everyone here know that when you were saved, the Holy Spirit of God united you to every other believer on the face of the earth and to Christ the head in glory? That's what the church is now. The enemy doesn't want to see a practical manifestation of this oneness, and he's going to do just like he did with. Israel, he brought in that division, the 10 tribes and the two, he led the people in heart away from the Lord until finally God had a deal. But it didn't change the fact that they were one nation before God. And it's very beautiful to see that little remnant coming back, such a small number in comparison with the vast number in the nation, the nation offering 12 bullets for all Israel. Even Elijah when he was bringing before the people a true God. He took an altar of 12 Stones to recognize that the nation was one. Well, the apostles desire in this prayer was that they might know the hope of His calling. What is Our Calling while we're waiting for God's Son from heaven? Waiting for the time, brethren, when the church will be presented a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. What a blessed hope. A few of us are here today, but if the Lord should give the shout. All those who are his indwelled by the Spirit of God. Be caught up, and what a day it will be when the Church is presented, a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. And so this power has been manifested. Christ is raised. Perhaps we could say then, that this first prayer was that they might know how richly they were blessed. But has sometimes been said, it isn't what we know that governs our lives, isn't what we know that really molds our character. It's what we enjoy. It's what we enjoy. So there's another prayer of the apostle brought before us in the end of the third chapter.

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, verse fourteen, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. That he would grant you according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that she being rooted and grounded in love. May be able to comprehend with All Saints what is the bread. And length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ to which. Pass with knowledge that you might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in US, unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. We could say that this prayer of the apostle was that they might enjoy what was given to them. How are you and I enjoying what we have in Christ? Someone has said you can be as clear as an icicle and justice as cold and we can know a lot of truth, but if it doesn't touch our hearts, why it doesn't really do us any good. Brethren, God wants us to be enjoying our portion in Christ. We might indeed mourn as we see the breakdown and failure that has come in that God is calling upon us to rejoice here. In knowing how richly and abundantly we have been blessed. And so he said, strengthened by his Spirit in the inner man, No, there's a conflict because all the array, all the powers of the enemy are arrayed against this wonderful truth that God is, is accomplishing in this world. And as we have in the last, which we'll look at the whole armor of God. I've been thinking quite a little bit of that verse. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. We don't wrestle against flesh and blood, brethren. We love all those that are Christ. There's just as much members of the body of Christ as we are. We love them all. The conflict isn't that. The conflict is that the enemy doesn't want us to be walking in the practical good and blessing of this in our souls. We wrestle not. It's the power of the enemy that seeks to hinder those who are the Lords from enjoying what their portion. Is and this was what Paul brings before them here in the 17th verse, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith. This is a practical side of things. He does dwell in the hearts of all believers. Christ in you. The hope of glory we have in Colossians, but maybe that is not practical in our lives. That is, we're not. It isn't. We're not thinking daily that he is. Dwelling in our hearts and we're not walking in the enjoyment of it. And then it says may be able to comprehend with All Saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height. Many dear Christians are just satisfied to know that they're saved, that their sins are forgiven and that they're going to heaven. But God is not satisfied that we shouldn't know all that he has purpose for us. That's supposing there's a young man, he's going to be married. He has a beautiful home that he has particularly prepared for the bride whom he loves. He wants her to see that home that is going to be her home that she can enjoy. And he brings her there and he brings her in the front door. And when she gets inside the front door, she said, I'm satisfied. I don't want to see anything more to the house. I'm just satisfied to be inside the door. I wonder what he would say. Oh dear, I want you to enjoy all that I've prepared for you. And so he leads her from room to room. Every room is more beautiful than the one before, and she's just filled with admiration when she sees all that has been prepared. Brethren, isn't it true that very often we stop and just say, Well, we have it expressed in a little hymn, Trembling.

Hope for mercy. Some low place within his door, but the crown, the throne, the mansion. Already long before and in past and distant ages. Here we were. All He won with us to share. He had prepared all this for us in the eternal counsels of God, and He wants us to enter into how richly we are blessed. God could not have blessed us more richly than He has. A thing that He has given to us is the very best that God Himself can give when we think of this earth and how wonderful it is. Just think of what is ahead for us who are Christians. So he said he wants us to know the length and bread. I want to encourage all you and you dear young people, don't just be satisfied that you're saved. God wants you to enjoy your portion in Christ. Have you read your whole Bible? It's all important we find there is. Read the Bible to the people. And he gave the sense he wanted them to understand. The reading and God wants you and I to know what is ours. How sad it is if I got a letter when I was away from my wife and I just read the first page and I enjoyed the first page so much I sat down at I don't need to read the rest. What would you think of me? Has written to us a letter to tell us what we were and what he has in his purposes and counsels for us. He wants us to know it all but I want you to notice here the little word and that comes at the first part of this 19th verse and to know the love of Christ now sometimes I think there's a thought that it's. It's the love of Christ, the length and breadth and depth and height of the love of Christ. But I believe it's an. To know the love of Christ, Let me go on with my illustration a little bit and put it this way. Supposing when this young man has shown his bride all that he has prepared in this grand home that he has built for her, and he says, I was thinking of you and your happiness when I build it. And then when she's seen it all, he says, and I want you to know it's all been prepared in love. And he puts his arm around her.

Now she knows. And it was love. Oh, friends, the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge. You and I can see the wonders of this world traveling about. Perhaps we see some wonderful things, but how long is it going to take God to show us what our portion is? That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his race in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. Now the little hymn says, Thou hast begun to show me, Lord, but what shall be the ending? I've touched the fringe of what thou art and this is joy transcending. I'm only on the rippling shore, loves ocean depths are all before. The enemy wants to get us down, brethren. He wants to get us depressed. He wants to get us sad. You can understand, perhaps, what Nehemiah meant when he said that they shouldn't be sad. They should be rejoicing. It isn't that we don't feel things. We do feel things. If we have the heart of Christ at all, We feel things. But, brethren, let's not allow all the difficulties that the enemy has succeeded in bringing in to rob us of our joy in the Lord. I really believe that what the enemy is doing is getting us occupied with all these things that are going on in order to keep us from two things, from enjoying our portion in Christ and to hinder in the outreach to sinners because we're not happy, we're not telling others of His love. It's when our own hearts are overflowing with His love that we want to go and tell others of these wonderful things. So the second prayer was that they should enjoy it. By saying now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. We sometimes think of this in connection with answered prayer. Well, that's very lovely too. But I believe, brethren, it's a little deeper thought than that. He does more than we can ask her if they can answer to our prayers. But if God had come to any one of us sitting in this room and said, I'd like to bless you.

Tell me. How you, how you would like me to bless you? Well, a lot of us can think of some things that we'd ask for and things that we really would like the Lord to do for us. Would any of us ever have thought of be asking to be part of His bride, to share that place of glory with Him and to be in the enjoyment of it? In a land where there's no sickness, no sorrow, no crying or pain? Would we have asked for that? Would we have even thought about it? He has purposed that and He's able to do it. We purpose things and we're not able to do it, but He's able to do it. So what does He do? He just breaks out in praise unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus. How can we sit here in His presence and think of this? And not be just rejoicing in what He has done for us. Well, brethren, the enemy is at work, we find in the 4th chapter. Paul was in prison in the first verse. He said, I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one spirit, even as you are called. In one hope of your calling, here we in the 4th chapter. He begins with exhortations. There is one body, that's a fact. We have nothing to do with that. We can't change it. It's true. Every believer on the face of the earth. When he accepts, the Lord Jesus as Savior becomes part of that one body. He becomes part of it by receiving Christ and by the indwelling of the Spirit of God. And now he's part of that one body. But we're to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit. We know speaking again of Israel's history, the 10 tribes, Satan succeeded in bringing in a division and God allowed it in his governmental ways because it tells us that Rioboom would like to have brought back the ones that had left. But God said, this thing is from me. We have to submit to God's hand. Was it because the two tribes were better? I say again, brethren, He preserved a light in Jerusalem for his servant David's sake. The prophet, I think it was Jeremiah, told them that they hadn't responded to the Lord's claims any more than the 10 tribes. It wasn't because they were better. It was the faithfulness of God. And brethren, if there is a testimony preserved to the truth of the one body on earth, let's not lift our heads and say we're better. It's the faithfulness of God that preserves such a testimony. What a privilege to be identified with such a testimony. To endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. The enemy is at work, but isn't it blessed to know that it isn't our faithfulness, but we can count upon God. But He has marked out a path in His Word for us. He hasn't left us to our own devices. And our brother brought before us yesterday the truth of how God has ordered things and set up authority, and so on, so that such a testimony might be maintained. For his own glory. And I was interested in what he mentioned about the three things. The Lord's Supper, the Lords Table and the Lords Day. I thought there was a very lovely thing to think about. What is the Lord's Supper? Well, it was our privilege this morning to partake of the Lord's Supper. It was a reminder of the cost by which we have been blessed. We as the bread was broken and we partook of it, we look back to Calvary and we thought of our precious Savior. It says this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me. Doesn't it move your heart? Is there a young person here that knows the Lord? And your heart hasn't been touched by the Lord's desire that we should remember what He has done for us? And that cop telling us of how he bore the judgment in order that the blessing might be ours, He shed his precious blood. The blood of Jesus Christ, his Son.

Carving, therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. That's the Lord's Supper, the precious remembrance of what he has done for us. But the 10th chapter of First Corinthians gives us the Lord's Table, the Lord's Table. And pardon me for saying this, but I say I believe it's the truth of God that the Lord's table is only used the once, as our brother mentioned in the New Testament to show us that we cannot call anything the Lord's table. That is not an expression of the truth of the one body. The only place in New Testament where the truth of the Lord. Lord's Table is mentioned. The loaf on the table is the symbol of the one body, and that's why we often say we're gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. On the ground of the one body. Do you think the enemy likes to see a testimony to that? Didn't he do everything he could to spoil the fact that Israel were one nation, That God wanted to bless them as one nation, He was continually against them? He he did all he could, and he, Satan, will always will you wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world funds against spiritual wickedness in high places. The enemy doesn't want us to enjoy this precious privilege at his table, at his table. You say, well there are many places that could be called the Lord's Table not in Scripture. The only thing that's called the Lord's table is where there is the expression of the one body and how few Christians there are that realize that that one loaf is a testimony to that one blessed and glorious truth, that there is one body and then it says the Lord's Day. Well, I believe that's important too. This is a very special day. The Lord's Day, we can be thankful for the liberties that we have. John was in the Isle of Patmos. He could have said, well, they don't observe the Lord's Day here because he said I'm in exile here and every day is alike here. I'm just in exile. No, every day wasn't alike to him. He was in the spirit on the Lord's Day. Brethren, the Lord's Day is important too. May the Lord grant that we may value this day, the day that reminds us of the mighty triumph of the Lord Jesus when he rose from the dead and was seated at the right hand of God. Yes, that's where he is now. He's up there. And do we recognize his rights and his authority and I especially today as we think of it? We came to partake of the Lord's Supper. I believe we came to give expression to the truth that there is one body and we did it on his day, his day. Well, what a great privilege, desire as well. There's one more prayer in this. I just like to say in the 6th chapter, we have the whole armor of God and we need the whole armor of God. I just mentioned briefly here. We have a few minutes and I would like to say it says in the 10th verse of the 6th chapter. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that she may be able to stand against. Wiles of the devil. For you wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand an evil day, and having done all, to stand. Now I'd like to just point out briefly these parts of the armour, the loins. With truth. The lawyers speak of the desires. It says gird up the loins of your mind, be sober. And so I believe the loins speak of our desire. How? How needful that we keep our desires under control, under the control of the word of God. You say, well, I'd like this and I'd like

that and I'd like the other thing, but would you like something if it wasn't according to truth? Would the new man really desire to have anything that was not according to the? Truth of God.

Having on the breastplate of righteousness the affections kept under control by the claims of divine righteousness. Sometimes we want like a can. He wanted something, he really wanted something, and he let his desires go out. He loved that wedge of gold, that goodly Babylonian garment, and it robbed him of the. Blessing of the land that God had given. The heart that desires under control feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. I believe particularly this means that the Christian is a man of peace, not peace at the expense of truth. But I believe where it says preaching peace by Jesus Christ. We go through this world, you can't enjoy the peace of God unless we're walking according to His Word. God won't give us that peace in our souls. But isn't it nice when? Your brother comes, and you feel that when he comes, there's peace there, and there is peace bread. And if we walk in obedience to the Word, the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. It's nice to meet brethren and to feel that they're just going on in peace because they're seeking to walk in obedience to the Word of God. Then says above all, taking the shield of faith, for with you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, Now we need that shield of faith. Satan is constantly trying to put doubts in our minds. Perhaps some real Christians even. Doubts about salvation, doubts about their pathway, doubts about the place where the Lord would have them to be. We need the shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. For my own self, I find the need of this. When adverse things happen, we need the shield of faith that is confidence in God just leaves matters. God has allowed a great shaking to take place among his people. If we count upon God, we can go on. The Lord is in control, everything's in his hands. Our only responsibility is to walk in obedience to the word of God and leave the all the rest with him. And then it says. For an helmet, the hope of salvation, I believe that's the Lords coming. That is referred to. What are our thoughts, you say, Well, I hope sometime this will get straightened out. Our hope is the Lords coming. It may not have sometimes told a little incident about some brethren who were coming out of a care meeting in an assembly and one they had a lot of problems and one brother said to the other. Oh brother, when is this all going to end? The brother said. At the coming of the Lord. There will always be conflict here, brethren, but for a helmet, the hope of salvation, everything's going to be right up there. Everything's going to be explained. All the hard questions are going to be answered. Let's lift the shield of faith and have the helmet of salvation. And in the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, that is, this is our only offensive weapon. It isn't, I think. Or a group of us think this now the offensive weapon is the word of God. The sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit. How often you and I have had some thought in our minds that a brother quoted a verse of Scripture it just caught. We saw that we were wrong. And so the sword of the spirit, that's the only offensive weapon we have. And so this was the armor and then it says, and this was the last prayer that I wanted to mention, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for All Saints business lovely. After giving us all these things, we have the two prayers of the apostle. First, that we might know how richly were blessed. Secondly, the prayer that we might be. Women have the blessing that we have, and then conscious of how busy the enemy is, how strong he is there, but he's not as strong as the Lord. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, and in the confidence in Him. We just commit the matter to him. Oh brethren, may our daily prayer be preserved. May, O God, for indeed do I put my trust. There's not one of us here.

Can say, well, I'm going to continue in the path. If we start boasting brethren, we may be the first. I heard it with my own ears, a brother in a meeting many, many years ago and I heard him say I haven't missed a prayer meeting for 50 years unless there was a good reason and I don't intend to. And before a couple of years he was outside the assembly. Brethren, let's not boast if we have learned these things. Only the Lord can keep us. Let's keep our heads down. We're not better than anybody else, but His grace has picked us up, has shown us wonderful things. May we walk in the good and blessedness of them as we await the Lord's return. He only can keep us.

Glendale Conference: 1975, His Eternal Purposes

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to turn first of all to a well known portion in Ephesians chapter 1. Ephesians chapter 1. The ninth verse. Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in Him. Well, this precious verse is well known to many of us, and it brings before us these counsels and purposes of God. How wonderful it is, beloved brethren, that God has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence, that the very God who has made the universe is so interested in you and I His redeemed people, and that He has been pleased to unfold to us His counsels and His purposes. 1 is often remarked that. Christian is the only one who has an intelligent outlook in what is going on in the world. How blessed it is that we, as far as the world is concerned, perhaps insignificant nobodies should know these counsels and purposes of God, and it's surely not because of any special wisdom of our own, but as it says here, that He has abounded toward us. That's the eighth verse. In all wisdom and prudence. He has made known to us the secret of His will. And God has this supreme purpose that he is going to have a scene of glory. Of which his beloved Son will be the center and head. And there will be two parts to that. There will be the earthly sphere and the heavenly. It wasn't my purpose this afternoon to speak about the earthly, except perhaps if you had just turned briefly with me to Isaiah and the 60th chapter. Isaiah chapter 60. Beginning at the 18th verse. Violence shall no more be heard in thy land wasting, nor destruction within thy borders, but thou. Shalt call thy walls salvation, and thy gates praise. The sun shall no more, as shall be no more thy light by day. Neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee, but the Lord shall be unto thee in everlasting light. And thy God, thy glory, thy Son, shall no more go down, neither shall I moon withdraw itself, For the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy. Shall be ended, Thy people also shall be all righteous. They shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become 1000, and a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in His time. Well, this brings before us, and if you read the whole chapter, you'll see still more of the wonderful future that God has in store for that favored land. The nation of Israel, now torn with strife and the nations interfering and trying to settle their problems, but unable to do so because God has said that He would make Jerusalem a burdensome stone to all people. All that burden themselves with it shall be broken in pieces. And isn't it true? Those who have tried to burden themselves with the problems there in the Middle East have only found that it brings trouble upon themselves. Why? Well, because the Lord is the one who's going to do it. It's his land. He speaks of it as my land, and He is going to bring out, bring about his own purposes in connection with that land, and He is going to restore peace and blessing to this poor troubled earth. All man's efforts won't do it, but God has won the man of His counsels, the one who will accomplish all His purposes. But

as I said, it wasn't my thought to speak of the earthly sphere. And yet it is an encouragement amid all the trouble to know that God has His purposes and counsels, that He has made these things known to us, and that He is going to carry them out in His own time. He is going to carry them out through his beloved son. And you and I through grace will have part in the heavenly will reign over the earthly, because we shall reign over the earth by our particular sphere is in the heavenly. And with this in mind, I had it in on my heart to speak of 6 times that we read about the work of God at Ephesus. It's very interesting to see this in the scripture because we know that the epistle to the Ephesians is addressed and brings before us this heavenly blessing. It tells us in that epistle that we are seated in the heavenlies in Christ. It shows us that.

Portion is a heavenly 1 to enjoy that in relation to the Lord Jesus as part of His bride forever. And I was very interested in noticing in the Scripture that as near as I can see, there are 6, perhaps more, but at least six instances where we find mention about the assembly at Ephesus. And I believe we can learn many instructive lessons because seeing this assembly was the one to whom this truth was communicated. I believe that what is brought before us in connection with them is very instructive for us. Who have a trust in some measure laid hold of the heavenly calling of the Church, Know what it is to be a heavenly people waiting for God's Son from heaven. So let us turn first of all to Acts and the 19th chapter. And there we read about Paul's visit to Ephesus. It's too long a chapter to read it all, but I'd like to read a few parts in this 19th chapter. This chapter of 41 verses has to do with Paul's visit there to Ephesus. Beginning at the eighth verse. And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the Kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them and separated the disciples. Disputing daily in the school of 1 Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years. So that all lay which dwelled in Asia heard the word of the Lord, the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. The 18th verse. And many that believed came and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of them also, which used curious arts, brought their books together, and burned them before all men, and they counted the price of them. And found it 50,000 pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God, and prevailed. On the 27th verse. So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at night, but also that the temple of the great Goddess Diana should be despised and her magnificence should be destroyed. Whom all Asia and the world worship us. This is very interesting. In this chapter about Paul's visit to Ephesus, I didn't read the first part, but the first ones that he met there tells us where a group of people, a number of them, about 12, I just mentioned here. It's very interesting. In the Scripture, in the New Testament, God never gives us exact numbers. On the day of Pentecost, it says there were about 3000. Here it tells us the number of the men were about 12. Surely you'd say, can't Paul count? 12 But he didn't, he didn't tell us the exact number because we should never be occupied with numbers. Brethren, it's a person to whom we're gathered. And so the number of the men were about 12. Now these men had known the baptism of John, They had been baptized with the baptism of John. And it's important in the introduction of this blessed truth we have that we should see it's something entirely distinct from Israel and Israel. Blessing. So these who had been baptized with John's baptism are baptized with Christian baptism, baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Because baptism brings us into the sphere of Christianity, and that is the sphere of profession, and it's in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, because God has been fully revealed, revealed in Trinity, in Christianity. And so these people enter a new position, and Christianity is a new position. It's not an extension of Judaism. It's not an improvement upon it. It's an entirely new thing. And so these ones that were baptized with John's baptism are baptized with Christian baptism. And then it's also very interesting to notice in this chapter, 2 Things here that we might see think somewhat surprising. It says they spoke with tongues.

Now there's no mention of tongues in the Epistle to the Ephesians, but I believe that it is significant that it's brought in here because we're told in First Corinthians 14 that tongues are for a sign not to them that believe, but to them that believe not. And then it distinctly says there with men of other tongues and other lips, will I speak to this people that was to Israel, and yet for all that they will not hear. Now that is the gift of tongues was a clear sign to Israel that God was going to reach beyond that nation and reach out and bless the Gentile. And that's what he's doing today. By 1 Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free. So these people with Jewish backgrounds who have been baptized by the baptism of John must see that. There is something new now in Christianity. The gift of tongues in the Scripture was never. As we hear of it today, a sort of a well, not a real earthly language at all about if you read carefully in the second of Acts, you will see that there were languages known and spoken in the world and was a sign, as it tells us there in First Corinthians 14, that God was going to reach out beyond Israel and so. Most of us this afternoon are Gentiles, have proof that He has done this, that He has reached out and brought blessing to us. And then too, it was also necessary for them to realize that this one who was now associating them to come into the enjoyment of heavenly blessing is the same one who's going to set everything right in the earth another day. And so there were special miracles right there, and there were those who were healed in the most. Miraculous way there at Ephesus to show, and it's very important that we should see that this one who is going to be the center of new creation is the one who is going to bring blessing to the earth. For it tells us in the Millennium the inhabitants shall not say in that day I am sick who forgiveth our light iniquities, who healeth our light diseases. That blessing will come to the earth, the same one that's going to bring that blessing to the earth. Has brought us into another sphere of blessing. That's why these sign gifts are not even mentioned in Ephesians, because we don't look for the deliverance from the results of sin and sickness. Here we wait for the redemption of the body. Our hope is that scene where there will be no more sickness, nor sorrow, nor crying or pain. But it won't be on earth, brethren. It'll be up there in heaven, but it's the same. Who is going to bring that blessing to the earth? Who has promised that we are to be brought into a still more wonderful place in association with Christ, as we shall see, as part of his body and his bride? So it's very interesting to see this brought out in the beginning of the work here at Ephesus. And then we see at once the. Opposition of Satan. Satan didn't want to. This work and we see the power of the enemy manifested. God was showing that the enemy is always opposed to everything that's of God. Let us beware of all these things that we see today. There's quite a bit about exorcism today, and we need to be aware of this sort of thing that we see taking place where the enemy is seeking to intrude into the things of God. But there was the evident power of God, because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. How good it is to know that we have been delivered from the power of Satan, it says, Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. Well, then, the next thing is that we see separation. We find here immediately that there was opposition from the Jews to this precious development of truth, and it tells us that Paul separated the believers disputing daily in the school of 1 Tyrannus. Again I say Christianity is a new thing. It's outside the camp. It's not mixing Judaism and Christian Christianity.

Into a system it's a new thing a gathered to a rejected Christ and gathered to the one who another day is going to have his rightful place. But now we're gathered to him in his rejection. So they were separated and then we see a little evidence of this first love in the 18th verse it says here. And many that believed came and confessed and showed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts. Brought their books together and burned them before all men, and they counted the price of them and found that 50,000 pieces of silver so mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. Well, when we come later, if the Lord will to the letter to Ephesus in in the Book of Revelation, we'll see how the apostle John has to say. That thou hast left thy first love. But here was an evidence of first. Here were those who had been brought to this

wonderful knowledge of the Lord and of the truth, and what effect does it have? And here comes the practical application to ourselves. We can speak of separation from the camp, but perhaps there are things that are hindering our enjoyment of Christ. Perhaps there are things like these people had and they said we just can't give up everything. You know, these things are very, very valuable. We can't afford to. Depart with them. But these people, in the freshness of first love, they didn't think of the value of these things as they were to the natural man. How about they thought of whether they were conducive to their growth in the things of God? Really harmful. Well, if they were harmful to them, they wouldn't do any good to anybody else, nor just giving them away, because they would just lead others astray.

Montreal Conference: 1976, God's Ways with His Own

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

If you're young people to talk a little, little outline of God's ways in connection with man and particularly in connection with Israel and the church. And so first of all, I'd like to look at these in chapter 1. We'll begin at the fourth verse. According as you have chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestinated us under the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace. Wherein he hath made us accepted in the Beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace. Or in here the bound, that toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He has purposed in Himself. That in the dispensation of the fullness of time, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, even in Him in whom also we have obtained an inheritance. Being predestinated according to the purpose. Them who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will. So it's been said that if we had the choice of the time when we would like to live in the history of this world, we couldn't have chosen a better time than the present. Isn't that a wonderful thing for us to think about? Because we may be discouraged as we look around and see things that are taking place in this world? But in another sense, if we start to think if we actually did have the choice, could there be a more wonderful. Here are several hundred others together, every one of us, with the open Bible before us. Every one of us. Having the privilege to meet together here in peace and quietness and God mindfully. Now and and then about all the wonderful and precious fact that the Lord's coming is near, and perhaps the consummation of our hopes might be today when we hear the joke, I say again, dear young people, could we have a better time in which to live? And so instead of being discouraged, as we see. Darkness closing in and many things ascend to discourage. Hello brother, Look up and lift up our heads. Our redemption draws nigh. Is it a wonderful thing, too, that God has been pleased to make known to us His counsels and purposes? Great man in a large business was pleased to tell me all about the plans for that business for. To come, I would consider myself quite honored that he would take me into his counsel. What, dear young people, the creator of the universe? Has been pleased to bring us into his council to tell us what he has planned and purpose to do and above all has fitted us to be in a place in association. In that day when the Lord Jesus is the center of all things in heaven and in earth, haven't we got a grand, glorious future? Truly, it ought to fill our hearts when we think of it, and it also ought to exercise us that we would desire to walk in this world as those who are conscious of our great calling, as Paul could say, in one place, partakers of the heavenly calling. Isn't it lovely here that? We find that, first of all, he places us. Before him, holy and without blame in love. Isn't it the grand thing for us to stop and consider? And I hope that there's anyone here who's not saved, that you will realize the solemnity of your possession because you're outside of all this. All these counsels and purposes of God will not have any part in sharing the blessedness of it. But oh, how dreadfully solemn, to be shut out forever from God's presence. That's why. Better mentioned yesterday, the Word of God uses the the word destruction when it talks about the loss. Because God didn't make hell for man, he made it. Devil and his angels, but those who don't share in the wonderful purposes of God, why they they're spoken out is destroyed. Just like we have a chair here to take an axe and smash the chair to pieces. There's still just as much material as there was before, but it's no longer usable for the purpose it was intended. You say you've destroyed the chair. We haven't annihilated it, but we destroyed it because it's no longer usable for its purpose. You know how wonderful. God has heard the sight. Can it be? Is anyone here who is rejecting? His love is going on without Him?

This portion here reminds us of the cost to Himself by which He has brought us into this place. I want to say to the youngest believer here this afternoon that you're holy and without blame before Him in love. Could you have a better standing than that? God Himself couldn't give us a better standing. God Himself couldn't bless us more richly than He has, because He has blessed us in grace. And so he has brought us into this place. And he has made us his children. He tells us the cost, and it says in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. But he has not only brought us into this place. Being in. Up I say his counsel and purposes to us. He tells us what he has planned for us and for this world, and it says He's made known to us the mystery of his will. And what is the secret that God has? Well, it tells us here that in the dispensation of the fullness of time that is, there have been different ages in the history of this world when God is accomplishing. Saying but all leading up to a grand climax at times when the man. One of his counsels, the Lord Jesus Christ, the second man and last Adam, will be the center of new creation, and there will be two distinct spheres of blessings, and that will be the heavenly blessings for the Church. And the earthly blessing for Israel. Oh, how wonderful that God has told us this. I've often said that the Christian is the only person who has an intelligent outlook on what is going on in the world. Isn't it nice to be able to look out on the movement of events in the world? After read the first chapter of Ezekiel and you said what does that mean about the wheels and wheels within wheels and lights? I don't understand that chapter of what God is really telling you in that chapter, that the movement of things in this world may be a bit confusing and sometimes you hardly know what to make of things that take place. But then when you come to the end of the chapter, the man looked up and he saw on a throne above the whole thing. There was a semblance of a man on the throne. And I want to tell you, young people, with all the movement of events here in this world, confusing as it seems. There's a man on the throne, and that man is my savior. I hope you can save my Savior too. And more than that, that he has planned that you and I should occupy a place in association with him when he has that place of headship, that place that he will be in over heaven and over earth. So this is what the only times and all the dispensations were all leading up to this. Finalist grand plan that God has that Christ is to be the center of all. And then he doesn't stop there, but he tells us in whom we also have obtained an inheritance. Now that is, Christ is not going to occupy that place alone. He is going to have beside him the one who has spoken of in Ephesians 1 as the fullness of him that filleth All in all. Now that is where man. Occupy the high place. His wife in a sense, shares the honors of the place that he occupies, and when the Lord Jesus takes that place, he is going to have associated. With him, his bride one the bride that he loved. And when you and I accept Christ as our Savior, we become part of that bride to occupy that place of nearness through Christ in that coming glory. Well, it tells us too that it's in heaven and in earth. And we know God did have purposes and does have purposes in connection with this earth, and he called out a particular nation he called Abraham. And he separated Abraham from

the nation, and God had purposes in connection with this earth. And Israel, the nation of Israel had little nation that was now going through its throes of trouble, is going to occupy the central place upon earth. It tells us that Jerusalem is the city of the great king. Whatever confusion there may be there now, whatever unrest there may be in that land. God has told us that He has purposes. And the Lord Jesus is going to reign in power and glory, and Jerusalem will be the center of the whole scene of earthly glory. Israel were picked out from among the nations separated, and God speaks of them in this way. And he said that he would put his name upon them and he would bless them. He said, I'll put my name upon you, and I will bless you. And so he put his name upon those people. He gave them that city and he placed his name there. And what a time how blessing is in store for that nation.

And I was thinking how there were two things in connection with Israel, and that is? They were to represent to all around that there were one nation less of God, and that God was going to. Come in and fulfill the promises that he had made to Abraham, and to Isaac and to Jacob. So what did the enemy do? Well, he got it. He stood up. Some trouble among them, and there was a division, and 10 tribes separated. Wasn't that bad now that is, God had intended them to be a display in this world. One nation called of him separated to be in a wonderful place of blessing and we see. Enemy succeeded in getting them divided into two kingdoms, and so as you read through the. And the Chronicles you'll read about those two kingdoms, 1 unspoken of Judah and the other spoken of Israel. Why was it that God preserved that testimony in Jerusalem? Because the 2 tribes were better? Not at all. It tells us for his servant David's sake, he would preserve a light in Jerusalem. It all depends how dear young people on God's faithfulness. He's faithful. Israel was unfaithful. We have been unfaithful, but God is faithful. God is faithfulness and goodness. He preserves the light in Jerusalem. And then it tells it to. That they were also to be a testimony to the nations of the holy people. What bad to say? They failed in that character. Not only didn't display the oneness, but they didn't display the character that ought to have been seen, because God has said that that he was holy and they were to be a holy people unto himself. And so we know how. History. God had the deal, He never forsook his people. There belongs to the Father's sake, and he's going to fulfill the counsels that he has for them. The 37th of Ezekiel tells us of the restoration of that people, and it says that he's going to bring them back into their land. And the two sticks were joined in the hands of the prophets, and he shows that there wouldn't be any longer 2 Kingdoms, that they would be 1 nation. One thing that he would remove the. Holy heart, and that He would bless them, and that they would be called the city of holiness. Oh, how lovely to see that God is going to fulfill His purposes. But they failed in the carrying out of theirs. And what a loss it was to them here, if we trace their history and how often they came under the governmental ways of God because of their unfaithfulness. But God was still faithful, and we think of how. He brought back a little company to Jerusalem, and there alone there was much weakness that God in His faithfulness preserved that little company which came back in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, and when the Lord Jesus came by, there was a light in Jerusalem. Oh, how good that God was in His faithfulness, But they had failed. First day that has to do with God's earthly people and God is going to fulfill all the Super and there is going to be a wonderful time blessing in this earth when Christ has his rightful place here and as it tells us in Revelation chapter 12, the Kingdom to this world. Are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever. But now God has another purpose. Not only the last thing on earth, but there is a blessing in heaven. And on the earth Pentecost, the Spirit of God came down to gather out obliged for Christ. And a bride is a heavenly company. We belong to a heavenly fear. And so we see that on the day of Pentecost, it could perhaps be called the Church's birthday. It was the beginning of the Church of God on earth. The reason I'm speaking like this to young people is because I believe it's very important for us to understand just what God is doing, that we might have understanding of the times, that we might know what He is accomplishing here in this earth. And if we know this, and then to know that there's a privilege of having some part in walking in obedience to His Word and in accordance to that plan.

Which he has or at its present time. The Church is not an earthly company. The Church belongs to heaven. This is very clear from Colossians One and One Peter 1. Tells us in Colossians one about the hope which is laid up for us in heaven. Eldest in Peter we have an inheritance. Incorruptible none defiles that fade us not away. Reserved in heaven for you. The truth is a heavenly company left here on earth, left here to be a testimony. And I'd like to look at the way the church is looked at in four different ways. And that is, first of all, is the House of God. That was the body of Christ. Now that was the bride. And then as the city and I believe these three, these four different things ring before us. Some thoughts that could exercise us and some thoughts that could really fill our hearts with joy and rejoicing when we start to think about them. Some of us turn, first of all, into First Corinthians 12. First Corinthians, chapter 12. And verse 13. For by 1 Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made. To drink into one spirit. Oh, we know all that. Before the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God had not yet come to earth as a divine person. In the 7th chapter of John, the Lord Jesus said. He said that any man first let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture has spread out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. And this safety is a spirit which they believe on Him should receive. And notice this, For the Holy Ghost was not yet given because of Jesus, was not yet glorified, not until Christ land and took His place as a glorified man, having accomplished redemption. To the Spirit of God, come down. And he's down here with it now, gathering out a blind for Christ, uniting believers to one another and to Christ beheading glory. We have a little picture of it in the Old Testament. We find in the 22nd of Genesis now that Abraham takes and offers up Isaac. And then when we come to the 24th chapter, we find that the servant goes after this to get a bribe for Isaac. So the Lord Jesus is the one who is a sacrifice for sin, and all the servants of Spirit of God has come down to earth in order to gather out a bride or Christ. And a third that I have read in. Well, I hope makes it very simple. The mind is very simple and yet blessed scripture. It shows what is taking place in this earth now, and that is that all believers are united by the Spirit to one another and to Christ, beheading glory. Well, I did that. A little comment here that might be helpful for some now that when it speaks to the baptism of the Spirit, it is never spoken out in scripture in an individual way, is always spoken out in a collective way as always forms the body of Christ. That is why the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost are those about 120 believers that were in that upper room were united to one another and to play by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. And that was the formation of the body of Christ upon earth. And it tells us whether you are Gentiles, how we were speaking a few moments ago about God's particular purpose. Israel, that had to do with the earth, but now the gathering of the church, it's not just the nation of Israel, it's bond. You're free. Another scripture says, male or female, anyone who receives the Lord. Of his personal failure is indwelled by the Spirit of God, if by that made a member of the body of Christ united to every other believer on earth, and to Christ the head in glory. Someone has illustrated it in a very simple way that if we had like on the Bay of Pentecost, 120 days sitting on the table here and they put a string through them. Would say we're over 120 beads now there's one necklace. And so that's what happened on the day of Pentecost. Believers were united to one another and to Christ the head in glory. And if you open up the necklace and add 1 bead, it's still just one necklace. And so it tells us in that chapter after the Spirit had come, it says the Lord added to the church daily that you should be saved.

I'm saying that's because I'm sure we meet people in the office, they often say, what church do you belong to? And perhaps you can belong to your thought. You don't know just how to answer. What church do you belong to? Well, let us be very clear to you young people what the Word of God teaches in connection with the church, and that is that the church. That's something that man has set up at all. It is something

that God is accomplishing by His Spirit. And all believers. United to one another and to Christ. So on the Church of God on earth and. At the church with one, it's Elvis in Acts chapter 20, the church which he has purchased with his own blood tells us in the 12TH chapter of Hebrews how the Church of the first born whose names are written in heaven. Where is the church wrong? It's in heaven. That's the place to have your name written. And so if they ask too well what church he belongs to, why, you can say I belong to Christ, but I'm part of. Of God or how does he join? Or you don't join, The Lord does the joining. You don't have to join the Church of God. Often when people are saved, you're told to join a good evangelical church. All the prescription we gathered, dear young people, the only reason we receive people is because they're they're part of the Church of God already. We don't receive them to become part of the Church of God. We desire to know that they're already part of the Church of God. And then he received them as a scripture of choice to remember the Lord of his death. But let us be very clear of this, that the Church. As a body of Christ is 1. It's composed of all believers upon the faith of the earth, not all. We know only too well how that the enemy was at work in Israel's history and he got the pill. They divided the 10 separated from the two and enemy has been at work too. On earth on the day of Pentecost, they were all together there when the Spirit of God came and he endured their bodies and filled the house where they were sitting. And it tells us how the Lord added to the church daily such it should be saved. Tell us the multitude of the disciples were one heart and one soul. There's a great grace was upon them all, and there was great powers there was that which God had a fair place, but a blade enemy has succeeded in falling us. But I want to show you how that now there's a way that God has planned that we can express. This and if you'll just turn back in your Bible the 1St. Indians can and verse 17. We being many. Our one blood and one body, for we are all the fakers. Of that one bread. Perhaps you were here this morning. I think most of you were. And in order, Stephen. Lord was a large company who didn't have several rolls on the table, nor did we have something all cut up. No, there was 1 wolf. What did that one wolf represent? Did it represent the large company that were here this morning to remember the Lord? No, not just that. It represented the fact that we read here. That we're one bread, one body. All believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have been united to Christ in glory and to every other believer. Is there a spiritual way of expressing this? Has God in His Word given us a scriptural way that we can express the fact that we are members of the body of Christ? Well, I believe this scripture gives us a very simple and yet blessed answer to that question. When some people ask you what church you belong to, this fact that after you and. Join something, but supposing I join some particular church and it's an organization of men and it has a name. Why a skater approaches Christ to a certain extent. That is, when someone asks me, how do you gather? I don't have to say, well, we're gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. I can use some name that the world recognizes, and in that way in some measure escape the reproach of grace.

But can't you see the plan of God has? Is to give honor to the Lord Jesus and if I want you to see that in God's plan whether it was in regard to Israel. It was that they were to be brought into this place of association with their Messiah who would take his life for place in the future day. And so how lovely here upon earth to be gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I know it takes courage but it is a very. The same and I've got them said you'll never really enjoy the remembrance of the Lord and His death as you should, unless you realize that it is your privilege to break bread as a member of the body of Christ. What a grand thing that is. If I sat down at the table with my wife and just looked upon her as a friend who cared for me. Wouldn't be half as near as looking upon her as my wife. One for my love, one in whom I must in association with. And you know that when you break bread spiritually, that you break bread as a member of the body of Christ. Oh, that's a very blessed privilege. And dear young people, if you know the Lord Jesus is your Savior, you're already part of the church. You're already part of it. But what a privilege to give expression to it. And I say again that one Lord represents every member of the body of Christ. It's true that all were not pleasant here this morning, but to be scripturally gathered, they must be all represented. And they are represented in that one loaf placed upon the table in a lovely credly kiss is. Can we see how the enemy wanted to spoil it? Because as we're going to see in a coming day, and when the Lord Jesus has his rightful place, is he going to display a number of church groups who have all worked together for a common cause? That's what people often say, but we are working for a common cause. Is that what the state of glory is going to be? Oh no, He is going to present the truth to himself. A glorious church not having. Or wrinkle or any such thing. And so isn't it lovely to my own heart, have your young people at very practice. And I hope it will be precious to you that you can break bread, not as a member of some particular body of Christians, but as a member of the body of Christ. That is a very blessed thing if you go and join any particular church, no matter how evangelical it is. There are much truth it stands for. If it has become an organization, it has practically denied that which is the structural ground that we're speaking about, that we meet as members of the body of Christ. Well, enemy. That testimony in Israel, hasn't he spoiled us in the Christendom too? It seems to me the ruin of Christendom is far greater. And perhaps the reason for it is that I've never, never was there such a wonderful, blessed and glorious truth as being members of the body of Christ gathered through His precious name. No wonder the enemy wanted to spoil such a testimony. No wonder he wanted to ruin us. But all God's word doesn't change. God is faithful and all. What a privilege just to come according to His Word and meet as He would have us. Let's turn to Ephesians chapter 4. We'll begin at the first verse. I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all loneliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, even as you are called, in one hope of your calling. Here the apostle has opened up in the 3rd chapter of Ephesians the blessed and wonderful truth of the Church as the Body of Christ. Hello, he beseeches them here to walk worthy of that vocation. It's not so much what is brought in this chapter, the first part of it at least the practical lot, which I'll speak of in a few moments, but rather the expression of this truth endeavoring to keep. Unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We're never told to keep the unity of the body because that has been formed and nothing can change that.

Everyone who's indwelled by the Spirit of God is a member of the body of Christ. But there is such a thing as endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit. That is endeavoring to gather together in such a way to express that unity which has been formed by the Spirit. And why does it say with all loneliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love? Well, you know, if you decided to go and identify yourself with a little group of Christians and something happens in that little group that you don't like very well, some things that perhaps upset you and trouble you. And then you say, well, I think I'll leave and I'll go someplace else. Why did you leave? Well, because you didn't believe that that was the place where the truth of the one body was expressed. Or if you did, why would you leave? If that was the place where they were gathered to express the truth of the one body? Then instead of saying, oh, I'm going to leave, what would you say? Well, you'd say, Lord help me in lawliness and meet. And long-suffering and forbearance, just to go on. Isn't this what we need in grace to go on? No, I'm not Speaking of compromising the truth of God. But often there are things that come up that that cause us problems and difficulties. What is a lowly person who I believe a low person is one who? Takes his right place before God. And what is the right place? That we're nothing. And what is a meek person? Well, I think of it like this. He doesn't resent it when he's put in the low place. You know, it's a we can all say I'm nothing and I'm a failure. Well, we don't like it very well when somebody else says don't pay any attention to him. He's nothing I wouldn't pay any attention to. He's just a poor player. Oh, then we find that we weren't quite as lowly as we thought. We found quite a lot of feelings of self within. But the Lord Jesus was made in lawly in heart. He took the Lord's place and when they had despised. Gifted him, he

answered not a word, only when it was something that concerned the glory of his Father. Then he spoke. And then we ought to speak to you, but in personal things. And brethren, it's the only way that we can go along. Is this lawliness and makeness and long-suffering? I remember hearing about a company of brothers that had come together to consider a certain matter, and they had quite a few other meetings, and there's been a lot of trial. Difficulty and one brother when they stepped out of the hall said where is it all? The man brother and the holy brother said at the coming of the Lord at the coming of the Lord. It says be patient therefore, my brethren, under the coming of the Lord, and I'm saying this to you, dear young people, because. Lord leaves us here. Some of us older ones are not always going to be with you and perhaps not always be able to try to give the kind of leadership that we should. But the Lord is the same. And when Paul left them in Ephesus, he said, I command you to God and to the word of his grace. And I've seen young people whom I love dearly who are very close and dear to me, and they get discouraged and they leave. And what I'm trying to bring before you this afternoon is that it says here gloriness. Lateness, long-suffering, forbearing one another in love. We have to learn this forbearance. Why? Because we believe that there is a scriptural way to gather. Give expression to the truth that we're members of the body of Christ, and only in this way, I believe I can say can we endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in. Bond of peace all her blessed to seek to go on in this path, and I believe as the Lord's coming draws near it, the devil is going to do his best. He smashed up the testimony in Israel. He succeeded in the church too. And alas, he doesn't want to see any such testimony as those who recognize this wonderful and blessed truth that there is one body, that we're all baptized by 1 Spirit into one body, and that He would have us to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Well, may the Lord keep us then, if we have laid hold of this. I believe that he would have us to see people on and as it says here there is one body, 1 spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling. Why does he bring this in one hope of your calling? Well, just like that brother said, you'll have to wait till the coming of the Lord. That's how long we'll have to be patient. Be patient there for my brethren under the coming of the Lord. And so isn't it nice when he tells us about endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit, He says you've got a wonderful hope ahead. What's the.

The church is going to be presented without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. Now the Israel the Great they were to. Manifested oneness, it will also be a practical testimony to the fact that they were a holy people to the Lord and algorithm. We're not only. All the time to give expression to this truth of the one body. But there's also something else that is important and that is a practical walk. That is according to it. Let us turn over to. First Timothy chapter Well, perhaps I'll turn first of all to Ephesians chapter 2. Ephesians chapter 2, verse 19. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the Saints and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom all the buildings that we frame together groweth unto one holy temple. In the Lord, in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God via Spirit. Out. He'll turn over, please to First Timothy, Chapter 3. And verse 15 But if I carry long, that thou mayest know how thou Artest to behave thyself in the House of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit of angels. Under the Gentiles believed on in the world received up in the glory. We've spoken how the church is looked at as the body of Christ, but in these two passages the church is looked upon as a spiritual building. Here we find it that as believers we're building together. Peter says. We're living soon. Build it together for an adult. Of God through the Spirit. When we think of the body of Christ, it goes near us, and that affection that unites us to one another and to Christ. But I believe the fraud in the house is rather conduct. And so here we find that when he speaks of it, he calls it a holy temple in the Lord. Holiness is in nature. It's the abhorrence of evil with delight in good. And so we could be scripturally gathered. But now a little word to my conscience and to yours. Do we know how to behave ourselves in the House of God? Now, Mark, this doesn't mean just in the meeting room when it says the House of God, it's the place. Just as you're a member of the body of Christ, whether you're in the meeting room or out of it, though, you're letting stone in God's building, whether you're in. The leading Rd. of the meeting room. This is what we are at all times. But the aspect of the house has to do with conduct. And so Paul is writing to Timothy and he is exhorting him how to behave himself in the House of God. And I pray for your consideration sometime. If you read through the 1St Epistle of Timothy, and with this in mind, I think you'll find many, many helpful things there. Talks about the place of the man and the place of woman. Speaks about our attitudes to. Authority speaks about taking care of our relatives, talks about bodily exercise, talks about how to handle money that God has given to us. All this because. Who is going to give the display in this world of what is God's mind for a people that belong to him in the world? Well, the epistle of Timothy lays this out before us. And if you want to know the mind of God in connection with your attitude toward authorities and loved ones and the the place of man and woman and the physical exercise, all that, you'll find it all in this book because the subject is how we might behave ourselves in the House of God. And so here is a practical side of things, having learned this lesson. Truth. The world to look on and see a people who follow. The truth of God's Word, whose walk is according to it. And this is most practical in dear young people. Why, just to ask you to consider it carefully, and I say it to myself too. When the nations looked on to Israel, we find it solemn, solemn word. The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you. Wasn't it sad? The world looked on to those people who were called the holy people and said their walk is so bad.

Said surely they're not the true people of God, and if it's sad when we who bear the name of Christ in this world. Or intended to be, and in the scriptural sense are a holy temple. When our lot doesn't correspond with that. The world ought to see in us the carrying out of this, because this is what gathered to the name of Christ, the members of the body of Christ. Though we are to use Christ as the pattern for our lives as Christians. That's what the next verse says. Great is the mystery or secret of godliness. And so I just command these thoughts to your mind. I speak to my own conscience. As one brother said, when I point a finger at you, I .3 fingers back. And I know that I need what I'm saying to you. Because we need to be exercised in these times. For how often is gathered to the Lord's name. We're not careful enough as to our walk. First of all, he says the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And let me say this, the Assembly of God is responsible to all the deposit of truth that's been committed to it. The church does not teach, but the church is taught and is responsible to hold the truth. And if an assembly gives up that which is the truth of God, the foundation truth, it would cease to be an Assembly of God. It's the truth of God that we are responsible to hold. And to maintain, that's why separation is necessary in the second epistle. But I want to just speak of the practical side of it here, the 16th verse, and without controversy. Great is the mystery of godliness. And then we read these things about the Lord Jesus, and I'd just like to speak a little about these little slots that are contained here in these. Saying the secret of godliness is the pathway of the Lord Jesus. God was manifest in the flesh. The Lord Jesus in his pathway could say, He that has seen me hath seen the Father. And what is God seeking to produce in you and I here, young people? He's seeking to produce in us that the life of Jesus might be seen in our body. You'll read that in two Corinthians 4 that the life of Jesus might be manifest. Choose the very same word, the life of Jesus might be manifest in our body. The disciples were called Christians because they were. Christ, and then it says. Justified in the. This is very important for us because in these days when people's opinions are changing and some Christians have their ideas affected by the world around, and I warn you, dear young people, make the word of God the standard, not the opinions of man. You'll find people's opinions are changing constantly and alas, they're going downward. But you and I are to be governed by the word of God. But here it says justified in the spirit. Sometimes we'll be condemned by the world, sometimes even other Christians will condemn us, but the important thing is justified in the

Spirit. The Lord Jesus in His pathway here was always marked out by the Spirit of God as the one who always did His Father's will for you and I, content to know that we are seeking to walk in obedience to the Word of God. This only will give peace in your soul. Then it says here, seen of angels, yes, the angels look down. Now they see, they take a notice that such a small thing is whether a sister has a covering on her head. She was to have a covering on her head because the angels, and so here the Lord Jesus, as he walked through this world, the angels looked down and they saw one in this world to glorify God, his Father. So this is the pathway for us too. We're a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. Down and see the blessing that we have received, and they expect to see in us those who respond to such wonderful grace has been shown to us. And then it says, preached unto the Gentiles. Why does this come in? Well, there were a few instances in the Lord's life where He preached the Gentiles. And spoke of their faith. Why is it mentioned here? Well, may I just give you this little thought? The Lord said, I'm not sent but to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. But when they rejected him, that grace reached over the wall and went out to the Gentiles. You feel hurt sometime because someone said, oh, I won't listen to you and you say I give up. They don't pay any attention to me anymore. And you just, you just gave up. Well, this little word is a word of encouragement to you. The word is that when the Lord was rejected by his own people, the nation of Israel, grace went out to the Gentiles. And so don't allow discouragement to cause you to give up. That's just what the devil wants, the Lord Jesus.

On his pathway of love and dear young people, I want to encourage you to do this. I know there are lots of discouragements for young people. I know there are all kinds of things that make it hard in these days, but remember that when the Lord Jesus felt the rejection that was all around. There was no, shall I say there was no stint to that outlawed loud and I think it's blessed that he creeps to the Gentiles whether any results. Believed on in the world were the results Were the results apparent? No, when the time came that He was to be crucified, his disciples for supper and fled, the people that He healed didn't stand with Him. You say, well, it didn't look as if there were many results, but the results are manifested in resurrection. And you and I'll never go on in the path of obedience unless we're content to wait the time of manifestation as we've been having in our meetings. But it all come out in the Lord's presence, and then he was received up in glory. The precious saviors up there in the glory, there he is now. Well, this is the secret of godliness. How can we go on in the House of God when things get into disorder? There's a path marked out. There's a moral conduct now that can be seen no matter how dark and difficult the day Here, young people, don't get discouraged. We're living in the most wonderful time of the church's history. It's worthwhile 1000 times, as Mr. Darby said, if the path of faith were. 1000 times more difficult than it is, it's still worthwhile because how will recompense his smile, the suffering of this little while and now just before I close this briefly in Revelation 21 in the second verse and I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride. Adorn for her husband. I've always spoken about the church as the body of Christ. We've spoken of it as the House of God. The Church has failed in the expression of the truth of the one Body. We have failed a lot in that practical conduct before the world. That ought to show them that we love our precious Savior and possess His life. But here's a time when the Church comes down to be seen by the rules. What will be seen then? All that freshness of beauty. Christ has presented the church to Himself without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. There are a few of us gathered here today, but oh, don't you want to look forward to that time? And the Lord Jesus comes out of. We have not just a few of us here, but the whole church. There will be nothing to be corrected then there will be no long-suffering needed. Then there'll be no forbearance than love needed up there while the church will be presented. And who will have the greatest joy? The Lord Jesus is going to fulfill His purposes. He's going to present the church. Won't you be glad that you tried to walk in the truth of this in the day of His rejection? Don't you think that David's man who followed him in his rejection? Had a deeper rejoicing when David was crowned. Being through all Israel came to crown David as king, but there were a few men that had meant a great deal more to their heart because they had followed Him in His rejection. May the Lord encourage us to follow Him in His rejection. There's a day coming when we won't have to have the one loaf on the table. We will be in His glorious presence. He'll have His joy in having us there. All will be with Him. Will it be different groups up there? Forming it one church. Oh no. It's the bride adorned for her husband. What a place. And then just one more comment here before we close. And that is? In the end of the ninth verse of the 21St of Revelation. Come here, the ride will show thee to bride the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed thee that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. And her life was like unto the stone, most precious, even like a Jasper stone, clear as. Crystal, Here we find another view of the church. He's seen as that city. And what is it brought in this? Well, I believe it's the thought that it says that we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him.

When David came to the throne. Is mighty man were given special places of honor? Who were these mighty men? Man that did great things for him in the day of his power, No. Man that followed him in the day of Israel. Rejection. Some of them didn't seem to do too much. One, it tells of a couple of men that just went and got some water from the well at Bethlehem. That didn't seem like a very great thing, but it was very, very dear to David that they had enough affection for him in the day of his rejection to want to do something just to please him. So here we find that the city is seen here in its administrative position over the earth. Perhaps you'd say, well, you don't know, Brother Gordon, in the little meeting where we go, there's just so few and it's nice to be in a big company like this, but they're just so few. And you're going to be in a big company and you're going to be in a vast number. And you say that the people in the town don't consider where anything at all, but they're going to see us. Something in those days all just think the world's going to look up. They're the people associated with Christ, his bride. And it says having the glory of God, her light was like unto a stone most precious, clear as crystal. Miller, young people, I just tried to give you a few thoughts about God's ways and connection with this earth. He's going to fulfill them in regard to Israel in another day, and he's going to fulfill them in regard to the church. But isn't it a privilege now, in the time of his rejection? Here it began. As members of his body. This is also a privilege and a responsibility. Now that He has placed His name upon us and that the world ought to look on and say to those people really have something, They have Christ. You can see it in their lives. You can see it. That's what they talk about. That's what they're looking forward to. They don't seem to be upset when things are getting worse in this world because we all talk about their glorious future. Oh dear young people, may the Spirit of God open up our eyes to see the future. The head and give grace to walk the little time that remains for His glory and praise.

Montreal Conference: 1976, God's Ways

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

By my heart, you're young people to talk a little, little outline of God's ways in connection with man, and particularly in connection with Israel and the church. And so first of all, I'd like to look at Ephesians chapter 1, the fourth verse. According as He has chosen us in Him before the

foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestinated us under the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace. Forin He hath made us accepted in the Beloved. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. For in here the bounded toward us, in all wisdom and prudence, having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He hath purposed in himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of time He might gather together in one all things in Christ. Both which are in heaven and which are on earth. Even in him in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will. Well, it's been said that if we had the choice of the time when we would like to live in the history of this world, we couldn't have chosen a better time than the present. Isn't that a wonderful thing for us to think about? Because we may be discouraged as we look around and see things that are taking place in this world? But in another sense, if we start to think, if we actually did have the choice, could there be a more wonderful time? Here are several hundred of us together, every one of us with the open Bible before us, every one of us having the privilege to meet together here in peace and quietness, and God's mind fully revealed and made known. And then above all, a wonderful and precious fact that the Lord's coming is near, and perhaps the consummation of our. Might be today when we hear the shout, I say again, dear young people, could we have a better time in which to live? And so, instead of being discouraged as we see the darkness closing in and many things ascend to discourage alerts, rather look up and lift up our heads. Our redemption draws nigh. And is it a wonderful thing, too, that God has been pleased to make known to us his counsels and purposes? If. Great man in a large business was pleased to tell me all about the plans for that business for some years to come. I would consider myself quite honored that He would take me into His counsel. But, dear young people, the Creator of the universe has been pleased to bring us into His counsel, to tell us what He has planned and purposed to do, and above all, has fitted us to be in a place in association with Him in that day. When the Lord Jesus is the center of all things in heaven and in earth, haven't we got a grand, glorious future? Truly, it ought to fill our hearts when we think of it, and it also ought to exercise us that we would desire to walk in this world as those who are conscious of our great calling, as Paul could say, in one place, partakers of the heavenly calling. Isn't it lovely here that we find that first of all, He places us before him, holy and without blame, in love? Isn't this a grand thing for us to stop and consider? And I hope that there's anyone here who's not saved, that you will realize the solemnity of your possession because you're outside of all this, all these counsels and purposes of God. Will not have any part in sharing the blessedness of it, but oh how dreadfully solemn. To be shut out forever from God's presence. That's why, as the brother mentioned yesterday, the word of God uses the the word destruction when it talks about the loss. Because God didn't make hell for man. He made it for the devil and his angels. But those who don't share in the wonderful purposes of God, why they they're spoken out is destroyed just like we have a chair here. You take an axe and smash the chair to pieces. There's still just as much material as there was before. 4 But it's no longer usable for the purpose it was intended. You say you've destroyed the chair. We haven't annihilated it, but we destroyed it because it's no longer usable for its purpose. You know how wonderful a God is, purpose such can it be? Does anyone here who is rejecting his love, What's going on without him? Portion here reminds us of the cost to Himself by which He has brought us into this place. I want to say to the youngest believer here this afternoon that you're holy and without blame before Him in love. Could you have a better standing than that? God himself couldn't give us a better standing. God Himself couldn't bless us more richly than He has, because He has blessed us in Christ.

And so he has brought us into this place and he has made us his. Children, He tells us the cost, He says in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. But He has not only brought us into this place, but now being in this place, He opens up, I say, His counsel and purposes to us. He tells us what He has planned for us and for this world. And it says He's made known to us the mystery of His will, and what is the secret that God has? Well, it tells us here that in the dispense. Of the coldest of times, that is, there have been different ages in the history of this world when God is accomplishing things, but all leading up to a grand climax. A time when the man of his council, the Lord Jesus Christ, the second man and last Adam, will be the center of new creation. And there will be two distinct spheres of blessing, and that will be the heavenly blessing for the church and the earthly blessing for Israel. Well, how wonderful that God has told us this. I've often said that the Christian is the only person who has an intelligent outlook on what is going on in the world. Isn't it nice to be able to look out on the movement of events in the world? Perhaps you've read the first chapter of Ezekiel and you said, what does that mean about the wheels and wheels within wheels and lights? I don't understand that chapter of what God is really telling you in that chapter, that the movement of things in this world. A bit confusing, and sometimes you hardly know what to make of things that take place. But then when you come to the end of the chapter, the man looked up and he saw on a throne above the whole thing, there was the semblance of a man on the throne. And I want to tell you, dear young people, with all the movement of events here in this world, confusing as it seems, there's a man on the throne. But that man is my savior. I hope you can save my Savior too. And more than that that He has planned. That you and I should occupy a place in association with him when he has that place of headship, that place that he will be in over heaven and over earth. No, this is what the only times and all the dispensations are all leading up to this finalist grand plan that God has that Christ is to be the center of all. And then he doesn't stop there, but he tells us in whom we also have obtained an inheritance. That is, Christ is not going to occupy that place alone. He is going to have beside him the one who has spoken of in Ephesians 1. As the fullness of him that filleth All in all. Now that is when a man occupies a high place, his wife in a sense shares the honors of the place that he occupies. And when the Lord Jesus takes that place, he is going to have associated with him his bride one the bride that he loved. And when you and I accept Christ as our Savior, we become part of that bride to occupy that. Place of nearness to Christ in that coming glory. Well, it tells us too that it's in heaven and in earth. And we know God did have purposes and does have purposes in connection with this earth. And he called out a particular nation. He called Abraham, and he separated Abraham from the nation, and God had purposes in connection with this earth and Israel, the nation of Israel and little nation that is now going through such throes of trouble is going to occupy. By the central place upon earth it tells us that Jerusalem is the city of the great King. Whatever confusion there may be there now, whatever unrest there may be in that land, God has told us that He has purposes, and the Lord Jesus is going to reign in power and glory, and Jerusalem will be the center of the whole scene of earthly glory. Israel were picked out from among the nations separated, and God speaks for them in this way. He said that he would put his name upon them and he would bless them. He said, I'll put my name upon you, and I will bless you. And so he put his name upon those people. He gave them that city and he placed his name there. And what a time of blessing is in store for that nation.

And I was thinking how they were. Two things in connection with Israel, and that is. That they were to represent to all around that they were one nation blessed of God, and that God was going to come in and fulfill the promises that He had made to Abraham and to Isaac and to Jacob. So what did the enemy do? Well, he got it. He stirred up some trouble among them, and there was a division and 10 tribes separated from the 2. Wasn't that sad? Now that is, God had intended them to be a display in this world, one nation. Called him separated to be in a wonderful place of blessing. And we see how the enemy succeeded in getting them divided into two kingdoms. And so as you read through the Kings of the Chronicles, you'll read about those two kingdoms. 1 unspoken out of Judah, and the other spoken of as Israel. Why was it that God preserved that testimony in Jerusalem? Because the 2 tribes were better? Not at all. It tells us for his servant David's sake, he would

preserve a light in Jerusalem. It all depends how dear young people on God's faithfulness. He's faithful. Israel was unfaithful. We have been unfaithful, but God is faithful. So in his faithfulness and goodness He preserved the light in Jerusalem. And then it tells us too, that they were also to be a testimony to the nations of the holy people. But sad to say, they failed in that character. They not only didn't display the oneness, but they didn't display the character that ought to have been seen because God had said that, that He was holy and they were to be a holy people unto himself. And so we know how in Israel's history, God had to deal. He never forsook His people. There belongs to the Father's faith, and he's going to fulfill the counsels that he has for them. The 37th of Ezekiel tells us of the restoration of that people, and it says that he's going to bring them back into the land. And the two sticks were joined in the hands of the prophet, and he shows that there wouldn't be any longer 2 Kingdoms, but they would be 1 nation. One king that he would remove the Stony heart, and that he would bless them. And they would be called the City of Holiness. Oh, how lovely to see that God is going to fulfill His purposes. But they failed in the carrying out of theirs. And what a loss it was to them. Yes, we traced their history and how often they came under the governmental ways of God because of their unfaithfulness, but God was still faithful. And we think of how he brought back a little company to Jerusalem. And there a little, there was much weakness that God in His faithfulness preserved that little company which came back in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. And when the Lord Jesus came by, there was a light in Jerusalem. Oh, how good of it that God was in His faithfulness. But they had failed. When we say that has to do with God's earthly people and God is going to fulfill all the purpose and there is going to be a wonderful time blessing in this earth when Christ has his rightful place here. And as it tells us in Revelation chapter 12, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ and He shall reign forever and ever. But now God has another purpose, is not only the last thing on earth, but there is a blessing in heaven. And on the day of Pentecost the Spirit of God came down to gather out a blind for Christ, and the bride is a heavenly company. We belong to a heavenly fear. And so we see that on the day of Pentecost, it could perhaps be called the Church's birthday. It was the beginning of the Church of God on earth. The reason I'm speaking to you like this, dear young people, is because I believe it's very important for us to understand just what God is doing. That we might have understanding of the time, that we might know what He is accomplishing here in this earth. And if we know this of them, to know that there is a privilege of having some part in walking in obedience to His Word and in accordance to that plan which He has. For this present time, the truth is. Not an earthly company. The Church belongs to heaven. This is very clear from Colossians One and first Peter. One tells us in Colossians One about the hope which is laid up for us in heaven. Elvis and Peter, we have an inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled, that fadeth not away reserved in heaven for you. The Church is a heavenly company left here on earth, left here to be a testimony. And I'd like to look.

At the way the church is looked at in four different ways. And that is, first of all is the House of God, then is the body of Christ, and then is the bride, and then as the city. And I believe these three, these four different things bring before us some thoughts that could exercise us and some thoughts that could really fill our hearts with joy and rejoicing when we start to think about them. So let us turn first of all into First Corinthians 12. First Corinthians, chapter 12. And verse 13. For by 1 Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one spirit. Now we know that before the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God had not yet come to earth as a divine person. In the 7th chapter of John, the Lord Jesus said. Is that if any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me is the Scripture hath said, Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. And this safety of the Spirit which they believe on him should receive. And notice this, For the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because that Jesus was not yet glorified, not until Christ went and took his place as a glorified man, having accomplished redemption. Could the Spirit of God come down? And he's down here on this earth now, gathering out of light for Christ, uniting believers to one another and to Christ the head in glory. We have a little picture of it in the Old Testament. We find in the 22nd of Genesis that Abraham takes and offers up Isaac. And then when we come to the 24th chapter, we find that the servant calls after this to get a bride for Isaac. So the Lord Jesus is the one who is a sacrifice for sin, and not how the servant, the Spirit of God, has come down to earth in order to gather out a bride or Christ. And this verse that I have read in first Corinthians 12 I hope makes it very simple. To my mind it is a very simple and yet blessed scripture. It shows. What is taking place in this earth now, and that is that all believers are united by the Spirit to one another and to Christ ahead in glory. I might just add a little comment here that might be helpful for some that when it speaks of the baptism of the Spirit, it is never spoken of in scripture in an individual way. It is always spoken out in a collective way as always forms the body of Christ. That is why the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost are those about 120 believers that were in that upper room were united to one another and to Christ by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. And that was the formation of the body of Christ upon earth. And it tells us whether to or Gentile, how we were speaking a few moments ago about God's particular purpose in regard to Israel. That had to do with the earth. But now the gathering out the church, it's not just the nation of Israel. It's bonded, free. Another scripture says, male or female, anyone who receives the Lord Jesus. Personal Savior is indwelled by the Spirit of God is by that made a member of the body of Christ united to every other believer on earth and to Christ the head in glory. Someone has illustrated it in this very simple way that if we had like on the day of Pentecost, 120 beads sitting on the table here and you put a string through them, you would say well. Well, there were 120 beads. Now there's one necklace. And so that's what happened on the day of Pentecost. Believers were united to one another and to Christ ahead in glory. And if you opened up the necklace and add 1 bead, it's still just one necklace. And so it tells us in that chapter after the Spirit had come, it says the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. I'm saying this because.

I'm sure as we meet people in the office they often say what church? You belong to and perhaps is a kind of a long comes in your throat and you don't know just how to answer. What church do you belong to? Well, let us be very clear to you young people what the Word of God teaches in connection with the church, and that is that the church is not something that man has set up at all. It is something that God is accomplishing by His Spirit. And all believers united to one another and to Christ, form the Church of God on earth. And thrown at the church is 1. It tells it in Acts chapter 20. The church which he has purchased with his own blood, tells us in the 12TH chapter of Hebrews, the Church of the first born, whose names are written in heaven. Where is the church wrong? It's in heaven, that's the place. Have your name written. And so if they ask you, well, what church do you belong to? Why, You can say I belong to Christ, but I'm part of the Church of God. Or how did you join? Well, you don't join. The Lord does the joining. You don't have to join the Church of God. Often when people are saved, they're told to join a good evangelical church. Well, if we're scripturally gathered, dear young people, the only reason we receive people is because they're part of the Church of God already. We don't receive them to become part of the Church of God. We desire to know that they're already part of the Church of God. And then we receive them as the Scripture will show us to remember the Lord and his death. But let us be very clear of this, that the church. As the body of Christ is 1, it's composed of all believers. Upon the face of the earth, how do we know only too well how that the enemy was at work in Israel history and he got the 2 divided, the 10 separated from the two, and enemy has been at work too on earth. On the day of Pentecost they were all together there when the Spirit of God came, and He indwelled their bodies and filled a house where they were sitting. And it tells us how the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Tell us the multitude of the disciples were of 1 heart and one soul says that great grace was upon them all, and there was great power there was that which God had

established. But as I say, the enemy has succeeded in spoiling it. But I want to show how that Heather, is a way that God has planned that we can express this. And if you'll just turn back in your Bible. Corinthians 10 and verse 17 For we being many, are one glad and one body, for we are all partakers of that one bread. Perhaps you were here this morning. I think most of you were. And you noticed even Lord was a large company. We didn't have several loads on the table, nor did we have something all caught up. No. There was one roof. What did that one rope represent? Did it represent the large company that we're here this morning to remember the Lord? No, not just that. It represented the fact that we read here. That we're one bread, one body. All believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have been united to Christ in glory and to every other believer on earth. Is there a scriptural way of expressing this? Has God in His Word given us a scriptural way that we can express the fact that we are members of the Body of Christ? Well, I believe the Scripture gives us a very simple and yet blessed answer to that question. And some people ask you what church you belong to. They expect that after you got saved, you went and joined something. But supposing I joined some particular church and it's an organization of men and it has a name. Where I escaped the approach of Christ to a certain extent, that is when someone asks me, how do you gather? I don't have to say, well, we're gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. I can use some name that the world recognizes and the network. In some measure escape the reproach of Christ, but can't you see the plan that God has is to give honor to the Lord Jesus? And this I want you to see that in God's plan, whether it was in regard to Israel, it was that they were to be brought into this place of association with their Messiah who would take his rightful place in a future day.

And so how lovely here upon earth to be gathered. To the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I know it takes courage, but it is a very blessed thing. And I've often said you'll never really enjoy the remembrance of the Lord and His death as you should, unless you realize that it is your privilege to break bread as a member of the body of Christ. What a grand thing that is. If I sat down at the table with my wife and just looked upon her as a friend who cared for me. Wouldn't be half as near as looking upon her as my wife, one for my love, one in whom I'm in association with. And do you know that when you break bread scripturally that you break bread as a member of the body of Christ? Oh, that's a very blessed privilege. And dear young people, if you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you're already part of the church. You're already part of it. But what a privilege to give expression to it. And I say again. That one loaf represents every member of the body of Christ. It's true that all were not present here this morning, but to be scripturally gathered, they must be all represented. And they are represented in that one wolf placed upon the table. What a lovely privilege this is. Can't we see how the enemy wanted to spoil it? Because as we're going to see in a coming day, and when the Lord Jesus has His. Rightful place. Is he going to display a number of church groups who have all worked together for a common cause? That's what people often say. But we're all working for a common cause. Is that what the seed of glory is going to be? Oh no, he's going to present the church to himself. A glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any heart. Dear young people, it's very precious and I hope it will be precious to you that you can break bread not. Member of some particular body of Christians, but as a member of the body of Christ, that is a very blessed thing. If you go and join any particular church, no matter how evangelical it is or how much truth it stands for, if it has become an organization, it has practically denied that which is the structural ground that we're speaking about, that we meet as members of the body of Christ. Well, enemy, as I say, foil that testimony in Israel. Hasn't he spoiled it in the Christendom too? It seems to me the ruin of Christendom is far greater. And perhaps the reason for it is that I'd never, never was there such a wonderful, blessed and glorious truth as being members of the body of Christ gathered to His precious name. No wonder the enemy wanted to spoil such a testimony. No wonder he wanted to ruin it. But oh, God's word doesn't change. God is faithful, and oh, what a privilege just to come according to His Word and meet as He would have us. Let's turn to Ephesians chapter 4. We'll begin at the first verse. I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation, wherewith ye are called with all loneliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love. Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit. In the bond of peace there is one body and one spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling. Here the apostle has opened up in the 3rd chapter of Ephesians the blessed and wonderful truth of the Church as the Body of Christ. And now he the speeches from here to walk worthy of that vocation. It's not so much what is brought in this chapter, the first part of it at least the practical lot, which I'll speak of in a few moments, but rather the expression of the truth, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. We're never told to keep the unity of the body because that has been formed and nothing can change that. Everyone who is indwelled by the Spirit of God is a member of the body of Christ. But there is such a thing as endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit, that is endeavoring to gather together in such a way to express that unity which has been formed by the Spirit. And why does it say? With all willingness and meekness. With long-suffering forbearing one another in love. $40 You decided to go and identify yourself with a little group of Christians, and something happens in that little group that you don't like very well, some things that perhaps upset you and trouble you.

And then you say, well, I think I'll leave and I'll go someplace else. Why did you leave? Well, because you didn't believe that that was the place where the truth of the one body was expressed. Or if you did, why would you leave if that was the place where they were gathered to express the truth of the one body? And then instead of saying, well, I'm going to leave, what would you say? Well, you'd say, Lord help me in loneliness and meekness. And long-suffering and forbearance just to go on. Brethren, isn't this what we need? And grace to go on? I'm not Speaking of compromising the truth of God, but often there are things that come up that that cause us problems and difficulties. What is a lowly person? Well, I believe a low person is one who takes his right place before God. And what is our right place? That we're nothing. And what is? The meat person, well, I think of it like this. He doesn't resent it when he's put in the low place. You know what the we can all say I'm nothing and I'm a failure, but we don't like it very well when somebody else says don't pay any attention to him. He's nothing I wouldn't pay any attention to. He's just a poor player. Oh, then we find that we weren't quite as lowly as we thought. We found quite a lot of feelings of self within, but the Lord Jesus was make and lowly in heart. He took the low place and when they had despised. Him, he answered not a word, only when it was something that concerned the glory of His Father. Then he spoke, and then we ought to speak too, but in personal things. And brethren, it's the only way that we can go along. Is this lawliness and meekness and long-suffering? I remember hearing about a company of brothers that had come together to consider a certain matter, and they had quite a few brothers meetings and there had been a lot of trial over. Difficulty and one brother when they stepped out of the hall said, where's it all? The man brother and this older brother said at the coming of the Lord, at the coming of the Lord, it says, be patient, therefore, my brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. I'm saying this to you, dear young people, because the Lord leaves us here. Some of us older ones are not always going to be with you, and perhaps not always be able to. Try to give the kind of leadership that we should. But the Lord is the same. And when Paul left them in Ephesus, he said, I command you to God and to the word of his grace. And I've seen young people whom I love dearly. We're very close and dear to me. And they get discouraged and they leave. And what I'm trying to bring before you this afternoon is, but it says here, willingness, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another in love. We have to learn this forbearance. Why? Because we believe that there is a scriptural way to gather, to give expression to the truth that we're members of the body of Christ. And only in this way I believe I can say can we? Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Oh, how blessed to seek to go on in this path. And I believe as the Lord's coming draws near, the devil is going to do his best. He smashed up the testimony in Israel. He succeeded in the church too. And alas, he doesn't want to see any such

testimony. As those who recognize this wonderful and blessed truth that there is. One body, that we're all baptized by 1 Spirit into one body, and that He would have us to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, for may the Lord keep us. Then, if we have laid hold of this, I believe that He would have us to speak to go on. And as it says here, there is one body, 1 Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling. Why does He bring this in one hope of your calling? Well. Just like that brother said, you'll have to wait till the coming of the Lord. That's how long we'll have to be patient. Be patient there for my brethren under the coming of the Lord. And so isn't it nice when he tells us about endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit? He says you've got a wonderful hope ahead. What's the hope? The church is going to be presented without thought or wrinkle or any such thing. Now that Israel the way they were to manifest its oneness, it will also to be a practical testimony to the fact that they were a holy people to the Lord. And our brethren, we're not only called upon to give expression to this truth of the one body, but there's also something else that is important and that is a practical walk that is according to it.

Let us turn it over to. First Timothy chapter Well, perhaps I'll turn first of all to Ephesians chapter 2. Ephesians chapter 2, verse 19. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the Saints and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom all the buildings fitly framed together, groweth under one holy temple in the Lord. In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. Now, if you'll turn over, please, to First Timothy, Chapter 3. And verse 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou Artest to behave thyself in the House of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth, and without controversy. Great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit sea of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world. Received up into glory. We've spoken how the church is looked at as the body of Christ, but in these two passages the church is looked upon as a spiritual building. Here we find it that as believers we're building together. Peter says we're living soon. Build it together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. When we think of the body of Christ, it's so near in US and that affection that unites us to one another into Christ. But I believe the fraud in the house is rather. But, and so here we find that when he speaks of it, he calls it a holy temple in the Lord. Holiness is a nature. It's the abhorrence of evil with delight in good. And so we could be scripturally gathered. But now a little word to my conscience and to yours. Do we know how to behave ourselves in the House of God? Now Mark, this doesn't mean just in the meeting room when it says the House of God. It's the place just that you're a member of the body of Christ, whether you're in the meeting room or out of it. Fool your living stone in God's building, whether you're in the meeting or out of the meeting room. This is what we are at all times, but the aspect of the house has to do with conduct. And so Paul is writing to Timothy and he is exhorting him how to behave himself in the House of God. And I might say for your consideration sometime, if you read through the 1St epistle of Timothy and with this in mind, I think you'll find many, many helpful things there talks about. The place of the man and the place of woman speaks about our attitudes to those. Authority speaks about taking care of our relatives, talks about bodily exercise talks about how to handle money that God has given to us all this because who is going to give a display in this world of what is God's mind for a people that belong to him in the world. Well, the epistle of Timothy lays this out before us and if you want to know the mind of God in connection with your attitude toward authorities and loved ones and. Of man and woman and physical exercise, all that. You'll find it all in this book because the subject is how we might behave ourselves in the House of God. And so here is a practical side of things, having learned this lesson. Truth. The world ought to look on and see a people who follow the the truth of God's Word, whose walk is according to it. And this is most practical in dear young people. I just ask you to consider it carefully, and I say it to myself too. When the nations looked on to Israel, we find this solemn, solemn word. The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you. Wasn't it sad the world? Looked on to those people who were called the holy people and said their walk is so bad. Surely they're not the true people of God. And if it's sad when we who bear the name of Christ in this world who are intended to be and in the scriptural sense are a holy temple when our lot doesn't correspond with that the world ought to see in us the carrying out how this because just as we're gathered to the name of Christ were members of. Body of Christ, though we are to use Christ as the pattern for our lives as Christians. That's what the next verse says. Great is a mystery or secret of godliness. And so I just command these thoughts to your mind. I speak to my own conscience. As one brother said, when I point a finger at you, I .3 fingers back and I know that I need what I'm saying to you.

Because we need to be exercised in these times. For how often is gathered to the Lord's name were not careful enough as to our walk. First of all, he says the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And let me say this, the Assembly of God is responsible to hold the deposit of truth that's been committed to it. The church does not teach, but the church is taught and is responsible to hold the truth. And if an assembly gives up now that will change the truth of God, the foundation truth. It would cease to be an Assembly of God. It's the truth of God that we are responsible to hold and to maintain. That's why separation is necessary in the second epistle. But I want to just speak of the practical side of it here, the 16th verse, and without controversy. Great is the mystery of godliness. And then we read these things about the Lord Jesus. And I just like to speak a little about these little slots that are contained here in these things. The secret of godliness is the pathway of the Lord Jesus. God was manifest in the flesh. Lord Jesus in his pathway could say he that has seen me, I've seen the Father. And what is God seeking to produce in you and I, dear young people? He's seeking to produce in us that the life of Jesus might be seen in our body. You'll read that in two Corinthians 4 that the life of Jesus might be manifest. Choose the very same words. The life of Jesus might be manifest in our body. The disciples were called Christians because they were. Christ and then it says justified in the Spirit. This is very important for us because in these days when people's opinions are changing and some Christians have their ideas affected by the world around, and I warn you, dear young people, make the word of God the standard, not the opinions of man. You'll find people's opinions are changing constantly and alas, they're going downward. But you and I are to be governed by the word of God. But here it says justified in the spirit. Sometimes we'll be condemned by the world, sometimes even other Christians will condemn us, but the important thing is justified in the Spirit. The Lord Jesus in His pathway here was always marked out by the Spirit of God as the one who always did His Father's will for you and I, content to know that we are seeking to walk in obedience to the Word of God. This only will give peace in your soul. Then it says ears seen of angels. Yes, the angels look down. Now they see, they take a notice that such a small thing is whether a sister has a covering on her head. She was to have a covering on her head because the angels and so here the Lord Jesus, as he walked through this world, the angels looked down and they saw one in this world to glorify God, his Father. So this is the pathway for us too. We're a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. He looked down and fade a blessed. That we have received, and they expect to see in us, for those who respond to such wonderful grace has been shown to us. And then it says, preached unto the Gentiles. Why does this come in? Well, there were a few instances in the Lord's life where He preached the Gentiles and spoke of their faith. Why is it mentioned here? Well, may I just give you this little thought? The Lord said, I not sent but to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. But when they rejected him, that great. Reached over the wall and went out to the Gentiles. Did you feel hurt sometime because someone said, oh, I won't listen to you? And you say I give up. They don't pay any attention to me anymore. And you just, you just gave up. Well, this little word is a word of encouragement to you. The word is that when the Lord was rejected by his own people, the nation of Israel, grace went out to the Gentiles. And so don't allow discouragement to cause you to give up. That's just what the devil wants, the Lord Jesus. Went on his pathway of love and dear young people, I want to

encourage you to do this. I know there are lots of discouragements for young people. I know there are all kinds of things that make it hard in these days, but remember that when the Lord Jesus felt the rejection that was all around. There was no shall I say there was no stint to that outlawed love and I think it's blessed that he creeps to the Gentiles whether any results.

Believed on in the world were the results of parents no when the time came that he was to be crucified his disciples forsook him and fled the people that he healed didn't stand with him he'd say well it didn't look as if there were many results but the results are manifested in resurrection and you and I'll never go on in the path of obedience unless we're content to waste the time of manifestation as we've been having in our meetings when all. In the Lord's presence. And then he was received up in glory at precious saviors up there in the glory there he is now. So this is the secret of godliness. How can we go on in the House of God when things get into disorder? There's a path marked out. There's a moral conduct now that can be seen no matter how dark and difficult the day here, young people, don't get discouraged. We're living in the most wonderful time of the Church's history. It's worthwhile. 1000 times. I'm as Mr. Darby said, if the path of faith were 1000 times more difficult than it is, it's still worthwhile because I will recompense his smile, the suffering of this little while. And now just before I close this briefly in Revelation 21 in the second verse, and I, John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven. Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I've always spoken about the church as the body of Christ. We've spoken of it as the House of God. The Church has failed in the expression of the truth of the one Body. We have failed a lot in that practical conduct before the world. That ought to show them that we love our precious Savior and possess His life. But here's a time when the Church comes down to be seen by the world. What will be seen then? All that freshness of beauty. Christ has presented the church to Himself without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. There are a few of us gathered here today, but oh, don't you want to look forward to that time? When the Lord Jesus comes out of heaven. And not just a few of us here, but the whole church. There will be nothing to be corrected then. There'll be no long-suffering needed. Then there'll be no forbearance in love needed up there. But the church will be presented. And who will have the greatest joy? The Lord Jesus is going to fulfill His purposes. He's going to present the church. Won't you be glad that you tried to walk in the truth of this in the day of His rejection? Don't you think that David's man who followed him in his rejection? Had a deeper rejoicing when David was crowned king. Through all, Israel came to crown David as king, but there were a few men, but it meant a great deal more to their hearts because they had followed Him in His rejection. May the Lord encourage us to follow Him in His rejection. There's a day coming when we won't have to have the one loaf on the table. We will be in His glorious presence. He'll have His joy in having us there. All will be with Him. Will it be different groups up there forming this one church? Oh no. It's the bride adorned her husband. What a place. And then just one more comment here before we close and that is? In the end of the ninth verse of the 21St of Revelation. Computer, I will show thee to bride the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. And her life was like under the stone, most precious, even like a Jasper stone, clear as crystal. Here we find another view of the Church. She's seen as that city. And what is it thought in this? Well, I believe it's the thought that. It says that we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him when David came to the throne. His mighty men were given special places of honor. Who were these mighty men? Man that did great things for him in the day of His power. No man that followed him in the day of his rejection. Some of them didn't seem to do too much. One, it tells of a couple of men that just went and got some water from the well at Bethlehem. I didn't seem like a very great thing, but it was very, very dear to David that they had enough affection for him in the day of his rejection. To want to do something just to please him. So here we find that the city is seen here in its administrative position over the earth. Perhaps you say, well, you don't know, Brother Gordon, in the little meeting where we go, there's just so few. And it's nice to be in a big company like this, but there's just so few. And you're going to be in a big company and you're going to be in a vast number. And you say that the people in the town don't consider where anything at all, but they're going to see us something in those days.

All the things the world's going to look up, they're the people associated with Christ, his bride. And it says having the glory of God. Her life was like unto a stone most precious, clear as Crystal Miller, young people, I just tried to give you a few thoughts about God's ways and connection with this earth. He's going to fulfill them in regard to Israel in another day, and he's going to fulfill them in regard to the church. But isn't it a privilege now, in the time of his rejection? Two, it beguiled as members of His body. This is also a privilege and a responsibility that He has placed His name upon us and that the world ought to look on and say to those people really have something. They have Christ. You can see it in their lives. You can see it. That's what they talk about. That's what they're looking forward to. They don't seem to be upset when things are getting worse in this world. Because they all talk about their glorious future. Oh. Few young people, Mayor, Spirit of God, open up our eyes to see the future that's ahead and give grace to walk the little time that remains for His glory and praise.

Conference: 1978, Prayers of Ephesians 1,3 and 6

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to turn tonight to the Epistle to the Ephesians, like to speak about the two prayers and the Epistle to the Ephesians and then the last chapter. And perhaps we could put it like this, that in the first chapter we have the apostles prayer that the Saints might know how richly they were blessed. In the third chapter he prays that they might enjoy this and their souls. And then in the last chapter he shows us how. Can be preserved because even though we know these things and are even brought into the enjoyment of them, how we need to be preserved because there is a conflict and our enemy is busy. So in the last chapter we have the whole armor of God provided for us. Let's notice this prayer in the first chapter of Ephesians. In the 15th verse. Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and love unto all the Saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the. Of His inheritance in the Saints. And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us? Word who believe according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set him in His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power of might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come and have put all things under. Feet and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth All in all. Well, it's often been said that Ephesians brings before us the very highest truth in the Bible. And it's very wonderful when we think of how these Ephesians were once worshippers of the great goddess Diana, the image which they thought had fallen down from Jupiter. And they were all taken up with that idolatry to fill that city. And shortly after they were saved, brought to the knowledge of the Lord, tells us there was a great bonfire. They burned up all their books, all those things that were

once valuable to them. It says there was a great bonfire and the price of it was very great. Still, it didn't sell the books to other people even. They just burnt them up because they had seen something far, far better than the great goddess Diana. They had seen that there was a real man in the glory, that the Lord Jesus was up there at the right hand of the Father. And they had learned something of what we have brought before us in this epistle, that they were blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, and all how blessed it is that we have been delivered from all those things that might attract us. I'm sure that if they could dig out in some way or excavate that great goddess Diana, there would be tourists going from all over to see this fine thing. But, old brethren, how much more wonderful. Our portion in Christ and we could ask our own hearts. Or do we know these things? Are we in the enjoyment of them because this is what we need. In Christianity, it's not as it was under the law system of thou shalt and thou shalt not, But instead of that, God has given us something better, and having that which is so much better, we're set free. Paul didn't tell him to go and burn up all their books. But when they had found what was so much better wasn't hard for them to part with those old things. And so here we find in this first epistle the great desire of the heart of the apostle, that they might enter into these things and know them in their own souls. And I might say that in the 18th verse where it says the eyes of your understanding, being enlightened, that I believe the correct translation is the eyes of. Aren't being enlightened. I call attention to this because it isn't just what we know intellectually. We could know a great many things intellectually, but if they don't touch our hearts, if our hearts are unmoved, why? It won't be hard for us just to give it up because it was only in our minds. But if these things have touched our hearts, if we really know them in our hearts, then it's like what the Lord Jesus said.

He said he that believeth on me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water, not just out of his mind, something that he's learned, but something that he's taken in and enjoyed. And tonight with the Lords Health, I would like to bring before our hearts some things that many of us know, but how precious to be reminded of those things that we do know. So that again we might think of how richly were blessed. And as I say, it's not them hard to refuse the lesser things. You have a job that's paying you a large amount. Why someone offers you a job for half the amount, it's not hard to turn it down because you have something better. And all the unsearchable riches of Christ. How blessed this is. How wonderful in comparison with all that this world has to offer. So he tells us here. In this 15th verse, after he had heard of their faith in the Lord Jesus and love unto all the Saints in all his faith and love go together. Indeed, it tells us in Galatians that faith works by love, because when there's faith in the Lord Jesus, there's always love to others. There's a verse in John's epistle that says we know that we have passed from death unto life. Because we love the brethren. You know, when you meet people, isn't it true that it's not so much what they know that you talk about as whether they're really enjoying those things that they know? Someone has said that the Church was in its happiest state when it knew the least on the Day of Pentecost. Why? They didn't know very much, but it tells they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. How was this knowing so little that they were so happy? Oh, because they were enjoying. That which they knew. Trouble with many of us is that we know a great deal, but we're not in the enjoyment of it. Just like having fine food in front of you and you're sick and you can't eat it. The food is good. If you're feeling healthy, you'd enjoy it. But when you're not healthy, there it sits. Good food, but you don't enjoy it. So the apostle could speak of their faith in the Lord Jesus and love unto all the Saints, and it's a proof of divine life in the soul that the heart goes out to the Lord Jesus. And to his people, I believe that's the greatest proof in the whole Bible. A man is saying that he loves the Lord Jesus and that he loves those who belong to him. It tells us in Corinthians, if any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema Maranatha. That means a curse when the Lord comes. And then the other verse, I'll quote it again. We know that we have passed from death unto life. Because we love the bathroom. So here Paul could rejoice at the faith of these Saints and their love to All Saints. And then he said he didn't cease to give thanks for them making mention of you in my prayers. He not only prayed that they might know and enjoy certain things, but he gave thanks for what he could see that was. A manifestation of divine life, and this is very important for us. It's very blessed for us, brethren, to look for that which is of Christ in one another. I'm sure if you look for false and may, you could find them. But it's very needful if we're going to go on together, that we look for that which is of Christ and we seek to stir up that which is of Christ. Just like a well and the pump isn't working very well, you know, perhaps that. If you pump away and pump away you don't get any water. But it's amazing if you just take a half dipper of water and pour it into the pump while you get far more than what you put in. Why? Well, there was plenty of water there, but the pump wasn't working just right. And sometimes we lose the enjoyment of Christ and a little bit put in will often bring out quite a bit more than we put in. So isn't it good for to try and do this? And to encourage the hearts of God's people. And there may be a far greater return than we ever expected. So Paul, when he thought of these Ephesians, and he knew what they were exposed to in that city where the whole town was a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, while he gave thanks for what he had seen of Christ. And then he sought to stir them up to a fuller knowledge of himself, to a greater enjoyment of himself, and that they might be preserved too, because it's rather sad to notice.

That someone has called the letter that we have in Revelation chapter 2. As the second epistle to the Ephesians, the first epistle he set before them. These wonderful things that we read in this epistle, the highest truth in the whole of the New Testament. But what about the 2nd Epistle to the Ephesians? Well, John was right into that same church, and he had to say something that was very sad about them. He said, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Now he could say a lot of outward things were still maintained. So they couldn't bear those that were evil. They had tried those that said they were apostles and were not and had found them liars. They hated the deeds that deeds of the Nicolaitans. There were a lot of awkward things that were maintained. But his heart was saddened, and that letter, written by the energy of the Spirit of God, was telling that they had left their first love. All the inner spring was gone. May the Lord grant that that first love may be kept fresh in our souls. The Lord values that first love toward Himself. So he made mention of them in his prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. He prayed that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory. Oh, blessed to have this brought before us, because in this epistle. He says in the third verse of the first chapter. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You remember how in the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, that he said, I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God. That precious Savior could speak of God as his Father and could tell us that we're brought into the relationship of knowing God. As our Father, he could speak of my God. Because the Lord Jesus had taken the place here of the obedient 1 to do his Father's will. And then he could say, my God and your God. And I like to think of what Paul said in the last chapter of Philippians. There he was in prison, forgotten and deprived, and he said, My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. We trust in the living God, brethren, one who has all power, the. And the gold are his, a cattle upon 1000 hills, so he could speak to them here of the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Father of glory may give them to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation. A lot of wisdom in this world, but the Bible tells us the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. What a blessed thing to have the wisdom that comes from above. Not just wisdom. Marbles in this world and electronics, electricity and all kinds of things that we could study, necessary perhaps for our daily employment. But to think that God has brought us into his secrets, isn't this wonderful? The very God who made the universe has spoken to us. And like Jesus said to the disciples, he said, I haven't called you servants, I've called you friends, because all things that I've heard of my Father, I've made. Unto you a friend is someone that you can converse with freely. And so to

think that he has brought us into his secrets. And one is often said, the Christian is the only person who has an intelligent outlook on what's going on in the world. Now the world don't know. They're all confused what is going to happen. They say something has to happen. Isn't it wonderful that we have, in God's precious Word, wisdom? Solid here in this day when we see everything breaking down, that we have the wisdom of God in his word, wisdom for our pathway. Do we have to follow all the opinions and ideas of man? No, we have divine wisdom, the wisdom that comes from above. And then he says and revelation in the knowledge of him. This book is not just an extension of man's wisdom. No, it's something.

Superior to man's wisdom, it is a revelation from God. A revelation, I say, because God is telling us in this book things that we wouldn't know if He didn't tell us. Man may be able to study electricity and find out various uses for it, but in this book you find things that man could never discover if God couldn't didn't tell him. Cast thou by searching. Find out God. Is it possible for a man, no matter how brilliant he is? To get the true knowledge of God by his intellect, no God must reveal Himself. And that he has done. Can man find out where he came from? Not if he doesn't believe the Bible. One great man at the end of his life said, I've spent all my life trying to find the answer to two questions, where I came from and where I'm going to. How can he find out with all the wisdom in the world? Tell him the answer to those two questions. But we have a revelation from God. We have divine light. And so he said he prayed. That there the same I, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledgement of in the knowledge of Him. And apart from the knowledge of God, apart from the knowledge of Christ, we remain in darkness of these. Psalms things. You know, there are men with great intellects, but if they don't bow to this Bible, they'll never find the answer to those two questions. They'll never know what's going to happen in this world. They may talk about the year 2000 and the year 3000 and so on. Men don't know, but isn't it wonderful to have the light and wisdom of God's Word? Oh, how thankful we should be, and then we can face the future with peace. But we not only know the future, but we know who holds the future. We know the one who keeps it, and it's all under his control. For it says in the Bible, who hath. And brought it to pass when the Lord commanded it. Not, oh, whatever God has planned, he's going to carry out and he's going to carry it out on time. He's not going to be behind schedule. So we trust in the living God. So we pray that the eyes of their heart would be enlightened, that they would know the hope of his calling and the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the Saints. He desired that their hearts might be in the knowledge of this. And what is the hope of His calling? That we should try and improve this world and make it a better place. No, friends, we belong to heaven. Paul said in this epistle that he was an ambassador in bonds. He we belong to heaven. That's our home. And so he desired that they would know the hope of their calling. What is Our Calling? Oh, we're called from above. We're heavenly men by birth. We belong to a brighter sphere. Heaven is our Fatherland and heaven is our home. And how rich are we? Man dies and people say how much did he have? Well, some are millionaires, some multi millionaires. How rich are we? Oh I say the unsearchable riches of Christ, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. What'll keep us from envying all of this world has to offer? It's the knowledge of this. I'm quite sure when I'm talking to you that there are people, young people too, I expect, up in Siberia, in prison camps and labor camps. How can they endure the kind of treatment they're getting there? Do you think their hearts are full of resentment? Oh, I'm sure if we could take a trip up there and talk to them, they would talk to us about their portion in Christ. They would tell us that they're rich. That they belong to heaven. And this is what sustains them and this is what Paul desired for these Saints. And then what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us were to believe men often have great plans, great plans with they can't carry them out. Every new politician that comes along has some great plan. People listen to his plan. They think, oh, this is going to change the outlook of the country. But as soon as they get into power.

They find out that they. Can't carry out the plan that they intended, but all God has a plan, friends, and that plan is just as sure of being carried out as God himself. He's going to and he has already raised and seated at his own right hand the man of his counsel, and he's going to fulfill all his will. The scripture says so we not only know these councils. The hope of Our Calling, the glory of the inheritance in his Saints, but we also know that he's going to carry this out according to the what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us were to believe according to the working of his mighty power. He has shown that power and raising Christ from the dead. And see him at his own right hand. Brother Oscar Mayer was saying how it was going through the hospital one day and there was a man lying there in the bed who was a Buddhist and he knew that Brother Myers was a Christian. And he said, he called me over to him. He says I don't believe in Christianity, I don't believe in Christianity. He said, we have **** up. You Christians just have an empty tomb. Well, he said, praise God, we have an empty tomb. We have our risen Savior. We have a glorified man at the right hand of God. God has raised him from the dead. Shall I say. Christianity is unique. It's the only religion in the whole world that has a rhythm. Savior, one who has come from the dead and is seated there at the right hand of God. And so he told him that there was not only these plans. And I might just mention at the end of this 18th verse the riches of the glory of his inheritance. In his Saints, you know, the Saints are not the inheritance, but the inheritance in his Saints means that he is not going to take what is rightfully his until he has his Saints with him. Just like if a man build a beautiful mansion and someone said when are you going to live in it? But he said I'm going to get married and then we're going to live in that mansion. And so all this scene belongs to the Lord. The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. Why hasn't He taken possession of it? Why does He let wicked men rule? Well, the time will come when He will have His Saints with Him, and then He'll come forth with His bride, and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever. But where is the Lord Jesus now? He's far above all principality and power and might and dominion. And every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. Now this one and whom we have put our faith and trust, he's there at the right hand of God. He's far above all principality and power. He's the very highest authority. And there he is. And every name that is named is above them all. And. It's not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And he have put all things under his feet, all has been placed under Him. He hasn't yet taken his place of headship, but it all belongs to Him, as it says in Hebrews. We see not yet all things put under him, but we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering, suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor. There he is at the right hand of God tonight. And now notice this and gave him to the be the head over all things to the church, which is his body. Oh, how wonderful. What is the Spirit of God doing here in this world? Now he is gathering out of this world a bride for Christ, and that Blessed One is up there in the glory, the head of the body, the church. Sometimes when you tell people that you go to a certain meeting place. They may ask you, well, who's the head of your group? Well, here's the one who's the head, the head of the body, the one who's head over all things to the church, which is his body. And let us remember this all power is his, and nothing happens by chance.

To any of the members of the body, He's in complete control. He may allow us to suffer, but it says all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. And to me it gives great comfort to my soul, no matter what happens, that I know who's in control. Here was Paul and his epistle. He was in prison. He was in prison under Nero. Did he call himself the prisoner of Nero? No, he said. I Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, he recognized this person as head over all things to the church. Has something gone wrong in your life? And then you say, well, it was that person that did it. Why isn't it nice that we can just take it from the lower and know that

he's had over all things to the church? And I say again, brethren, absolutely nothing happens by chance. He allows it and he can turn. Trials into a blessing when we take them from Him. And you know, there's a little difference in the expression and Ephesians it says here he's had over all things to the church. In Colossians it says he's the head of the body, the church. Now the reason I believe is this, that the point in Ephesians is what the church is to Christ. The point in Colossians is what Christ is to the church. And so. He is head of the body. That's what he is to the church. He's the head of the body of the church. But when he speaks about what the church is to him for he loved the church and gave himself for it. Then he said, I'm, I'm doing all for the good of my church. Just as it says in the 5th chapter. That he might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water, by the word, that he might present it to himself. A glorious church. Isn't it grand to think of, head over all things, love the church so much He gave himself for it, and now he's looking forward to. Time when the church will be presented without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing. And it says, which is His body, the fullness of him that filleth All in all. So much so that Christ and His church are one. Just as my head and my body are one, and the head is to control the movements of the body, so Christ, the head in glory, and His body are looked upon. One in the scripture he is the church is the fullness of him that filleth All in all. That's the way it is and a happy marriage. A man doesn't feel complete in himself. He feels that his partner that the Lord has given to him is the one who completes him. Isn't it wonderful to think that Christ? As the head of the body has that which completes him. And no wonder we see such a disruption of things in the world today because Satan is at work to break down everything that's of God and God had a plan which is shown to us in marriage. What is Satan trying to do? Break it all up so that he would spoil that which is a type of this wonderful relationship between Christ and His church. And any man who's in his proper place in the home looks upon the wife, his partner, as the one who is the completeness of himself. And he wants to love her and serve her, and she on her part looks up to him as her head. That's God's plan and it works. It's God's way. And what a pattern we have in Christ and his love to His church. What a failing church we have been. Has it changed His love, having loved his own, which were in the world? He loved them under the end. So here we have the desire of the apostle. The Saints would know these things, that their hearts would be open to know these wonderful things. As I say again, nothing else will keep us in a world like this. It's so full of attractions and temptations. What'll keep us? We have something better. It's not hard to refuse other things when we have something better. Now let's turn over to this third chapter and we find the second prayer. Ephesians chapter 3 and the 14th verse for this 'cause I found my knees under the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith. That she, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with All Saints what is the breadth and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge that she might.

With all the fullness of God now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in US, and to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. Well, here we find Paul bowing his knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And his prayer was that the dear Saints at Ephesus. Might enjoy these things rooted and grounded in love. They might know the love of Christ which passed knowledge. And so it is so important that we enjoy these things. Now let's notice this 15 verse of whom the whole family or I believe the correct translation is every family in heaven and earth is named, that is in the purposes of God. Christ in manhood is to be the center of the whole new creation scene of glory in heaven. And in earth is to be the center. And he prayed that all the Saints might enter into this and know the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And then he said that they would be strengthened by with might, by His Spirit in the inner man. You know, the Spirit of God has been given to us as believers to bring us into the good of these things. It says the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us. And so he prayed that they would be. Strengthened with might in the inner man. And isn't it true with us how much we need this strengthening? As I say, there's so many things to lead us away, to take us away from the enjoyment of Christ in our souls, that it does take a real energy of faith to be like Moses, who refused those things that were offered because he had what the Scriptures said. He esteemed the reproach of Christ. Greater riches than the treasures in Egypt because he had respect. Unto the recompense of the reward. And then that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith. No, of course it is true that Christ does dwell in the heart of every believer, but He desired this for them. In a practical sense, we always remember. Crazy really lives in US. Praise in you, the whole. Lori and the enjoyment of this, this is what keeps us. From the things of the world Christ lives in us, we have a new life, and the Spirit of God is the power of that new life that we possess. And then to the chief being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with All Saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ. I call attention to this because when he says in this 18th verse, the breadth and length and depth and height is not really speaking there. Of the love of Christ because we can never comprehend the love of Christ. But what he is praying is that the Saints might know the measure of their blessings. You know, there are many dear Saints that don't know this. They need children of God. They think they can be lost again. You find them trying so hard to get sanctification, trying so hard to get. Certain things that they think will be necessary to their spiritual life. And instead of entering into the fact that we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ, someone said to a dear Christian man whom I know, do you have the second blessing yet? Said, I don't know what you mean. He said, the Bible tells me that I'm blessed with all spiritual blessings. I'm not just getting the second. They're all mine. Well, isn't it lovely that we should know this? And perhaps it could use an illustration like this. And just a while ago, we spoke about man who builds a beautiful home or his bride. Well, supposing the time comes when his bride comes to look at this home and when she steps inside the front door, she said, oh, this is such a beautiful home. I'm just satisfied to be inside the front door.

It's just so beautiful here. Don't bother showing me the rest of the home. I'm just satisfied here. Feel disappointed. And if he played with her and she said no, it's just enough for me to know that I'm inside the front door. Well, you know, there's a lot of Christians like that. And they're satisfied to know they're saved. And they don't seem to have a desire to learn the length and breadth and depth and height. That is all they have. Can't you imagine that young man saying, oh, please come. I want you to see through the whole house. You know, I built this for you. It was because I had my heart, the thought of sharing it with you, if you knew how much you meant to me. And all this is built so we can enjoy it together. Can you imagine the girls saying, I'm just satisfied to be inside the door and you do need Christians like this constantly. He said, oh I know I'm saved. You try to bring before them the truth of the church. Of being gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus of all these wonderful things that we know reveal to us in the Word. And they don't want to go through the length and breadth and depth and height of the house. They don't want to see all the rooms. They just want to know they're saved. Oh, I say to you, God wants you to know it all. He wants you to know how richly you're blessed. He wants you to enter into these unsearchable riches of Christ. Paul counted that his great privilege. He said that I should preach among the Gentiles. The unsearchable riches of Christ, and even carries a little farther in the 20th of Acts. Or he's talking to the elders of Ephesus there. And he said, he said, he said, I am free from the blood of all men, for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. He said, I wouldn't be fulfilling my responsibility of God as God's servant if I didn't tell you how richly you're blessed. I don't want to stop at just telling you you're saved. He said, I want you to know how richly. You're blessed, and it's a great joy to your friends to tell out some of these unsearchable riches of Christ. Well, he desired that they would comprehend the length and breadth and depth and

height and then and to know. So let's speak again of this young man. He's taken his bride to be through a little house. Every room is just the most grand that money could spend to fix it up. Just a beautiful mansion and everything is just the best that money could buy. And when he's all finished. And I want you to know the love that I have toward you and it's not just the house, it's the love that I have towards you that I want you to enjoy. Now that was the apostles prayer here. He said, I want you to know how richly you're blessed. But he said and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge. So I want you to notice those two things. Sometimes a little hymn is given the hint that it's the length and breadth and depth and height of. Christ. But in reality, friends, it's the extent of the blessings and the love that provided the blessings that is brought before us here. And it's a love that passes knowledge. The reason it passes knowledge is because human love always must see something in the object to love. It's impossible for us naturally to love a person unless we see something in them to love. But God loved me when there was nothing in me to love. That's divine love. There was absolutely nothing in me. I was his enemy, an enemy in my mind by wicked works. And he loved me and that's why he says it passes knowledge. Why would he ever love me? Oh, that's what he wants us to know. And it's a love that passes knowledge. It's a love that knows no. And having loved his own, which were in the world, he loved them under the end. When did the. Say that the very night the forsook him and fled. Did that change his love. We sometimes somebody does a mean thing to us and we say I find it hard to love that person after what they did. That's not the way the Lord is active isn't most precious. So his prayer here that we might know that we might know this love that we might enjoy this love that passes knowledge.

And that she might be filled with all the fullness of God. It doesn't say that we can contain all the fullness of God, but be filled with it. I might go down here to the Pacific Ocean and take my cup and fill my cup and bring it up and it's filled out of the Pacific Ocean, but I haven't got the Pacific Ocean in my cup. The Lord Jesus, in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. All you and I can do is fill our little cup, but I tell you, it really fills. It fills it to overflowing, and so he desired that they would be filled with all the fullness of God. And then miss 20th verse. It's often used in connection with prayer. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in US. Sometimes we speak of this in connection with answered prayer, but I believe the thought in the verse goes farther than that. And supposing the Lord had come to you and said, what would you like me to do for you? Would any of us have ever asked that we should be heirs and joint heirs with Christ? That we wouldn't just have a little corner in heaven, but we would be heirs of all that belongs to Christ? Wouldn't we have ever asked that we should be part of his spotless bride? I don't think any of us would ever have thought of such a thing, but God thought about it and God purposed it and the Lord Jesus did the work to make it possible. He sent down his Holy Spirit to should have brought his love in our hearts. And now he said he's able to carry out this plan. It's more than we can ask or think. It's true. He does answer prayer about what we ask or think. But brethren, when we get to glory, I believe when we get there, we will say. Certainly never asked for this, and I never thought it was going to be so grand as this. He's able to do it and He's going to carry out His purposes. And then what does this produce in US unto Him? A glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. That is all we can do is praise Him for it. We can't. We can't contribute something to that glory, but we can praise. We can thank Him, we can give glory to his name, but he that glorious, let him glory in the Lord. And so I hope that this does cause more praise to come forth from our hearts to Him. Unto Him be glory in the church. It could be translated to the ages of ages because we never stop praising. Even when we get the glory, it's going to continue on. Eternity is too short to utter all. Praise. But down here there should be that glory to Him, that glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Well, may the Lord grant that there will be more praise in our hearts for what He has done. I just want to look briefly at the last chapter, 2, the 6th chapter here. We read about the Armor of God. Devil, For you wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places or in the heavenlies. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that she may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having your loins gird about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness. And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching there unto it all perseverance and supplication. For All Saints, well as we mentioned, there is the Apostles prayer that we might know. Things there is the apostles prayer that we might enjoy them, and then there's God's provision for the conflict and we know how the devil is doing all he possibly can to keep us from the enjoyment of our portion. I don't need to tell you that because if you're saved, you know that. You know that as soon as you go to work in the morning. It just seems that so many things come in. It's like it says in Daniel Chapter 7.

The enemy's attempt is to wear out the Saints of the Most High, and doesn't he just try to wear you down? Everything that pressures and all. Well, has God made provision? Prayer is a very blessed thing, but there is a conflict, and in this conflict we're told to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. What is our conflict against? Well, it says we wrestle not against flesh and blood. You don't go and punch people in the face. We don't take physical swords and cut people down. Now, that was the Jewish conflict. Ours is a spiritual conflict. But we have a powerful enemy and Satan knows just exactly our weak point and he doesn't want us to enjoy these heavenly things. That's why it says spiritual wickedness in higher in the heavenly places. Satan will do all he possibly can to keep you from enjoying. Portion up there and if you go out to work in the morning and all that you've got to think about is this earth why then they'll get you down. They'll perhaps tell you oh, it is worthwhile it's too great a conflict and you'll just put a cloud between you and that glory about he doesn't want you to look up. I believe, friends, that that's why in this epistle Satan's called a Prince of the power of the air because just like that airy atmosphere comes between US and the. And how often the clouds are floating through that area atmosphere and hiding from us the sun. And so Satan is doing all he can surround us with everything so that we won't see how bright our portion is up there so that we won't be enjoying it. And if you go to work and you're not enjoying what's above the sun if you don't do. What we need to do, get up above those clouds. You know, sometimes you say, oh, the sun is not shining today. Yes, it's shining. We just need to get above the clouds. It's always shiny. And so this is his prayer, his desire here, that the Saints would realize that there is a real power, the rulers of the darkness of this world. Satan is the God and Prince of this world. He has religion, the blind people, and he has the whole political system and the pleasure system and everything all arranged but for to take away our hearts from the Lord. And you know it as well as I do. He just got everything and he knows just what's inside there. We still have the flesh within. And so everything's just arranged for this. And we say, how can I meet these pressures? How can I stand it? The rulers of the darkness of this world, wicked spirits in heavenly places. So we're told to take the whole armor of God. Notice, notice a little bit the provision here stand therefore having your loins gird about the truth. Well, I believe when it speaks of the loins here it means. Perhaps we could say our bodies, our emotions, our desires. Are they kept in the loins? Dirt about means that they're under the control and direction of the word of God. We're living in days when people are just casting off restraint. It says in the second Psalm, prophetically, this is what it says. Let us break their bands asunder and castaway their cords from us. That's what the world is saying. Let's forget about all these blue laws and all these old. Ideas and they're all exploded. We're living in a different age. And so this is what he's saying here. We need to have our loins girded out with truth. Are you ideas of morality and what's proper and right? Are they decided by the opinions? Is that what you think about marriage? Just what people

are saying and what passes in the courts of the land when everything is made easier and easier for sin? Is that what you use as your guide or? Good about the truth you said I want to know what God says about this, not just what opinions are. What does God have to say? So you notice the very first thing is the Lawrence heard about the truth because once Satan has LED us into sin to them, we've lost the enjoyment of the Lord until we get restored. So he's going to do this if he possibly can. And so the loins are to be gird about with truth and then we have on the breastplate of righteousness.

Say I'm a loving disposition, be careful, he's just going to get your love. Let your love go out like the prophet had to say to King Jehoshaphat, he loved a man that hated the Lord and the prophet came to him. He said, should thou love the ungodly, and should thou help the ungodly and love them that hate the Lord. And he also said. It also says in James it says Whosoever therefore will be the friend of the world. Is the enemy of God because this world is an enmity with God and so we love sinners for their salvation. But this is another point that he's Speaking of here. We need the breastplate of righteousness and often you'll we'll say, oh, I love that. Is it righteous? Is it according to God? Can you do it in fellowship with your Lord and Savior? Can you take him along with you in the plane? We're to have on the breastplate of righteousness. Our affections are to be controlled, In other words, under the control of the claims of divine righteousness. And then your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace everywhere the Christian goes is to bring the peace that the gospel brings. Isn't this beautiful too? So you can go down. Maybe you say everybody in the place where I. Fighting with one another, Well, isn't it nice to go in with our feet shot with the preparation of the gospel of peace? The Scripture says blessed are the peacemakers, and it's a very lovely thing. As a Christian, we have to stand for truth and holiness. But I'm Speaking of the whole characteristic of the Christian. He is one whose fate is to be shown with the preparation of the gospel of peace. And so people. In the place where I work that my feet are shot. They know what happens when things go wrong. They probably explode and there's a perhaps a volume of bad words come on. But how do they see with us? Do they see that the peace of God rules in our hearts? Well, our feet are to be shot with a preparation of the gospel of peace. Can't you see how we need this? We have those two prayers, but oh, now we're dealing with realities. We just have to go out and. Kind of a world and God hasn't sent us out without the armor. It says in the Bible no man goeth to warfare at his own charges. What did you think of a country who sent out their their soldiers unarmed and unprepared? God doesn't do that. He has provided the armor so that we would be able to stand. And then it says above all, taking the shield of faith. Where is wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked? All how we need the shield of faith. Isn't it true Satan does what he can to get us doubting? I'm just talking to a Christian the other day and he said he said I get so overwatched sometimes. Satan tries so hard to put doubts in my mind. He said I want to speak for the Lord and he said he just so succeeded in getting me into doubting that I can't even be a testimony for the Lord. Whenever you find any attempt. To put unbelief in your mind, remember you need the shield of faith. Satan. How did he get Adam and Eve to partake of that forbidden fruit? He did just that. He caught them with a shield of face down. And if they had believed what God said, they wouldn't have taken of that fruit. But they believe what Satan said instead. What Satan is dead? And remember, a little track perhaps some have seen. Why do I believe in Christ? And it begins like this, Why is a man an infidel? And the answer was because he believes in himself. And the next one was, why is a man a Christian? And the answer was because he believes in Christ and not in himself. Well, friends, I can tell you that's why I'm a Christian, because I don't believe in myself. People. Peter believed in himself and he had a bad fall. The shield of faith was down. Don't believe in yourself. He that trusteth in his own heart is approval. Don't believe in yourself. But in this grand we have the shield of faith that quenches all fiery darts. When Satan comes with a doubt, just turn to him and say, I believe what God said. And sometimes it may be hard because he'll start and reason with you. And you know Satan can beat you in an argument anytime. You can beat me at an argument, but he can never, never.

The Word of God, the Lord Jesus himself didn't argue with Satan. He answered it is written and every temptation that Satan brought, it is written. And when temptations comes, temptation comes to you, lift the shield of faith, answer it by the word of God, so that says, and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. I believe the helmet of salvation. The helmet, as we know, is for the head and that means what are we thinking about? What are we thinking about? We can get our let our minds run to the end of the earth. The Bible says gird up the lines of your mind, be sober. And you have to do it often in a world like this, don't you? There's so many suggestions constantly in the world. If the gird up the loins of your mind, you need to have a helmet on so that you just don't let your mind run everywhere. Because if we let our minds run everywhere. Now then the enemy can work through the mind. The God of this world lines the mind, puts evil thoughts into the mind. So they were to have the helmet of salvation. We're waiting for the Lord to come. Another passage says for in helmet the hope of salvation. Then we're going to be delivered. He's coming soon and then. The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Well, that's the only offensive weapon. Notice that the other ones are all for our protection. But this one is an offensive weapon, and it's good for us to remember, we were saying. The Lord Jesus. Jesus used one offensive weapon. He used the word of God. Don't use human arguments. Don't say, well, I think this is wrong or I think this is right. Acquaint yourself with the word of God, and if you want to repel temptation, an evil doctrine and things that come If someone asks you why we need as we do, someone asks you why you don't do certain things. I don't say, well, I just think that I shouldn't do that. Try to show them the word of God. It's the Word of God that settles it. And if you and I have the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, by then we have that which Satan cannot stand. We have that which is, as it says, another place, mighty through God to the pulling down a stronghold. Oh, what a weapon it is. And we need to acquaint ourselves with God's Word so that we can answer these temptations when they come. And then again we have dependence, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. I'm watching thereunto with all perseveres, perseverance and supplication for All Saints. Isn't this beautiful? We pray constantly, asking the Lord to help us, and then we pray for others. Because we need one another's prayers, Paul didn't say. Well, I'm a devout Christian. You don't need to pray for me. I'll pray for you. Now he pulled, and over again he asked the Saints to pray for him. We need one another's prayers. And so we're not going to ask prayer for help for ourselves, but for others. There are others in conflict too. Maybe there's friends you know, and they're in special conflict. They're meeting some onslaught of the enemy. Don't only pray for yourself, pray for them. To Paul prayed for the Saints, and we do need one another's prayers. Well, it's often been said there's no armor for the back in all this armor that's provided, there was an armor for the front, but none for the back. God doesn't intend us to turn our back to the enemy. We're we're to stand and then when he commands, we go forward, but never to turn our back to the enemy. Well, may the Lord grant that the desires of the apostle for the Ephesians Saints would be answered in our. We might know more of how richly we're blessed, we might enjoy our portion, we might enjoy His love, and that we might put on the whole armor of God. We surely need it rather than these days, because the Lord is coming soon, and surely we would desire that. We would be a watching and waiting people, waiting for Him, ready, as it says, to open the door immediately.

When he comes, if I'm doing something and someone comes the door and I think, well maybe they wouldn't like that, then I don't want to answer the door. Right at once, because I don't want them to see that, but it says that when he opens, when he knocks, they would open to him immediately. May we be living in such a way that we can at any moment of the day or night, say, Lord Jesus come.

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Like to turn first of all to a well known portion in Ephesians chapter 1. Ephesians chapter 1. The ninth verse Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in him. Well, this precious verse is well known to many of us, and it brings before us these counsels and purposes of God. How wonderful it is, beloved brethren, that God has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence, that the very God who has made the universe is so interested in you and I His redeemed people, and that He has been pleased to unfold to us His counsels and His purposes. 1 is often remarked that the Christian. Is the only one who has an intelligent outlook in what is going on in the world. How blessed it is that we, as far as the world is concerned, perhaps insignificant nobodies should know these counsels and purposes of God, and it surely not because of any special wisdom of our own. But as it says here that He has abounded toward us. That's the eighth verse. In all wisdom and prudence He has made known to us the secret of His. Will And God has this supreme purpose that He is going to have a scene of glory of which his beloved Son will be the center and head. And there will be two parts to that. There will be the earthly sphere and the heavenly. It wasn't my purpose this afternoon to speak about the earthly, except perhaps if you had just turned briefly with me to Isaiah and the 60th chapter. Isaiah chapter 60. Beginning at the 18th verse. Violence shall no more be heard in thy land wasting, nor destruction within thy borders. But. Shalt call thy walls salvation, and thy gates praise. The sun shall no more. There shall be no more thy light by day, neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee, but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light. And thy God, thy glory, thy Son, shall no more go down, neither shall I moon withdraw itself. For the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. My people also shall be all righteous. They shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become 1000, and a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in His time. Well, this brings before us, and if you read the whole chapter, you'll see still more of the wonderful future that God has in store for that favored land. The nation of Israel, now torn with strife and the nations interfering and trying to settle their problems, but unable to do so because God has said that He would make Jerusalem a burdensome stone to all people. All that burden themselves with it shall be broken in pieces. And isn't it true that those who have. Tried to burden themselves with the problems there in the Middle East have only found that it brings trouble upon themselves Why? Well, because the Lord is the one who's going to do it. It's his land. He speaks of it as my land and he is going to bring out bring about his own purposes in connection with that land and he is going to restore peace and blessing to this poor troubled earth. All man's efforts won't do it but. God has won the man of His counsels, the one who will accomplish all His purposes. But as I said, it wasn't my thought to speak of the earthly sphere. And yet it is an encouragement amid all the trouble to know that God has his purposes and counsels, that He has made these things known to us, and that He is going to carry them out in His own time. He is going to carry them out through His beloved Son, And you and I, through grace, will have part in the heavenly. Will reign over the earthly, because we shall reign over the earth by our particular sphere is in the heavenly. And with this in mind, I had it on my heart to speak of 6 times that we read about the work of God at Ephesus. It's very interesting to see this in the scripture because we know that the epistle to the Ephesians is addressed and brings before us this heavenly blessing. It tells us in that epistle that we are seated in the heavenlies in Christ. It shows us that our portion is a.

Only one to enjoy that in relation to the Lord Jesus as part of his bride forever. And I was very interested in noticing in the Scripture that as near as I can see there are 6, perhaps more, but at least six instances where we find mention about the assembly at Ephesus. And I believe we can learn many instructive lessons because. Seeing this assembly was the one to whom this truth was communicated, I believe. That what is brought before us in connection with them is very instructive for us, who have, I trust in some measure laid hold of the heavenly calling of the church, knowing what it is to be a heavenly people waiting for God's Son from heaven. So let us turn first of all to Acts and the 19th chapter. And there we read about Paul's visit to Ephesus. It's too long a chapter to read it all, but I'd like to read a few parts in this 19 chapter. This chapter of 41 has to do with Paul's visit there to Ephesus. Beginning at the eighth verse. And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the Kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of 1 Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years. So that all lay which dwell in Asia heard the word of the Lord the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks in the 18th verse. And many that believed came and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of them also, which used curious arts, brought their books together, and burned them before all men, and they counted the price of them. And found it 50,000 pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God, and prevailed. On the 27th verse. So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at naughty, but also that the temple of the great Goddess Diana should be despised and her magnificence should be destroyed, Whom all Asia and the world worship us. This is very interesting. In this chapter about Paul's visit to Ephesus, I didn't read the first part, but the first ones that he met there tells us where a group of people, a number of them about 12, I just mentioned here. It's very interesting. In the Scripture, in the New Testament, God never gives us exact numbers. On the day of Pentecost, it says there were about 3000. Here it tells us the number of the men were about 12. Surely you'd say, can't Paul count to 12? But he didn't. He didn't tell us the exact number because we should never be occupied with numbers, Brethren. It's a person to whom we're gathered. And so the number of the men were about 12. Now, these men had known the baptism of John. They had been baptized with the baptism of John. And it's important in the introduction of this blessed truth we have that we should see it something entirely distinct from Israel and Israel's blessing. So these who had been baptized. With John's baptism are baptized with Christian baptism, baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Because baptism brings us into the sphere of Christianity and that is the sphere of profession. And it's in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Because God has been fully revealed, revealed in Trinity, in Christianity. And so these people enter a new position and Christianity is a new position it. It's not an extension of Judaism, it's not an improvement upon it. It's an entirely new thing. And so these ones that were baptized with John's baptism are baptized with Christian baptism. And then it's also very interesting to notice in this chapter, 2 Things here that we might think somewhat surprising. It says they spoke with tongues. Now, there's no mention of tongues in the Epistle to the Ephesians, but I believe that it is significant. But it's brought in here because we're told in First Corinthians 14 that tongues are for a sign not to them that believe, but to them that believe not. And then it distinctly says there with men of other tongues and other lips, will I speak to this people that was to Israel. And yet for all that they will not hear. Now that is the gift of tongues was a clear sign to Israel.

That God was going to reach beyond that nation and reach out. And bless the Gentile. And that's what he's doing today by 1 Spirit. We are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free. So these people with Jewish backgrounds who had been baptized by the baptism of John must see that there is something new now in Christianity. The gift of tongues in the scripture was never. As

we hear of it today, a sort of a well. On a real earthly language at all. But if you read carefully in the second of Acts, you will see that they were languages known and spoken in the world and was a sign, as it tells us there in First Corinthians 14, that God was going to reach out beyond Israel. And so most of us this afternoon are Gentiles. A proof that he has done this, that he has reached out and brought blessing to us and then to it was also necessary for them to realize that this one who was. Now associating them to come into the enjoyment of heavenly blessing is the same one who's going to set everything right in the earth another day. And so there were special miracles right there, and there were those who were healed in a most miraculous way there at Ephesus to show. And it's very important that we should see that this one who is going to be the center of new creation. Is the one who is going to bring blessing to the earth. For it tells us in the Millennium the inhabitants shall not say in that day I am sick who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases. That blessing will come to the earth. The same one that's going to bring that blessing to the earth has brought us into another sphere of blessing. That's why these sign gifts are not even mentioned in Ephesians, because we don't look for the deliverance from the results of sin and sickness here. We wait for the redemption of the body. Our hope is that scene where there will be no more sickness, nor sorrow, nor crying or pain. But it won't be on earth, brethren. It'll be up there in heaven. But it's the same one who is going to bring that blessing to the earth, who has promised that we are to be brought into a still more wonderful place in association with Christ, as we shall see. As part of his body and his bride. So it's very interesting to see this brought out in the beginning of the work here at Ephesus. And then we see at once the opposition of Satan. Satan didn't want to see this work, and we see the power of the enemy manifested. But God was showing that the enemy is always opposed to everything that's of God. Let us beware of all these things that we see today. There's quite a bit about. Exorcism today, and we need to beware of this sort of thing that we see taking place where the enemy is seeking to intrude into the things of God. But there was the evident power of God, because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. How good it is to know that we have been delivered from the power of Satan. It says, who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the Kingdom. Of his dear son. Well, then the next thing is that we see separation. We find here immediately that there was opposition from the Jews to this precious development of truth, and it tells us that Paul separated the believers disputing daily in the school of 1 Tyrannus. Again, I say Christianity is a new thing. It's outside the camp. It's not. A Mixing Judaism and Christianity into a system. It's a new thing, a gathered to a rejected Christ and gathered to the one who another day is going to have his rightful place. But now we're gathered to him in his rejection. So they were separated. And then we see a little evidence of this first love in the 18th verse it says here. And many that believed came and confessed and showed their deeds, many of them also which used curious arts, brought their books together. Together and burn them before all men and they counted the price of them and found it 50,000 pieces of silver so mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. Well when we come later, if the Lord will to the letter to Ephesus in in the Book of Revelation, we'll see how the apostle John has to say thou hast left thy first love. But here was an evidence of first love. Here were those who had been.

Brought to this wonderful knowledge of the Lord and of the truth, and what effect does it have? And here comes the practical application to ourselves. We can speak of separation from the camp, but perhaps there are things that are hindering our enjoyment of Christ. Perhaps there are things like these people had and they said we just can't give up everything. These things are very, very valuable. We can't afford to part with them. But these people in the fresh. Of first love. They didn't think of the value of these things as they were to the natural man, but they thought of whether they were conducive to their growth in the things of God. Were they harmful? Well, if they were harmful to them, they wouldn't do any good to anybody else. No use giving them away because they would just lead others astray. So the best thing was to get rid of them all together. Burn them up because. They didn't want to lead others astray. They had found a satisfying portion in Christ. What they told others was not you can have what we left off, but you can have what we have in Christ. You can share the new joys that we have. And so mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. What a sacrifice. And I speak to my own heart and to yours. Are we holding on to something we consider very valuable? These books were valuable. There's no question. 50,000 pieces of silver is no small sum of money, but. When the Lord Jesus possesses the heart, surely we can say in the words of the little hymn, where the vast world, our own, with all its varied star, and thou, Lord Jesus were unknown. We still were poor. Oh yes, without Christ we would be poor. And brethren, He doesn't want to share our hearts. He wants to have all our hearts. He wants us to acknowledge His claims. Love that transcends our highest power demands our. All our life, our all. Well, then there was a great stir here. Here was something going on in Ephesus. There was this tremendous, magnificent temple to Diana of the Ephesians. And here we see that these people made a tremendous impact on the on the city of Ephesus. And I heard someone say in the early days, the Saints turned the world upside down. The trouble is now that the world turns the Saints upside down. And I'm afraid it's Saul. Very often the world turns us upside down. But it wasn't so here. Now they made such a stir in this city that these Craftsman thought, whoa, these people are going to spoil everything here in the city of Ephesus. And isn't it so, brethren, if you and I are enjoying our heavenly portion of the world knoweth us not we had in our chapter, the world will hate us. The world will oppose us. The world will say we don't want you because they didn't want our Savior, because he brought before them the love that was in the heart of God and showed them that the world was under judgment. Oh, you say that was a grand temple. So it was, it was a grand temple. But what I feel is brought before us in this chapter is that Christianity. Is an entirely new thing. It brings us out of Judaism to. It brings us out of worldly things that would occupy and possess our hearts. It is superior to the power of Satan, and it brings us out of the whole system of things. Why, the whole world glorified this great temple of Diana, the Ephesians. But it was nothing to these Christians. It was nothing to them. They had seen something far better. They were part of the temple, not made with hands. They were looking forward to that glory. Scene which would far surpass that grand temple whom all Israel, all Asia and the world worshipped. Well, it was a great stir, but isn't it nice that God undertook? And, brethren, it's lovely to see that God is still in control. I have set before thee an open door. The devil has tried over and over again to stamp out the Christian testimony. But God is on the throne and he takes care of his own, and he used the Township. Here he can use whoever he wishes, but if you and I put him first, if you and I seek to give him his place, we can safely say that he'll look after our interests, that he'll take care of things. He may use unexpected people sometimes, but we can safely trust him. Well, this was the establishment of this happy little assembly here in the freshness of first love in Ephesus. Now let's turn to the 20th chapter and.

17th verse. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews. And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but I have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house. The 24th verse I just have to skip because of time. 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. The 26th verse. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men, for I have not shunned to declare unto you all. Counsel of God, take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock. Over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers to feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men

arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch and remember that by the space of three years. I cease not to warn everyone night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I command you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. Well, in this chapter we have the apostle greatly burdened for the dear Saints at Ephesus. There had been such a happy beginning. But you know, we can't just continue resting on our oars. There has to be constant dependence upon the Lord. And more than this, may I speak to those who seek to take a place of responsibility among the Saints. Because although today we don't have official elders, I believe there are those who seek to occupy themselves with the good of the Saints of God. God And here I think we have the heart of one who cares for the Saints of God. And if there are any of us here that have a real concern for the Saints of God, perhaps this message that Paul gave to these elders at Ephesus can speak to our hearts too. Here we see how. The character of his service, he said, serving the Lord with all humility of mind and with many tears and temptations. What a character for one who sought to be a servant of the Lord. You know in man's account, if you're going to be something you have to exalt yourself. But it says the Lord said, I am among you as he that serveth. And he also said. That. The one who would serve must be the least. And so isn't this a beautiful thought? What humility is needed if we're going to serve? What is so dear to the heart of Christ? Oh, how dear they are to Him, how much He loves them. He loved the Church and gave himself for it, and he and I think of them as dear to Him. He says he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye and all. If we could always look upon the Saints, we think of the Lord Jesus prophetically in the 16th Psalm. Speaking of his own as the excellent of the earth. And so be it the most failing, just to think of them as those who are dear to Christ. So there was humility and there were tears, and there were temptations. So this lovely grace shone out in the heart and in the pathway of God's servant, and there were tears. There were temptations too. Because I know that if in any measure we try to serve the people of God. God, there are discouragement and the enemy says it's no use, they don't appreciate it. But when, when Moses felt that way at one time, the Lord said to Moses, go on before the people, go on before the people. And I want to say to those who are older, go on before the people. Remember they're dear to the heart of Christ.

He seeks their blessing. Then he goes on and says, I kept that nothing that was profitable to you. Isn't this a little word to us too? We can do a lot of talking. Are we always thinking of the profit of those who hear? Are we always thinking of their good? Isn't this lovely to think that the apostle in all his ministry was thinking of the prophet of those who listened? That's why he could say to the ones here who were the elders in the assembly, he said, feed the flock of God. Not just in part knowledge to them, although that's important, but feed the flock of God. Oh how much the Saints of God need food. How many are just starved because they have lost the enjoyment of their precious portion in Christ. So he said I kept back nothing that was profitable to you. He wasn't only on the platform, he said publicly and from house to house. He sought their good at all times. Whenever he met them, he had. Something for them that was for their good, because he loved them as the people of God. And then seems to me he says something that's very serious here. He said that he was pure from the blood of all men, because he had declared the whole counsel of God. We know that in the book of Ezekiel, if the prophet didn't warn the people of coming judgment, he was held accountable. As for their death, it says their blood will I require at thy hand. If he didn't announce the message, a warning of coming judgment faithfully, God would require it of him. But here the apostle Paul carries it a little farther. He said I have more than the gospel to give out. He said I am to give out the whole council. God, I am not to hold back any part of the truth of God, because God will hold me responsible if I don't give out the whole truth of God. I won't be pure from your blood if I don't reveal it all to you. And that's why it's such a blessed thing, dear young people, to be gathered where the whole truth of God can be given out. Where the whole truth of God, not part of it, but all the truth of God. I wouldn't want to occupy any platform where I couldn't give out the whole truth of God. It's a most serious responsibility. Not one in this room would want to preach the gospel. If he had to hold back the warnings of judgment, he'd say I can't do it. As one servant said, He said I'd rather do the will of God than preach to 10,000. Yes, the important thing is to tell out the whole truth of God. God and Paul said, he said, I, I have not shunned to declare unto you the whole counsel of God. And then he turns to these who were leaders, and he says, feed not your flock. Feed says here, feed the Church of God. All the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers. Yes, they're his flock. As Peter says, feed the flock of God. They're his, and we ought to look upon them as his. And may I again say the importance of feeding the flock of God. I do believe that every time we come to a meeting for the reading of the Word or for the ministry of the Word, it ought to be just like when we sit down to the meal table, when we sit down to the meal table while there's something there to satisfy our hunger. And we get up. And if it has been food that has been nicely prepared as it has been here, why we enjoyed it? We were pleased. We thought we had something. I don't know how many hours it took to prepare the food. I don't know how many pounds of chicken were used today. Somebody else knew that. But I knew the food was good and I enjoyed it. And, you know, there's a lot of details we may not be able to tell because those might only occupy the mind. But feed the Church of God. Feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with his own blood, or the blood of his own. Oh, how wonderful the cost to the heart of God to have those who are the ones we were Speaking of, the Church given to Christ. It was the precious blood of Christ. Nothing less than that was the purchase price. The precious Savior paid the price. Oh, how dear His own are to him. Which he hath purchased with his own. The new translation, the blood of his own. Well, this is the enemy was busy in the 19th chapter, so he warns them. He says I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. All how busy the enemy is, how he has succeeded so well in scattering the flock of God. And he gives them a warning here to watch and remember.

If there's true love for the Lord and for His people, the truth will not be compromised, but the Saints will be loved and cared for. Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. And then he also says, Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things with a purpose to draw away disciples after them all. Brethren, let's never try to make people followers of ourselves. Let's never try to make people followers of ourselves. If we have the truth, give it out. Don't look for followers, because the important thing is that they'd follow Christ and not you and I. And how sad it is that. We should look for followers first thing you know, and we'll be dividing the people of God if we're looking for followers. So it says here, of your own soul shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them. And now he gives them the believers resource in the 32nd verse. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up. And to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified, what is the believers resource? God and the word of his grace, that's our resource. It's an unfailing resource. The word of God will not change with changing years. And so there was a resource and he gives them these two things. How much we need it. And may we not forget the importance of God's word. May we not forget to the importance of prayer. Many a difficulty if there's these two things are brought together would be cleared up. The reading of the word and prayer, first of all finding what the mind of God is and then commending the matter to the Lord in prayer, seeking to be obedient to His Word and then leaving the issue and the results with God somehow Lovely here to see Paul's charge to these elders at Ephesus. Let us turn over now to Ephesians and I haven't time to speak very much, but I'd just like to turn to the 4th chapter. And the seventh verse. But unto everyone of us is given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto man. Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also

that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things. And he gave some apostles and some prophets. In some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. For the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. Unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro. And carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of man, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie and wait to deceive, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up unto him in all things, which is the head. Even Christ, from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Well, here we have the gracious provision of the One who is the head of the body, the Church. He went down into Satan's stronghold. He defeated Satan. He's LED captivity captive, and that is we were held in ******* by Satan. The Lord Jesus went into Satan's stronghold. He openly triumphed over him, and he's gone up on high, and there he is at the right hand of God. He fills all things. About he has. Received gifts for man, and he has given gifts to man. Now that is as man up there he is at the right hand of God, and now he cares for his church. And this epistle to the Ephesians. This incident where Paul writes this is to bring before them.

In all its blessedness, the heavenly calling of the Church as the body of Christ. And perhaps I could just say briefly, in the 1St chapter we have those counsels of God. In the 2nd chapter we see the kind of material he picked up. We were dead in trespasses and sins. Then when we come to the third chapter, we see there's a display, an administration of what is going on. God is gathering out of this world before angels and men. He is gathering out of people who are to occupy this place in association with Christ. Christ, And he prays that we might be in the knowledge of it in the first chapter, and in the enjoyment of it in the 3rd chapter. But now, what provision has he made? And I have mentioned these things, brethren, because I would like to apply them to our own hearts. The ascended Christ has given gifts for the purpose of us being established in the things of God. So that we might know the riches of the blessing that has come because of that. Work and the glory of that one who has exalted and is bringing glory to His name in associating with himself a people who will share that place with Him as His bride. So he gave these gifts. The apostles and prophets laid the foundation. He gave the evangelists and pastors and teachers. The evangelists to announce the good news to the world, the pastors to have a loving care for the Saints of God, and the teachers to instruct them in the things of God, so that they might be preserved from every wind of doctrine. Christendom is full of winds of doctrine. You go here and there. It often makes 1's heart sad as I go about and meet young Christians. They've just been saved and they don't know that the ascended Christ has made provision, that he has actually provided the assembly where there would be a place where the truth would be preserved. For the assembly is to be the pillar and ground of the truth, and so that they might come and learn. According to the mind of God, that truth that God would have us to know. Concerning his beloved Son, so that we might not be carried about with every wind of doctrine, but I say it makes 1's heart sad. You meet a Christian. He just been saved and he thinks he's got to try everything that there is under the name of Christ. And before he can be sure. And first thing you know he is just what it says here. He's carried about with every wind of doctrine. The ascended Christ has made provision. He has provided that which. Is for the good of his people. And do you think if we meet under men's names and men's organizations that we're going to get all that's in the heart of God for his people? Isn't he gathering to Christ? Isn't he desirous that we should be around the person? And isn't it true that that one who has gone up on high is far more interested that we should know the full extent of the victory that he's won? Than anyone else and so. In his absence that ascended Christ has given the gifts so that we, as it says here, for the perfecting of the Saints. Paul's great burden was that all the Saints would be full drawn and to meet Christians. They've just accepted the Lord. They don't know about the security of the believer. They don't know about the two natures. They don't know about gathering in the name of Christ alone. They're confused about the truth of His coming. They even get mixed up as to whether Christ. Christ could sin or not. Oh, there's just so many things and they read everything. They go every place. Isn't it wonderful that God has provided? He has provided the ascended Christ, the one who loved the church and gave himself for it? Hasn't he provided? Indeed He has. And oh, may I say to you, dear young people, what a privilege to be gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. May we value it. May we seek. In the precious truth that has been made known to us. And may those of us who seek in any way to help the Saints of God be anxious, be faithful to stand for the whole truth of God so that nothing would be given up. Let nothing be lost. The scripture says. Let nothing be lost. Paul didn't shun to declare the whole counsel of God. He didn't feel he was a faithful servant unless he did. And so these gifts have been given. And their promise of the continuance of these gifts for the edification of the church till we all come in the unity of the faith. Do you think there is going to be different groups and denominations in heaven? The only difference now is that if we're scripturally gathered, we're gathered to a rejected Christ. When he comes, we're going to be gathered to a glorified Christ, the same person now rejected, and another day the glorified Christ.

And so sometimes when we get discouraged, let's think of that little verse when the Lord said to Peter and John, the other disciples. They the Lord said will you also go away had been pretty discouraging. You know a number of the disciples had gone back and walked no more with the Lord. The Lord saw them go and he turned to the 11 That were left there and he said, will you also go? He said to the 12 I should say. He said, will he also go away? Peter said, To whom shall we go? There was a person that he had been gathered to. And did you ever, brethren, notice the Lord's answer? It has always surprised me in the 16th of Matthew when the Lord said. Who asked who the Son of man was? And Peter answered so intelligently. He said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. He said, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona? But when he said, Will ye also go away? And Peter gave that lovely answer, To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. The Lord gave him a rather unusual answer. He said, Have not I chosen you? 12 And one of you is a devil. Why did he say that? Didn't that sound sort of disgusting? Discouraging? Brethren, I believe the reason he said it was this, as if he said, well, Peter, if you're here because I'm here, don't look at the crowd. There's another disappointment ahead. Yes, Judas was going to be a disappointment. And so there may be some disappointments ahead, but the Lord won't be a disappointment. The Lord will be the same. He is the same yesterday and today and forever. And so to whom shall we go? Well, there's not only the gifts that have been given. There's a manner in which the truth is to be spoken, and then there is that which every joint supply. Every joint, and brethren, doesn't speak to us. You say, well, I'm not. I wouldn't consider myself a leader, and I don't really say very much. But remember, it's what every joint supplies that helps out. Maybe your hands were able to pick up the knife and fork and spoon and enjoy that good dinner. But if there's something wrong inside here, that good dinner is not going to do you much good. It's not going to do you much good. The food was fine, but if there's something hidden underneath here that's not just filling its place properly in the body, it's going to spoil it. And little words of gossip, little words of unkindness, little things that we do and say, perhaps thoughtlessly. How often they can spoil the precious ministry. Of Christ and that edification that would build up the Saints of God. So there's not only the gifts, perhaps you say, well, there's not many gifts, but it's so important that the members of the body function properly for the edifying of the body of Christ. Well, and in the next, in the next chapter, we have the relationships of life for Christianity. Although we're seen seated in the heavenlies in Christ, it affects every relationship. It affects the way I act with my wife. It affects the way I act with my children. It affects the way Children Act with their parents. It affects the way we act with our employees and the way they act with us. It affects every sphere of life. And then in the 16th chapter. Were reminded that there's going to be a conflict. Satan is going to contest the enjoyment of

heavenly things and there will be a conflict. So this beautiful epistle to the Ephesians is written to bring before us the precious volume of truth, not only for that assembly in Asia, but for all of us today. And so we can profit by this, this unfolding of heavenly truth as we have it in Ephesians. Now the next time I think that we reach about. About the Ephesians is in First Timothy chapter 1. First Timothy chapter 1 and verse 3. As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies which minister questions, rather than godly edifying, which is in faith. So do now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and.

A good conscience and a faith unfeigned. From which some, having swerved, have turned aside into vain jangling. Can it be that he has to say this about this wonderful assembly that had been so taught of God? He asked Timothy to remain there because there were those, in spite of all the wonderful volume of truth that had been given, they were introducing other doctrines, and it also says that they were. Ministering questions. And brethren, it seems to me this, this has a little word for us. There are a lot of things in the Bible that God has been pleased to be silent about. And when we bring them up and try to resolve them, we just leave big question marks in one another's minds. Because if God hasn't answered the question, it's best for us just to leave it alone. It's a blessed thing to see that there's so much wonderful, positive truth in the Word of God. And that if there's anything that he has left unanswered, it wasn't really for our good, or he would have told us. It tells us that His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. And I speak plainly, it's quite possible to spoil the Bible reading by getting discussing things that actually there is no definite answer in scripture. How important that we speak of those positive things that Scripture. So clearly that would feed the Saints of God, that would build them up in their most holy faith, that would make Christ more precious to their hearts, that they would go home like the disciples on the mount and say, what's good for us to be here? We got something. That was what Timothy was enjoined here to tell them. And I might say the new translation of this fifth verse makes it a little more clear. I believe it says now the purpose. Of that which is enjoined. In other words, the purpose that God has in giving us the truth is not to occupy us with endless genealogies and minister questions to our minds. But here's His purpose. The purpose is love out of a pure heart. And if the truth of God is laid hold of empowered in the soul, there is more affection for the Lord Jesus, more love for one another, more outreach to sinners, love out of a pure heart. And then secondly, and of a good conscience. Oh brethren, let's not give up a good conscience. If there's anything in your life or mine now that is. On our conscience, it's going to hinder our growth of soul. Let's get right with the Lord and with our brethren, if necessary, a good conscience. The purpose of what is enjoined is love out of a pure heart, and a good conscience. It's not worth it to live with an accusing conscience. Get right with the Lord and one another, and seek to go on according to His revealed mind in His Word, and then the next it says of faith. Unfeigned, we can put on an awful lot of pretense. We can repeat a lot of nice. Sayings, but the Lord knows what's really in our hearts. It's reality He wants. It's what is really confidence in Him. Faith unfeigned. Oh, how blessed to have these three things. That's the purpose of what's enjoined, and that's what He's telling them here. He said that the ministry might be such that would produce this happy and blessed result. It wasn't that any part of the truth was held back. He said he hadn't shunned to declare the whole counsel of God. God. Well, this is the mention of Ephesus, because Paul loved those Saints and he left Timothy there for that. Now let's turn to the second epistle. And the 16th verse of the first chapter. And the Lord give mercy unto the House of 1 Sephiroth, for he OFT refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain. But when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me the Lord. Grant unto him, that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day. And in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus thou knowest very well. Well, I like to think of this little incident as recording individual faithfulness. There had already been a breakdown of things at Ephesus. All those in Asia had turned away from Paul. Many of them were ashamed of Paul's chain. And sometimes we don't like the narrow path of following a rejected Christ. And perhaps sometimes we feel, well, I just can't go on because I have to walk alone. But isn't this lovely here? Here was a man that loved the apostle Paul.

And when he came to Rome, he sought him out. Very diligently and found him, and he said, the Lord grant unto him, that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day. So here was one, shall I say, that went on in individual faithfulness. And sometimes, brethren, when our faith is tested and things aren't just as they should be, it's a great thing to seek to go on individually for the Lord. And who can tell the blessing that our lives become when we're individually faithful? I've sometimes said when. Mary anointed the feet of the Lord Jesus there at that supper in the 12TH chapter of John, there wasn't one of the disciples that agreed with her. They all found fault and she must have felt very hurt. I'm sure I would. Everyone of the disciples, every last one of them, Peter and all John, James, everyone, they all found fault with her. And what did she do? He didn't say a word. She didn't say a word. She was too taken up with the Lord. But the Lord said something. He said, let her alone. She asked a lot of good work on me. But there was a result from this. They all smelt the odor of the ointment. The house was filled with the odor of the ointment. They all got a blessing even though they found fault. And let's be content with that. Go on with the Lord and your life will be a blessing to your brethren. Perhaps they may say things that hurt a little bit, but isn't it lovely to know that we can go on with the Lord and we can be a blessing? And I like this little touch the. Hauled Avon Sephora the household because sometimes I've heard parents say, well, I can take it myself, but it's awfully hard for my children. Well, it's often that way too. And so it was perhaps it was hard for one Sephirah's children and Paul said the Lord grant mercy to the House of 1. He is concerned about our children as well as ourselves. But let's be faithful. Individually to him. Well, we all know the letter to them in Revelation 3. Let us just look briefly at the letter in the 2nd chapter of Revelation. We haven't time to read it all, but let's read the. Second verse. I know thy works, and I labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil, and hast tried them which say their apostles, and are not, and has found them liars, and hath born, and hast patience, and for thy name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works. Or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy Candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. Well, we just spoke a moment ago about individual faithfulness, but this letter is addressed to the whole assembly there at Ephesus, and we see that they were maintaining outward appearances. It says there was labor and patience, there were works. They couldn't bear those that were evil. They tried those which said they were apostles and were not, and found them liars. They did a great deal for his name's sake. And yet there was something lacking. The inward spring was lacking. And, brethren, it is nice to see the outward appearance. It is nice to see that which is becoming unsuited in the outward appearance. And the Lord commanded them for all that was commendable even in that. But what He desired most of all was their love. He said, I have against thee that thou hast left thy first love. And so. Well, we perhaps may strive very diligently to maintain outward things, and outward things do have their importance, and I don't minimize it, but I say, when our hearts are right, it isn't long until the outward things are the result of it. And isn't it very blessed here to know that the Lord values that first love, He said to Israel. I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. The Lord looked back to that freshness of love in Israel's history. He looked back here to that freshness in the history of the assembly at Ephesus, And although there were still going on outwardly, He desired that they should be restored to that first love, and He called upon them to repent.

You might say repent for what? Wasn't everything all right on the outside? Yes, but there was something wrong inside the love for the Lord, the love for his people wasn't as it should be. And I'm afraid we have to hang our heads in shame and know how much this applies to us now that that motive spring that should control all our actions is so often lacking. And he said that they had left their first love. And he warns them here that if they didn't repent and do the first works, Well, weren't they doing the same things? Yes, but just like if my child goes mechanically on with things but there's no response and affection to me, I don't call them first works. The things are being done, but if love isn't there, it's not the same. And the Lord feels that way. The Lord feels that way. And brethren, if we aren't exercised about this, it says I'll remove the Candlestick out of its place. Remove the Candlestick and who can tell how long the testimony will continue here and there in different places, Ottawa, who can tell it'll continue? Is it just because we have a great knowledge of the truth of. Dawn. Oh no, it's only as we walk in communion with the Lord that there can really be any light bearing and testimony for Him. And that's what we are called upon to be. We are a heavenly people, I say. And as I have traced these six different instances that are brought before us in connection with the work at Ephesus, I think we can see the great desire of the heart of God and the heart of the apostle and those who had a concern. His people now that there should be a testimony here in this earth, a heavenly people here upon earth, those who are seated in the heavenlies about our manifesting the life of Christ. A testimony, a place where the lambs and the sheep can be fed, a place of blessing where the Lord Jesus has His rightful place, where He's honored, and where we see to give Him the place that He ought to have in our affections. Well, brethren, there's one more in the name of. Process is not mentioned, but perhaps I could say it completes the seven and it is the 7th and it's in the 21St of Revelation. Revelation 21. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the 1St heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. And I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with man, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their. God, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, nor pain, and neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away. 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. I'd like to thank, brethren, this is the last view of Ephesus. Yes, Ephesus is going to be there. And all those who form part of that glorious bride will be there. There's nothing to find fault with here. She's seen as prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Yes, how blessed. Not just a few, but the whole company that formed that glorious bride around the Lord Jesus in that day, 1000 years in heaven have passed by. As I've read the other six instances, I suppose perhaps we could say. A period of perhaps 30 or 40. 40 years had passed by and a lot of changes had come in, but here the marriage had taken place in the 19th chapter and 1000 years later, she's still seen in all her freshness and beauty, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. All things are new, all the tears are gone, all the sorrows, all the disappointments, everything has come to an end. And God himself is finding his eternal delight in having a people. Around Himself, Christ is having His eternal joy in having His bride with Himself. Well, brethren, He's seeking to form us for that place now. And what a privilege it is, they in this world, as a heavenly people, seeking to go on walking in those things that have been made known to us. We look on to that glad and glorious time when Christ will have His rightful place. Or may it be more so now, while we wait that day, that those things which hinder Him having His rightful place might be, might be set aside from our lives, and that we might be so occupied with that blessed precious.

Behavior that we would truly be awaiting and watching people. I've often said he's more anxious to come and have us with himself than we are anxious to be there. But he's seeking to form us for that time. It says in Ephesians 5 that he might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water, by the word, that he might present it to himself. A glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. And I desire that this that I brought before you would have its. Cleansing effect upon me, and that there might be more that would be suited to himself, as we wait that time when it will be perfectly suited to himself. His joy, the little hymn says, He and I in that bright glory 1 deep joy shall share mine to be forever with him, his that I am there.

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