

Job - Commentaries by William (Bill) Prost

Chicago Conference: 1980, There is a Path (28:7)

Address—W.J. Prost

Could we turn first of all to a verse in the 28th chapter of Job? Job chapter 28. I would like to read just two verses in this book of Job chapter 28. Verse seven, Job 28 and verse 7. There is a path which no fowl hath trodden, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen. The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion. Passed by it. This verse has often been an encouragement to me. And I would like to share for the first few moments what I have enjoyed from it. First of all, we read those four words. There is a path. You know, young people, it is a difficult day to live for the Lord. You know it better than I do. When I look back upon my brief lifetime and see the changes that have occurred in the world of today. It makes me shudder when I see some of you young people so-called. Starting out. In the world. And yet we have the word of God here, which says there is a path. And notice that this is not in the New Testament of all things. This is written by a man who lived hundreds and probably thousands of years before Christ. And yet he says there is a path. And let me tell you this afternoon, there is a path in 1980. Our beloved brother Clifford Brown, now with the Lord, once said that there will always be a clean path for the Christian through this defiled scene, otherwise God would not be God. Is that true today? Indeed it is. Indeed it is. There is a path. Oh, it may be a little more difficult to find, you know, in this day and age. We may have to give up something to walk that path. Perhaps you have found that out already, but there is a path. And notice what it says about that path. There is a path which no fowl knoweth. Now may I suggest to you that the fowl brings before us man in his intelligence. Man and his intelligence in all those birds that fly up high in the heavens. They have a better view of things on earth than you and I have, don't they? If we want to get a good view of things on Earth, we go up in an airplane and we can see the whole scene plainly. And we know that those birds that fly up in the sky, they can discern with those keen eyes of theirs things that you and I could never see. Though we be walking right on the earth, and yet it says there is a path which no fowl knoweth. Beloved young people, don't expect to get your wisdom as to the pathway of faith from the minds of this world. Ah no. No matter how high that mind may be able to go, the wisdom of man is always the very opposite of man's wisdom. Or rather, the wisdom of man is the opposite of God's wisdom. We have heard that many times, some of us. Know, we have heard it many times that the wisdom of God is the opposite of man's wisdom. God's wisdom is not an improvement on man's wisdom, but the very opposite of it. And so don't look to man in order to find that pathway of faith, because he'll never, never be able to be of any help to you in it. Says and which the vulture's I have not seen. Well, the Vulture, we know, feeds on that which is dead, that which is corrupt. And so I believe the Vulture would bring before us man in corruption, man in corruption. Does the Vulture feed on that which is alive? Oh no, it looks for something which is dead. And beloved St. of God. And that's what you are. You know, if you're safe, that vulture, that vulture will never attack you in the pathway of faith. No, the vulture's eye hasn't seen that path. We had remarked before us in the reading meeting this morning about how wicked the world had become. And you know, it's changed so rapidly in the last ten, 1520 years.

That we can scarcely conceive of the differences in moral values that has pervaded. The world of today and yet the vulture's eye has not seen the pathway of faith. Is it possible to avoid these things in the pathway of faith? Indeed it is. Indeed it is. Or it may be more difficult. It may require more exercise of faith. It may require more energy of soul before the Lord. It may require my being more and more familiar with the. Book the word of God, but the vulture's eye has not seen that path. The lion's whelps have not trodden it. Oh, I think this particularly applies to those of us who are young, and you'll forgive me if I include myself in that because I don't feel that old. You know, it wasn't so long ago that I sat in the seats where you sit and listened to those who instructed me as to being a young person and to going on for the Lord. And I still value that instruction. Yes, I do, but here it talks about the lion's whelps have not trodden it. Well, you know, the lion in scripture speaks of strength. The lion's whelps brings before us the Young Lions. You might say super strength. The word of God tells us, Rejoice so young man in thy youth. The joy of young men is their strength. And that's true, isn't it? But the lion's whelps have not tried me. What does that mean? Odd means that I cannot tread that pathway in my own strength, doesn't it? I cannot tread that pathway in my own strength. If I try to walk the pathway of faith in my own strength, I'll soon find myself beset by enemies which are too strong for me. And I won't be able to stand up. Know the strength of the lions. Wealth will not hold up in the pathway of faith. It may get you somewhere in this world. It may get you somewhere in business. It may get you somewhere as far as everything in this world is. But when it comes to the pathway of faith. The lion's wealth has not trodden it. Where do I get the strength for that pathway then? Oh, I must walk in the strength of another. I must walk in the strength of another. Just as Christ must be the wisdom for that pathway, so Christ must be the strength for that pathway. And then notice what it says. Nor the fierce lion passed by it. Well, we know what the fierce lion brings before us. Your adversary, the devil, is a roaring lion. He is about seeking whom he may devour. But notice he hasn't passed by that path. He hasn't passed by it. Why? Ah, because when you and I are walking in a pathway of dependence before the Lord. You might say we're out of range of the devil. He cannot attack you in the pathway of faith. Now you and I well know, and sad to say, I speak to my own heart. How often we stray from that pathway of faith. And how often we are found going to where the devil can attack us. But he hasn't passed by that pathway of faith, if we stay on it. Oh, it may be a very narrow pathway. You'll remember in the book called Pilgrim's Progress how that when Christian was going along there, he came to a place where there were two wild beasts chained, one on each side of the way, and he wondered how he was ever going to get between them. But then he was told that if he simply followed the pathway, he would find that those chains were just a little too short. For them to reach him straight off that path, either to the one hand or to the left, to the right hand or to the left, and he would find himself within range of those wild beasts. But if he kept to the pathway as it had been marked out, then there would be no problem or no difficulty.

Well, these things have encouraged me, dear young people, in reading this verse because as we remarked at the beginning, there is a path for faith. It's much more difficult today than it was even in my day, but God will give you a clean path, perhaps in a way that you don't really. Foresee. But we don't have to foresee it. We need to take one step at a time. Turn, just for a moment, to a verse in the 119th Psalm. Psalm 119. And verse 105, Psalm 119 and verse 105. This ties in beautifully with what we have been having in Job. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Does the word of God repeat itself? I believe here we have two distinct thoughts, the lamp and the light. Thy word

is a lamp unto my feet. My feet. May I suggest, your young people, that the lamp is that which shows me the next step of the journey? It doesn't show me. Everything all the way. It shows me the next step if I carry a Lantern in my hand. As they go along, it gives me enough light for the next step, doesn't it? And so the Word of God, I may not be able to see what may be my portion if the Lord leaves us here a month, six months, a year, five years, 10 years. But I don't have to do that. Do I know our responsibility is to follow the light of this precious Word. For today, for the next step of the pathway. But then it says a light unto my path. What does that mean? Oh, I believe it shows me where the journey will end. A lamp unto my feet to show me what is immediately before me but a light to show me the end of the pathway. And after all, that's all that matters, isn't it? If I know where the end is, and I have the next step ahead of me, I don't need to know everything between now and the end, do I? And. We tell you, dear young people, God will undertake for you in the pathway of faith in accordance with His mind is revealed in His Word in a marvelous way, if you're faithful to Him, faithful to Him. Well, these things I say to encourage each one here. And as I look around, I know that there are a large number of you here who want to please the Lord. You have that desire to go on for the Lord. Maybe you're discouraged, as I confess I sometimes have been. Maybe you feel that perhaps it's hardly worth going on sometimes, and I confess that I have felt that way. But you do want to go on for the Lord. And let me tell you one thing. When we are discouraged, it is because we have gotten our eye on something other than the Lord. I become discouraged because I expected something from my brethren, from my friends, from those whom I had hoped would go on with me. Or perhaps I get discouraged because I had expected something from myself. And it didn't work out that way. Well, that's sad, but it happens, doesn't it? To me, and perhaps to you too. But if we have our eye on the Lord, I say it. Realizing the lack in my own soul, we won't be discouraged. We may have to feel very sad and grieved about things. We may feel very cast down about the situation around us, about the condition of things in Christendom, about the condition of things in the assembly, and perhaps about the condition of things in our own lives. But if our eye is on the Lord, we won't be discouraged. I was much encouraged recently in being down in Florida. When I say recently, it was last year. And our dear brother Eric Smith said to me, referring to the table that is spread there in Port Orange, he said we're only a few here, dear brother, only a few. But he said the Lord is in the midst, and that is everything. And so just as Christ is everything to the Father, so he should be everything to you and to me.

But I have several things on my heart this afternoon that I'd like to talk about. Things that. I humbly suggest have been a burden on my heart considering the world of today. They're negative things. But perhaps you will bear with me if we speak about them a little. And let's turn for the first one to the book of Ephesians. Bearing in mind now that there is a path, there is a path. And that thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Ephesians chapter 5 and verse 15. Ephesians 5 and verse 15. See then, that she walk circumspectly. Not as fools. What is wise? Redeeming the time. Because the days are evil, Wherefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. May I speak a little bit, dear young people, this afternoon on our lack of time, our lack of time? There is often a desire in dear Saints of God, and I speak especially to you young people, but I speak to my own heart and to those in my own age group as well. It is a day when we are in a world full of pressure and hurry. And I suppose there has never been a day in the world's history when the pace of life has been so fast. And it's very difficult to find time for the Lord. We often hear that expression. You can find plenty of time for something if you want to do it badly enough, and we know that that's true. But how often the duties of everyday life so crowd and honest that we seem to have no time left. For reading the word of God. For a time with prayer with the Lord for getting out to all the meetings. And perhaps for some little service for him. It's true, isn't it? And again, you can tell me better than I can. And yet. We still have 24 hours in a day as they did 100 years ago or 1000 years ago. We still have seven days in a week. But somehow there seems to be. Less time. You know, a few months ago I was reading a paper that came to me from the university where I attended a few years ago. They send it around now and then and it gives a bit of news of what's going on. And here was a column written by a man whom I had never heard of before, and who did not make any pretense of being a Christian. But he was an outstanding man in his field, well recognized for his work. And he made this statement in the course of his column, which I was very impressed with. And I pass it on to you as being something, you and I as Christians. Need to remember and that is this, he said. When you want to do anything well. If you want to do anything well. You will have to forego many other things that you might have done. Is that true? We know it's true. If a man wants to excel in something, he does it to the exclusion of other things which might hinder him. And so may I suggest to you that we need to learn that as Christians now, we don't need to get that from man's wisdom. The Word of God tells us the same thing. Don't we? Read in the Word of God that laying aside every weight and the sin which does so easily beset us, let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

No man that warreth entangleth himself for the affairs of this life. Why, that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. Oh, beloved young people, you may have to decomplicate your life in order to please the Lord. You may have to say no to this pleasure, and that pleasure that may be all right in themselves. You may have to say no to something which may perhaps be. All right in itself, but which robbed you of something which is so necessary? So necessary. And so the Lord Jesus, you know, when he was here on earth, had to say to dear Martha, he had to say, Martha, Martha. Thou art careful and troubled about many things. And I say, yes, that's me. I fit right in there. But Mary hath chosen that good part. Is that what he said? No. I missed a line. Didn't die. But one thing is desirable, no? Needful. One thing is needful. Can I afford to give up the time that I need for the Lord? It's not only. Desirable, it's needful, needful. And Mary has chosen that good part. May you and I be given grace in a day of ruin, in a day of small things, in a day when the whole world. Presses in on us so much that we seem to have little or no time for the Lord. May the Lord give us grace to lay aside those things that we can possibly lay aside in order that we may have time for that blessed One who loved us and died for us. Oh, it won't be easy. You know, someone has said that the most difficult thing in the world for a Christian to do is to lay aside the cares that come with everyday duties, because it is right and proper that we should do our duty. But if the duty becomes so complicated that it robs me of my time for the Lord. Then then I need to be before the Lord about it. You might say, well I'm in a box. I don't know what to do. How can I possibly get out of that box? I have this and I have that. I've made this commitment. I've made that commitment. Now where do I go? Well, what can I do? May I suggest, and I suggest this to my own heart as well as to yours, that if you and I will get before the Lord about our life and tell him the problem, say Lord, I want some more time, but I don't know where to find it. I don't know what to do. I seem to have locked myself into things that. I can't give up. I can't let go without being a poor testimony. Look to the Lord. He'll show you a way out. He'll show you the way out. We won't turn to the scripture, but do you remember back in the Old Testament how that there was a king who went and hired some alien soldiers? And he gave, I think it was 100 talents of gold or silver in order to hire them to fight the battle. And the prophet came to him and said you shouldn't be doing that. You don't need those heathen men to fight the Lord's battles. You count on the Lord. Well the king was was impressed, he was exercised, but he said to the prophet, what shall I do for the 100 talents of gold that I have given them? And oh the prophets answer is so blessed God is able to give thee much more than this, much more than this. Not just more, much more. Beloved young person, if you give up anything in your life for the Lord, God is able to give you much more than this. Now, I don't want to be misunderstood. I don't mean to say that if we give up something for the Lord that we can expect to get it back in this life. No, God and grace may do that. He may, but we may have to wait till the glory to get it.

But won't it be worth it? Won't it be worth it? Second thing I'd like to speak about is our lack of reading. Turn for a verse in First Timothy, First Timothy chapter 4, verse 13, First Timothy 4 and 13. Till I come. Give attendance to reading. To exhortation, to doctrine, or to teaching? Verse 16. Well, we'll read verse 15 because it's important. Verse 15. Meditate upon these things. Give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine or the teaching. Continuing them. Or in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee. Now one verse in the second epistle, please. Second Epistle of Timothy, the 4th chapter. And verse 13. The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus when thou comest. Bring with thee. And the books. But especially the parchments. Now I suppose that our lack of reading. And again I speak to my own heart. Is a product to some extent of the same thing that we were speaking about a few minutes ago, our lack of time and the pressure and hurry in the world in which we live. And I am sure that each one of us here. Would like to have more time to read. I had the privilege when I was a boy of listening to. Our beloved late brother, John R Gill. And he said once something like this, he said, you know. And those who remember him much better than I do, I think, will attest to the fact that he. Used his sense of humor quite freely. And he said, you know, I hope that when we get to the glory, the Lord gives us some time to read because there is so much I'd like to read here and I don't have time for it. Well, I know he didn't mean it the way that sounded, but he was saying that he hadn't had time to read as much as he wanted. How much more today? And yet the word of God says, till I come give attendance to reading, attendance to reading again. Dear beloved young people, may I encourage you to make time to read first of all this precious book. Oh, don't neglect the word of God. This precious book, read it as often as you can, and as it says here, not simply read it, but meditate upon these things. Chew on it. Think about it, as our brother Harry Hayhoe used to say. Become so saturated with the Word of God that you think in the language of Scripture. Some of us who have studied foreign languages a little bit know what that means. When you study a foreign language at some length, eventually you get to think in that language to some extent. We should become so saturated with Scripture that we think in the language of Scripture. But there are other books besides the Word of God that can be a help to us. And you know, that's why I read that verse in Second Timothy 4. The apostle Paul obviously had other books. He had other books and you know when I Contended with Mr. Darby once as to the inspiration of every word of Scripture using that verse that I read as an example, dear JND said, ah, he said, don't take that verse away from me. He said it was that very verse that kept me from getting rid of my library because I saw from the word of God that even the great apostle Paul who penned. Much of the New Testament, by inspiration, found blessing from writings that were obviously other than the Word of God. All beloved young people. We have such a rich heritage of ministry. How often do we read it? How often do we read it?

We can't grow in our souls properly if we neglect our written ministry. You know, if we neglect the help that God has given us, we can't grow in our souls. I can remember a dear brother giving an address in my home assembly about 15 or 20 years ago, and he gave us some good advice which I pass on to you. He said you go and read the word of God as much as you can. And form your own thoughts on it. But then he said go and pick up your written ministry and read what they have to say about it. If you find that your thoughts are similar, then he said that's that's wonderful. But if you find that you're at variance with what has been written, he said. Then do some soul searching before the Lord. Notice he didn't say to swallow as we would say hook, line and sinker what's in the written ministry, but he said do some soul searching before the Lord. That's good advice. I'm thankful to say I've taken it up in a small way and it's been a blessing to one soul. Let me speak plainly if you will forgive me. We live in a day and age when reading is easy in some respects. We can go to a bookstore and find magazines of every description, books that we might term light reading, and you all know the type of book to which I refer. We can read it in an evening. We can take it to bed with us because we can't lay it down. But would to God we could take something that was more food for our souls to bed and not lay it down. Oh, if you and I get occupied with light reading, it'll spoil us. It will spoil us for the good, solid ministry that God has given us. That God has given us. I may be forgiven for going one step farther. We live in a world which has had a television for over 30 years. And may I say to you, dear young people, that it is the opinion not only of men of God, but of men of this world, that television spoils the mind for good reading. Now I won't say any more about that, but it does, it spoils the mind for good reading. My father once said to me, he said. The truth of God has been left to us by our brethren of the last century like a large estate, but sad to say, we have been content to live in one small part of it, and we've let the greater part grow up to weeds. Well, I don't say that as a sweeping statement. I don't say that. To point the finger at anyone else but to my own heart. But May God encourage you and me to take the time to read our written ministry. You won't regret it. You may not understand everything that's said in it. But it will pay rich dividends. Rich dividends which can never, never be gotten. In any other way? Don't be afraid to pull down a book of Mr. Darby and read a page or two and say, my, that really takes effort to to try and chew on that for a while. But all beloved young people, it's worth it. It's worth it, and now is the time to do it. Now you think you'll have more time when you get older. Permit me to say that you won't. You won't. I thought my life was full when I was in my late teens. I thought my life was full when I was going to high school and college. I didn't know what it meant. I didn't know what it meant not to have time in those days. And I'm thankful. I'm thankful for the time that I did take to read in those days, because those are the days, dear young people, when your mind is keen and fresh. When these things will sink in? When they'll stay? And stay with you for the rest of your life. Now we we know that the Lord's coming is near. It may only be a few short. Hours, minutes before the Lord comes. But He may leave us here for a little longer. We hope not, but he may. And it says till I come give attendance.

To reading, to exhortation, to teaching, the reading had to come first. We can't be a help to our brethren unless we have made it our own. And one last thing that I would like to speak about. That seems to characterize the day in which we live. And again, I speak to those who want to please the Lord, those who want to find that path that we have been speaking about in Job. And that is this the gratification of self. Turn to the Book of Philippians for a verse, please. Libyans 2. And verse 21. Well, we'll read the 20th verse. The apostle referring to Timothy has to say. For I have no man like minded who will naturally care for your state, but all then look what he adds. For all seek their own. Not the things which are Jesus Christ. Turn back now, please, to Romans for a verse or two. Romans, chapter 15. And verse one, Romans 15 and verse one. We then, that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good, to edification for. Even Christ pleased not Himself. We live in a world where self has become the primary motive, don't we? Haven't you heard the expression on every hand? This is what I do for me. Isn't that what we hear? Because you're worth it. And so on. A world where man has put himself first, both individually and collectively. And we can't throw stones at anyone group in our society. Someone say it's the labor unions, it's all their problem, it's all their fault. They're trying to get everything they can. Some would say no, it's management's problem. They're just trying to wring everything they can out of the poor man. But it's a world where self has become a primary motive and sad to say, there has never been a trend in the world which has not crept in amongst the Saints of God. Oh beloved young people, don't, don't be carried away by the gratification of self. It will grieve the heart of the Lord, and it will never make you happy. Many years ago, there was a young brother. Who had a desire, a real desire to do something for the Lord, and he approached an older brother in his assembly. And said I'd like to do something to serve the Lord. Do you know of anything I can do that that I could do for the Lord? He was a young man. The old brother thought for a moment and he he said yes, yes I do, I do. I do know something that I think you could do, he said. There's a dear

elderly sister in our assembly here and. She lives in a nursing home. She's all alone there. She doesn't have any family to visit her and the only visit she gets are from her brethren and she would just love to have a young man like yourself come and have a visit with her. That wasn't what he had in mind. But a week later, the old brother. Spoke to him again, he said. Well, he said, did you go and visit old Mrs. So and So And he named her by name. Yes, the young brother said. I did. And how did you get along? Well, all right, I guess, but it wasn't really what I was thinking of. I really, I really didn't enjoy her very much.

Ah, the old brother said. I didn't send you there that she might or that you might enjoy her. I sent you there that she might enjoy you. Did you go with that in mind? Oh, he hadn't thought of it that way. He did go and visit her again, and this time he went with the thought that he was going to be a cheer to her, not for what he could get out of it, but to be a cheer to her. And you know, he came back all warmed up inside. I don't even know who that young brother was. Was told to me many years ago. I don't know his name or where he lived. But I thought it well illustrated the point. Beloved young people, if you're occupied with trying to be happy, you'll never be happy. Because the one that is occupied with himself can never find happiness. That's what this world's doing, isn't it? This world is trying, trying, trying to be happy in every way possible. And it all comes short. And so often we find in the world of today that self comes first. And maybe it creeps into your heart as it does into mine. My own ease. My own pleasure. Instead of thinking first of all about my blessed Savior, and secondly about others, about others. If I am not occupied with self at all, then I'll find that God will not be my debtor. Will he be my debtor? Oh no, Oh no. If you and I are going to go out and do anything to please the Lord and seek the good of our neighbors we have here in Romans 15. If we seek the things that are Jesus Christ and forget about ourselves. Oh, then we have God's promise. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. And again it says, If any man will come after me, let him. What does it say? Deny himself? We don't know much about that in this part of the world, do we? We don't know what it is to deny ourselves. And yet we can. We may have to deny ourselves some of our time. Some of our money, some of our pleasure, but think of that Blessed One who gave up everything. Who, when he had found one Pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it? Oh, dear young people, does that touch your heart and mind that someone sold all that he had and bought it? Who's the F? You and me? The Pearl of great Christ went and sold all that he had and bought it. Our time is nearly gone. As I say, these three things are lack of time. Our lack of reading, and the gratification of self have seemed to me to be that which are a danger to our hearts today. And I speak not merely to you young people, but to those of us who are just a little older and who are raising families. There is a responsibility that comes with all this. I was thinking as I sat in this gymnasium today of the first time that I was privileged to be at these meetings in Wheaton now over 20 years ago. And I looked around and most of the dear brethren who. Took most of the part in the meetings are now with the Lord. Most of the brethren who ministered the truth to us at that time 20 years ago are with the Lord. You and I and others have a responsibility. In these things. Turn. Just for one last verse to the Second Epistle of John. Few years ago. A dear sister passed away. And her husband, a man of God, who is now also with the Lord. Asked me if I would be a pallbearer at her funeral. Of course I was glad to do so, and after the funeral he wrote me a letter thanking me for it and seeking to encourage me in the Lord. And one verse he gave to me here, which I had never noticed before, but which has stuck with me ever since. And permit me to pass it on to you in the second Epistle of John.

Verse eight look to yourselves. That we lose not those things which we have wrought. But that we receive a full reward. Dear young people, the time is coming shortly when God is going to hand out rewards. Oh, what a blessed thing that God, who gave us the power to do. Any little thing for Him, is going to reward us for what little measure of faithfulness He has seen in us. But notice here the apostle John writes to his spiritual children and says, look to yourselves. That ye lose not those things know that we lose, not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Beloved young people, if you go on well, you will receive a reward. But so, so will those who have sought to be a help to you. And if you go on badly, if you turn away from the truth of God. You will be the greatest loser, no doubt. But so will those who have sought to be a help to you. Those who have ministered the truth to you. Those who have sought to watch for your souls. As we have in Hebrews as them that must give a they that must give account, they will lose to the apostle John says, look to yourselves, because we're going to lose a full reward if you don't go on. Well, not that that should be our motive. Oh no, Oh no, not that that should be our motive. But remember. Remember those who have spoken unto you the word of God, as we have in Hebrews. Whose faith follow considering the end of their conversation, or, as Mr. Darby renders that considering the issue of their conversation, imitate their faith? Imitate their faith, O beloved young people, it would be the greatest joy to the hearts of your brethren. Those who are here today and those who have gone before for you to go on in the pathway of faith till the Lord comes, May God give us grace to walk in it for His namesake until He come.

St. Thomas Conference: 2006, Path of Faith Job 28:7-8 (28:7-8)

Address—B. Prost

Special significance to it. I can well remember. Our late brother Eric Smith, well remembered by many of us here, giving this hymn out at a Wheaton conference over 45 years ago. And somehow the way he was able to lay an emphasis on the sentiments expressed in it made it very special to my soul, and I hope to others too. 173 the 1st 3 verses. A little will the Lord shall come, and we shall. His father's home, where we love, is gonna be more. We'll save that last verse for the end of the meeting if that's OK. Let's pray together. I know this is detailed on our hymn sheet simply as an address. But when the local brother here in Saint Thomas who spoke to me about having this responsibility mentioned the meeting, he mentioned particularly an exercise about the young people. I hope it's all right if we direct our comments a bit in that direction, because on looking around yesterday and today, it seems that they outnumber us who are older quite a bit, and there are a lot of children here too. I'd like to turn first of all to two verses, one in Romans chapter 8. Romans, chapter 8. I.

And verse 31. Romans 8:31. What shall we then say to these things? God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all. How shall he not with him also freely give us? All things. And then connect that please with a verse in First Corinthians. 1st Corinthians 3. And verse 21. First Corinthians 3, verse 21. Therefore let no man glory in men, for all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come, all are yours. And year Christs, and Christ is God's. First of all, we want to emphasize the wonderful content of these verses. It tells us there in Romans chapter 8, if God be for us. Who can be against us? He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all? How shall he not with him all so freely give us all things? And then here in first Corinthians we are told all things are yours. And I want to say to my own heart, as I say to each one here this afternoon.

Do I really believe the truth of those statements that all things are mine as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ? In Romans, the emphasis is on what Christ has done for us. And the fact that God looked down on you and me. And shall we say it this way? His love put such a value on us, not because of what we were, but because of His love that He sent his son to die for us. Is it possible that He won't freely give us all things? And then Paul tells us in Corinthians, from perhaps a little different vantage point, that all things are ours, whether in this life or in the life to come. We had it mentioned to us in the reading meeting yesterday afternoon that these things that are brought before us in Scripture are not meant merely for future blessing and enjoyment, but are meant for our enjoyment now. But many times. Even though, as we have remarked, we are living right on the eve of the Lord's return. Even though you and I ought to be, shall we say, the happiest people in this world. Can we face it? There are times when the pathway not only seems difficult. But sometimes it seems hard to find the way. I want to talk this afternoon on the pathway of the believer. And do we sometimes find it difficult to find that path? You know, we do. And it is not only young people, it is we who are older as well who sometimes find it difficult to find that path. And how important it is to have a path. It's so easy to lose the path today. I can remember when I was younger and I used to hear about people getting lost in the woods. And I would look around at patches of woods with which I was familiar, and for the most part it was woods. And the children can understand this woods where most of the underbrush had been cleared away, where there were no fallen logs and much and things like that. And I found I could see a long way through those trees. And I used to think my somebody would have to be in a very large patch of woods before they could get lost in the forest like that.

Well, the time came when some of us started to go wilderness camping and I began to sing a different tune. I can well remember being on an island on in Algonquin Park here in Ontario and there are those here in this room who will remember that trip. It was a difficult time of camping because we had about 72 hours pretty much of straight rain. And I went out looking for some dry firewood and we were camped on an island. It wasn't that large. I suppose it might have been 20-30 acres, 40 acres at the very most that island. And I said I'm not going to worry about getting lost because I can always find a shoreline and walk around the shore and get back to where we're camped. But I'm going to keep my bearings. Do you think I could? There was number way. There was number way I could keep my bearings. I didn't carry a compass or anything. I just tried to keep my bearings. But there were trees over my head, there was underbrush underneath, there were rocks. There were all kinds of things. And I did have to go and find the shoreline finally to find my way back. And I was so far away from where I thought I was. I said my Oh my, and you know. That is the way it is in the Christian life. If we don't have our bearings, if we don't have the compass, if we don't have the Lord before us. But let's start out with these verses first of all, and realize all things are yours. And I say it particularly perhaps to the young people here and to the children. Remember, in the day and age in which you are living, God is for you. And if God be for us, who can be against us? As we've heard from some of the stories from foreign lands, those who live under the fires of persecution are having to prove that in a very real way. And when God is for us, it does not mean that we may not suffer. It does not mean that the pathway will be easy. It does not mean that magically all the difficulties will disappear. No, it does not. Yes, there are times when God gives us a marvelous deliverance and you get those, for example at the end of Hebrews Chapter 11. And you can read the account there of those who, as it tells us, were able to overcome the incredible difficulties through which the Lord put them. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego survived the violence of fire. Daniel stopped the mouths of lions. Others, out of weakness, were made strong, like some of David's mighty men who lifted up their swords against hundreds of adversaries. Single handed and won the battle. But then the end of that chapter says and others. And others. Were tortured, not accepting deliverance. Were they men without faith? No, the chapter ends. These all died in faith. And so I say to each one of us here, God is for you. But if God is for you. What is the intent of God's being for you? It's earlier in chapter 8 of Romans. It says that we might be conformed. To the image of his son. Oh, isn't it beautiful to think that everything that God is doing in your life and mine ultimately is going to result in our being more conformed to the image of His Son? But there's something else that I want to bring out. Before we go on, turn to the Book of Philippians. Chapter One. Philippians chapter one and I want to bring this before us at the beginning of the meeting before we get into.

A verse that I really want to dwell on. Philippians chapter one. And verse 20. According to my earnest expectation and my hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness as always. So now also Christ shall be magnified in my body. Whether it be by life or by death. I say to each one here, this was what the apostle Paul had before his soul, when it was a question of whether he would stay in the body or whether he would be taken home to be with the Lord. And notice he doesn't say here that with all boldness. So now he says with all boldness as always, it was his manner of life. That Christ might be magnified in his body, whether by life or by death. And I say to each one of us here, and perhaps it bears particularly on you and me who live in North America, we have had many comments in the meeting concerning the privileges that we have. We have had many comments here in the meetings about the things that are available to us, and they are available. We have wealth beyond the wildest dreams of most of this world's population. We eat food. That many people in this world. Would only dream about we live in homes that by the standards of most of the world. Our mansions, we drive cars, we take holidays and all the rest of it, and I am not speaking against those things in themselves. But the whole point is. To what use do I put what God has committed unto me? God is for us. But for us, in a way that is not merely for. My pleasure, my ambitions, my thoughts, my plans. But that Christ might be magnified in our bodies, whether by life or by death. I've sometimes read some stories about various wars that have taken place in the world's history. And the story comes to mind about the Second World War. And there was a very beautiful girl who lived in England during the Second World War. Who came to the government? She was perfectly fluent in the French language as well as in English. She may also have been fluent in German, I can't remember. And she offered her services to the government and said I would like to do something. For the war effort. And so the government said we can use Someone Like You. You're a woman, you have a measure of beauty, and in your youth you can go places and do things. That men could not get away with. We're going to send you to a special on a special mission over to France, which at that time, of course, was occupied by the Germans. And we have something for you to do there. It's a dangerous mission. But if you can undertake it, it would be a big help, she said. I'm willing, I'll go. So she went over there to France. And the situation did not turn out as they had expected. Sometimes in war, those things happen and instead of her being able to come back to England safely as had been planned. Yes, there were dangers involved, but they had hoped that she would be able to overcome them. But the situation changed and circumstances did not workout. And it ended up that she was caught in a situation where rescue was impossible. And some in the government were up in arms about it. And they said, what are we going to do? They said we can't let this girl just perish like this. What are we going to do? Rightly or wrongly, Winston Churchill, it went all the way to him as Prime Minister of Great Britain at the time, and his comment was rather terse, but it was accurate, he said. I'm very sorry.

But he said if we're going to win this war. There are those. That are going to have to give up their lives. Even if they're beautiful young women. And she lost her life. I'm not sure exactly of all the circumstances, but they couldn't rescue her. She accomplished what they wanted her to do. She rendered her service. The government got the intelligence that it was looking for. But she lost her life. I say that to each one of

us here because normally in these favored lands we aren't asked to give up our lives for Christ, but there is a way that you and I can give up our lives. Even if we don't necessarily lose, shall we say, our physical lives in death. But what the Lord wants is those who are willing. Shall we say? To come to the Lord and say, whether by life or by death, here I am, I'm willing. But you know, if we're going to do that, we must be able to find the path. And you know, and I know that there are many today who are finding it difficult. To find the path. And they aren't all young people either. And some of us know what it is like to miss the past. So don't think that I'm preaching at anyone here. Some of us know what it feels like. And I'd like to turn back particularly to a verse in the Old Testament that I have often enjoyed. And I'd like to make an application of it to the path of a believer, simple and down to earth, so that I think even the children here can understand it because, you know, a path is most important. When you go into some areas when you want to go wilderness camping. There's no path. There's no path anywhere. Oh, there may be hiking trails at various points, but normally there's no path. You get around by canoes on lakes and rivers. And about the only path you will ever find is the one from the campsite out to the little washroom they provide for you. If indeed there is any trail out to it. But you know, when we're walking somewhere where we don't know the way, the path is most important, and we need to be able to find it. Let's turn back, please, to the book of Job in the Old Testament, Job 28. Now Job was one who was having trouble in one sense. With the path. He was having trouble understanding God's ways. Way back, thousands of years ago, God had allowed a set of circumstances in his life. That he could not understand. He said in so many words, I can't understand this and if only I could get the Lord face to face and have a heart to heart interview with Him, I'm sure we could straighten this out. I wish there were somebody that could come between us, he says. A days man. But Job was having trouble with a set of circumstances that were so overwhelming, so inexplicable, so difficult that he said. I don't know which way to turn and what to do. You know, sometimes we're faced with that. And I want to read what Job had to say here because unwittingly in Job seeking for wisdom. He made a comment that I believe the Spirit of God can apply to us to Jay today. Job 28, verse 7. There is a path which no fowl know, and which the vultures I have not seen. The lions whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion pass by it. Job here is talking about silver and gold. And that silver and gold is mined underground.

Where the birds don't see it and where the lions don't walk by it. And I say to you, each one, dear fellow believer, as I say to my own soul, the gold, the silver that God has for you and for me is available. There is a path. Oh brethren, let no one ever take this away from us. There is a path. God will never, never give you and me. Precious truth in His word and yet make it impossible for us to walk in it. I say that again, God will never reveal precious truth to you and to me from His Word. And yet make me. Have to say, because of the circumstances in which I am, because of the day in which I am living. It is impossible to walk in it. Now I make allowances for the fact that sometimes there are testings in our lives. And there are times sometimes when God governmentally may blind us for the moment to the path. Let me use an illustration that the children here will understand. Quite a few years ago, when our son was about four years old, we visited a place in the United States that's got plenty of history. Williamsburg, VA. And it was crowded. A lot of people there interested in going here and there. So I said to my son, please stick close to us. Don't dart off in this direction or that direction to look at something because you may get lost. Well, as you may well imagine, he saw something that caught his eye, and pretty soon, oh, where's Eric? Looked around. Nowhere within my vicinity. Took a cursory look in the crowd, couldn't find him. Every parent that's had that experience knows how your heart jumps into your mouth and so on. The remedy wasn't that difficult because excuse me? I looked off to one side. And there was an elevated platform at least 2-3 feet high, which I quickly hopped up on top of and I could see very well over the whole crowd and I spotted them in less than two seconds. But you know, I thought to myself, Eric, you got yourself into this situation through disobedience. I'm going to let you stew in your juice for a few minutes. Was kind of cruel. It probably hurt me more than it hurt him because he was frantic. He was darting this way and that way and trying to wend his way through the crowds. Of course, everybody was twice as height and so on. And he knew he was lost. He knew he was in trouble. And I let him go through it for a few minutes, just stood there and watched. After a while I simply called out and weighed my arm. And you can imagine how quickly he came back. You know the Lord does that to us sometimes. He's watching us. He knows where we are. He's right there, but we're so intent on darting here and there that we don't see him. And sometimes he may let us feel the effect of being lost in order that we might not disobey and walk in a path of self will again. So allowing for that, allowing for that. I say with all confidence. God will never, never reveal truth to you and me and yet not enable us to walk in it. It may be difficult, it may be a narrow path. There may be a cost involved. But I believe he'll show us that path. Sometimes there are dear Saints of God, and my heart aches when I hear it. They say I don't know where the Lord is in the midst anymore, or I don't know where the Lord's table is anymore. Or I don't know. Where to go or what to do? The situation is so difficult and so confusing. Here in Job 28, it says there is a path and we emphasize that there is a path. That path is there. It is not like going through Algonquin Park or going through the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota or something where there is no path. There is a path but it says which no fowl know.

You know, when I stood up on that platform, I could see out over the crowd some of those birds of prey that fly so high up in the sky. Those who study them tell us that they have incredible eyes and that they can focus from that great height, sometimes hundreds of feet in the air, to see something as small as a mouse running across a field or a tiny squirrel situated somewhere. And we have no doubt all seen a bird like a hawk or something like that suddenly swoop down because it sees what it is about to catch. Tremendous eyesight, and I suggest that the eye of the fowl here speaks. Of human wisdom. Human wisdom. Oh, there is a path which no fowl knoweth. Human wisdom will never find that path. And may I carry that a step further? And I trust. This won't offend anyone because I speak from personal experience and I believe it to be the truth of God. In divine things, the principles of God's Word are most important. Most important. And I would not for a moment in any way take away from the importance of knowing and understanding them. But even a knowledge of right principles is not enough to show me the path. I cannot have a knowledge of principles in one hand and perhaps a knowledge of the circumstances in the other hand, and expect to put the two together and the answer to be obvious. Yes, principles are a guide. They help me. If my imagination is running away from me or my own thoughts are taking me in a wrong direction, a principle from God's Word may quietly pull me back. But there's no substitute. Her brother Chuck mentioned it this morning for meditation and communion with the Lord. There is no substitute for communion with the Lord. Turn to John Chapter 7 for a verse that is well known to us. John, Chapter 7. Verse 17. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. If you want to know the will of the Lord and do it. The Lord will show you. But notice how this verse is written. It does not say. If any man will know his will, he shall know of the doctrine. Sometimes people come to me and they say, Bill, will you do me a favor? And I have to say that my response sometimes depends on who asks. Maybe we all have that problem if certain people were to ask me and say, Bill, do me a favor. My immediate response would be yes, whatever you ask. What is it? I can honestly say that there are a number of people to whom that response would be without reservation. But I have to confess that there are others whom, if they came to me and said, Bill, do me a favor, I would probably say, what is it? What is it? Because I know them well enough to know that sometimes they might ask that, which I find I could not do. Or perhaps would not be able to do. When it's a matter of coming to the Lord, I cannot come to the Lord. As a believer and say Lord, I want to know thy will, but deep down in my heart have the thought when he tells me

what it is, then I'll consider it and decide whether I'm willing to pay the price or not. I shouldn't be surprised if I come with that attitude if I don't get the guidance I'm looking for. But if I come saying, Lord, I want to do thy will. I come with an open heart, an open soul, an open mind, and say, Lord, show me and I'll do it. Whatever it is, with thy help and thy grace I'll do it. That individual is going to know the Lord's will, and it is possible to have a sense of the Lord's will in our lives. No, I am not pretending that any one of us would want to stand up and say, yes, I know I have the Lord's will, unless I have positive scripture for it, of course. But to say that in something that has to do with our personal life.

Is to say that I am living so close to the Lord that I couldn't miss his mind, and I don't think any of us would say that. But I believe we can have a sense in our souls of the Lord's leading and guidance in our lives. If we come to him in this way. But again, I want to emphasize, I can't get it with human wisdom. No, I'm not suggesting that an aptitude test in school is not valuable at times. I'm not suggesting that advice and counsel from others who know us well is not good and helpful. Yes, it can be. But ultimately, when it comes right down to it, there is a path which no foul north. And yet, in the Lord's presence, I can find that path. Let's go back to Job 28. And which verse 7 the last half and which the vultures I have not seen. Everyone here knows what a vulture is I guess. Those animals, those birds that prey on that which is dead. That which is dead. And, you know, sometimes we as believers, sad to say. Can appear dead if we're out of the path. I don't tell this story to be funny, but it makes the point. Many years ago, my late father-in-law, Albert Hayhoe, was visiting in southern Mexico. And he liked to walk, He liked to exercise. And so he volunteered to walk with some of those beloved Mexican brethren from the Oaxaca area. And the track involved going up and down over some low mountains and so on. And he was rather forcibly reminded that he was not as young as he used to be. And on one occasion he got up to the top of a hill totally winded. And laid down, just flopped down on the grass there and was breathing in very deeply, catching his breath. After a while a couple of Mexican brethren came up and 1/2 of them looked down on them and they didn't think he understood Spanish. So one of them said do you think he's going to die? And the other one said, no, the spirit truly is willing, but the flesh is weak. And they walked on. There were others coming. They knew he could well afford to stay there and relax, so he laid there. And in telling about it afterward, he said after a while, he opened his eyes just to slit because it was bright sunlight. And to his horror, he saw this huge Turkey vulture swirling up over a head, coming lower and lower and lower and lower. And he thought, uh. That vulture thinks I'm dead, and if I don't make some sign of life in a minute or two, he's going to land on me. So he quickly sat up, and as you may well imagine, the Vulture went away because he wasn't interested in something that was alive. He wanted something that was dead. But I thought about that story many times. The vultures eye has not seen that path. the Vulture is pretty good. Anything dies, you can be sure the vultures will find it. They'll find it and feed on it. Up in this area we don't have so many things like Turkey vultures, but we've got crows and they'll find it and feed on it and it doesn't take them long if something dies to feed on it. But the Vulture can't see you and can't attack you in the path of obedience and faithfulness to the Lord. If we're off the path, we may appear dead. We may appear like good material. Because the Vulture attacks those who are dead. He attacks the man of the world. He attacks those who are walking after the course of this world. the Vulture, I believe, would speak in one sense of Satan's hosts that are right there to prey on those. Who are off the path and look dead, but the Vulture hasn't seen the path in faithfulness to the Lord. Let's go on. Verse 8. The lions whelps have not trodden it. The lion's whelps have not trodden it. You know, in scripture you often get the lion spoken of, and sometimes you get Young Lions or you lions whelps or Young Lions. And I suppose if we could put it this way, the lion speaks of strength. But when it's the young lion, it's super strength, exceptional strength, because it's the lion in his youth.

I'm getting older now, but I haven't forgotten what it was like to be young. I haven't forgotten what it was like to have boundless energy, to be able to work half the night and still be able to get up and go the next day. I haven't forgotten what it was like to have the mind so keen, as brothers were mentioning in the reading this morning, that you could read written ministry, read the word of God and remember it and hang on to it. Or when you could read textbooks at school, for that matter, and hang on to what you were being taught. And so on. I hope some of us haven't totally lost that faculty, but it's not as easy as it used to be. But here it speaks of the lion's whelps, and it says they have not trodden that path. All you and I cannot walk the pathway of faith in our own strength. We can't walk it in our own strength. There are two things necessary to walk the pathway of faith. And we want to lay a bit of emphasis on them. One is dependence. And the other is obedience, dependence and obedience. We need both turn back or turn on a little bit to Psalm 16. And I believe we see that Psalm 16. Now this Psalm gives us. The pathway primarily of the Lord Jesus, but as an example for us. Of the perfect dependent man. Isn't it wonderful that the Lord Jesus walked through this world as the perfect dependent man as an example for us? Isn't it wonderful that when John came to baptize him and said I have need to be baptized of thee, that the Lord said no, suffer it to be so now he identified with his own faithful ones. When the devil tempted the Lord Jesus instead of answering him in his Godhead power. He answered him as a perfect dependent man. Excuse me? As you and I can. He answered him from Scripture. He answered in the way that we can answer the devil. So the Lord Jesus has taken that place and that's why He is a perfect example for us. The brother was mentioning to me in the noon hour concerning our chapter in Luke 12 That we have been considering. That when the Lord says, Who is that faithful and wise servant, that there is only one? Who is really? The faithful and wise servant There was only one who was always faithful and only one who was always wise. The Lord Jesus Christ and so here in Psalm 16 in verse one it says, preserve me, oh God, for in thee do I put my trust. Could I suggest that you say that verse over every day of your life? Would that be too much? I just suggested. When you get up in the morning, say that verse over to yourself. Preserve me, O God, for in thee do I put my trust. If you say it and really mean it, then you can walk in dependence on the Lord. Because if I try to walk the Christian pathway in my own strength, what happens? Why doesn't the Lord allow that? Because if we walked it in our own strength, we would take the credit for it. We would get the glory. Pride comes in, and we all know that pride besets every one of us. We like to think that we're capable. And as young people, we are capable. And I want to say as I look out at you young people, that you are a big encouragement to us. I enjoy the energy of young people. I enjoy their.

Heart for Christ, their willingness to get involved in things. Their sense of, shall I say, the regions beyond in many cases. And I know that there are many of you who have desires like that and we encourage you in that. We encourage you in it. In fact, it was rather interesting I was reading. Some of our written ministry, this is many years ago, so the reference may be inaccurate, but I think it was in Edward Dennett's ministry and he made a rather interesting comment. This was just in a reading meeting. I thought it was rather rather, shall I say, well, I just enjoyed it. He said, you know, if I ever want the Lord to do something in a hurry, he said, I asked some young people to pray for it because he said they don't see any of the difficulties or any of the problems. They just go straight to the Lord with a straightforward request, and he said the Lord usually answers well. I thought that was interesting coming from an older brother. He said if I ever want the Lord to do something right away in in a hurry, I get some young people to pray for it. In my experience with young people, I can say something the same. And we're so thankful for that. Thankful because God can use that energy of youth that some of us don't have any more that ability to go places and do things. With perhaps bodily energy and so on that some of us who are older don't have. But let's remember that ultimately the lion's whelps have not trodden that path. It must be in the Lords strength. Now back to Job 28. At the end it says nor the fierce lion passed by it.

The fierce lion is a little different, thought. The fierce lion is more the thought. Of what we get in Peter, where the devil is a roaring lion, it says, Go with the boat, seeking whom he may devour. The fierce lion. And the fierce lion is here today as he ever was. He is attacking our brethren in some countries with the fires of persecution. But, you know, sometimes, while we would in no way wish persecution on anyone, yet sometimes it is somewhat easier because, shall we say, the battle lines are drawn and they're clear. I remember a brother telling me in Romania that back in the Ceausescu years, when the communist government was firmly in place, he said there were very few nominal Christians. There were very few nominal Christians. And he said if there were nominal Christians, generally they cooperated with the Communists and everyone knew who they were. He said the real Christians were easily discernible for the most part. Because the demarcation line was very, very clear. But in lands like North America, Western Europe and so on, where we have liberty and freedom and a measure of prosperity, all the fierce lion attacks. In another way, the fierce lion attacks. Well, I'm going to use the words of a Christian from a foreign land. These are not my words. These are the words of a believer from a foreign land who lived under the fires of persecution. And when he had an opportunity to visit North America, he said the devil attacks us in our land by persecution from the world. He said the devil attacks believers in North America by difficulties among believers themselves. His comment now not mine his comment. You and I know, sad to say, how true that is. If the devil cannot attack from without, he will attack from within. And that is not to say that the world is any different over here. It is not to say that the world does not attack. That we do not feel reproach. We do, but the devil has made more havoc and more difficulty in countries with so-called freedom, Christian countries, by attacking believers from within. Nor the fierce line pass by. There is a path where the devil cannot attack you.

Oh, you say Bill, show me where it is, please. I want to walk in that path. I don't want that devil to attack me. And it is not for me to tell you what your path ought to be. I can say definitely from the Word of God what the Word of God teaches. But the path of the believer as well as being collective has to start with individual devotedness to the Lord, with individual faithfulness, with individual exercise, with individual obedience, with individual dependence. You will remember if you've read the Pilgrims Progress how that when Christian was walking along there at one point he saw 2 lions on either side of the road. And he wondered how he would get by. You remember the story how he got by? He thought for a moment. He said there's no way, because no matter if I go this way, the one lion will get me, and if I go a little more on this side, the other lion will get me. There's no way to get by. But then as he got closer, he saw that each lion was chained, and the chains were measured very carefully, so that as long as he stayed right on the path, the one lion from the right could come only so far, and the lion from the left could come only so far. And there was enough room to walk in between without either one being able to reach him. You remember that? I'm sure you do. It was a narrow path. If he stepped a little bit this way, one lion would get him, and if he stepped a little bit this way, the other lion would get him. You know, John Bunyan, I believe the Lord gave him wisdom. Not that he was inspired. I don't imply that, but I believe the Lord gave him wisdom in writing because when he put that illustration in, he showed how that very often decisions in the Christian life are a matter of keeping the truth in proper balance. We find in the Old Testament that it speaks of some of the kings that they declined neither to the right hand nor to the left. And even in our society, we measure politicians and other people by where they stand. Well, he's a little bit left of center, or he's from the far right or something like that. The far right course being ultra conservative and the left being liberal and so on. And in certain aspects of studying the human mind, people speak of left brain and right brain with various differences and so on. So we recognize that there is a need for balance in natural things. And in spiritual things there is often a need for balance in the things of God, and the devil will attack on either side. Sometimes there is a going to an extreme in one line of truth. And if there another line of truth that would balance it is not considered, then I can find myself attacked by the fierce lion. Or perhaps I go to the other extreme in another direction. And in one sense, I may even be able to quote scripture to support me. But I'm not keeping scripture in its place. I'm not rightly dividing the word of truth. I'm not handling the Word of God, as I think Mr. Wigram says. As a spirit filled individual would handle it all, the Spirit of God is here indwelling each one of us individually, indwelling believers collectively as the House of God to enable us to apply the Word of God in a balanced way. And the the the fierce lion cannot attack you in that path. Oh, you say, but he is attacking. Yes he is. And if the lion attacks you or attacks me? Let me not look at the circumstances, Let me not look at other brethren, let me not look at various things that have happened either to me or to others. Let me say, Lord, have I missed the path? Have I missed the pack? Because I say again with all conviction, the devil cannot attack us in that path. We mentioned dependence. We want to talk for a moment before we close about obedience. Turn back to Psalm 16. Psalm 16. Verse 4. Their sorrow shall be multiplied, that hasten after another God. There's drink offerings of blood. Will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips?

And then here. The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup. Thou maintainest my lot. I suppose there is no one here that would in that sense hasten after another God. But sometimes. In another sense, we can hasten after different gods. We can have a God of pleasure, we can have a God of money, we can have a God to do with material things or with something in this world. And if I could really cut it, fine, I can make a God even of the Lord's things in the wrong way. A brother many years ago, I think it was George Heaney, made the remark. He said when I was an unbeliever, I wanted to be a great man in the world and when I became a Christian I wanted to be a great man in the Church of God. And I had to learn that both were wrong. I can make a God of preaching the gospel. I can make a God of applying the truth. Now, I don't want to be misunderstood. Both of those are good things. But ultimately, I want to have what we have in verse 5 here. It's Jehovah, but we'll apply it to the Lord Jesus. The Lord is the portion of what? First of all, my inheritance. That's at the end of the journey.

clickbible.org