

John - Commentaries by Clarence E. Lunden

Des Moines Conference: 1967, John 3:16

Article from <https://bibletruthpublishers.com/bible-truth-study-bible/btsb>

Gospel—C. Lunden

#7. God loved the world of sinners lost and ruined by the fall. Salvation full at highest cost. He offers free to all. All to his loved was wondrous love, the love of God to me. It brought my savior from above to die on Calvary #7. What's my last breath? Why is there anything in the world? Breaking down. Come on. His life. By my way. The Gospel of John and the third chapter. I shall have to confess that I have what, one verse before me tonight. Particularly. And so that will have to suffice.

John, 3:16. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. You know, we're living in a land where I suppose that almost every. Child. And grown up can quote this verse. We're living in a Christian land, so-called. And yet we find that men who know this verse well are still rejecting the Savior. Children, Young people who can quote these verses in Sunday school. Are still rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. What a solemn thing. You know there's going to be differences in judgment in that coming day. We are told in the Word of God that he that knew his master's will, did it not, shall be beaten with many Skypes. But he that knew not his master's will shall be beaten with few strikes. And So what a solemn thing it is, my friend, to sit under the sound of the word of God and not bow to it. There are two things you know particularly that harden men's hearts. And one of them is sin. And the other is to hear the word of God who refused to act on it. And we've been sitting in these meetings now, most of us here, and we've heard many things. May God give us the grace to act on the truth we've heard, otherwise it may harden our hearts. And especially the gospel of the grace of God. What a solemn thing it is to see souls come in. Week after week. Never confess that precious name of Jesus. And So what do we have in this verse then? The first word is for. What does that refer to? Oh, I'm sure it refers to the previous verses in some way. And what do they say? As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, Even so must the Son of Man be lifted up. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. Oh my friend, what a message for our hearts. Yes. So turn with me to Numbers now, the book of numbers in the 21st chapter. This is a part of the history of the people of God, the children of Israel. The fourth verse and the journey from Mount Horror by the way of the Red Sea to compass the land of Edom. And the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spake against God and against Moses. Wherefore have he brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water, and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against thee. Pray unto the Lord that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee A fiery serpent. Set it upon a pole, and it shall come to pass that everyone that is bitten. When he looked at the Pirates of the left. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole. And it came to pass that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived. Well, this account then tells us. Of a case of those who have been bitten by the serpent. Now, my friend. God never hides anything. He tells us the truth. Have we learned from Scripture that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God? It was not only the people of Israel that spake against God and spake against Moses the leader. No, it's true of all men. Because man's heart is at enmity against God.

He doesn't want God. And it is only when God by His grace, can breakthrough. And reach man's heart. That there is any blessing at all. And we find here that it's God who provided the remedy for those who were bitten by the serpent. You know man loves to cater to himself and his abilities. And that may be all right in the things of this life, but my friend, it will never do. When it comes to salvation. No, there is not one thing that you have that can bring you into the presence of God in righteousness. And should you have righteousness, my friend, which you do not have, it still would not be that divine righteousness, the righteousness of God, which only comes by faith in Christ Jesus and through that redemption which is in Christ Jesus. And so we find that these four Israelites who had sinned against God. There was a simple provision made. I say simple for them. But all what it means to us as we read the truth of it in the New Testament. To them, all they had to do was to look. Live Oh my friend, tonight we want to present to you Jesus as the Savior. All you have to do is look and live. Look and live. Yes, and all your sins. There that man lay bitten by that serpent. Perhaps swelled up with the poison and someone raises his head and he sees that serpent, Raisin serpent on the pole. Yes, and he looked and he lived. Oh, how simple for you the gospel of God's grace is. Received it. It's just that simple. And so this word for, what does it mean? Oh, God was moved. We learned that in Exodus. I have seen. I've seen the affliction of my people and them come to deliver them. If it hadn't been God who had come to deliver my friend, there would never be one soul ever saved. No, God himself came. Came down in the person of Jesus. And now it's simply for you to look. And to live. But we have more truth than the Gospel of John than we have in Numbers 21. Because we learn in the Gospel of John that it isn't simply living. In the wilderness a little while longer. But what we read in those verses previous to John 3:16 was eternal life. And you know, eternal life comes through the work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. And it's when the Lord Jesus, the serpent on the pole, gives us a picture. Of the Lord Jesus having been made sin for us. That's the picture. He was made sin for us, the one who knew no sin. That we might be made the righteousness of God in him. So you see, my friend, it's a question of substitution. It's a question of that blessed Savior taking your place in mind before a holy God, because this is what was necessary. God can never compromise with sin. Sin must be dealt with. Either you must be the victim, and you will if you reject Jesus. Or another will have to take your place. This Jesus did for all who believe as we have been having in the meanings, He is the probitation for our sins. And for the whole world. And so the gospel goes out tonight to the whole world, whosoever will may come. Four, that's the reason God was moved, when he saw the need of his people. And the next word is God. God. I would like to ask you, my friend, do you know God? And you say he is my God? Turn with me to the 43rd Psalm. And see if this can be the language of your heart.

Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation. All deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man, for thou art the God of my strength. Why dost thou cast me off? Why go? I am mourning because of the oppression of the enemy. All send out thy light and thy truth. Let them lead me, Let them bring me under thy holy hill into thy tabernacles. Then will I go into the altar of God. Unto God. My exceeding joy, yeah, upon the heartfelt, I praise Thee, O God. By God. Where art thou cast down on my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope Indiana God, for I shall yet praise him who is the health of my countenance. And my God, is this your language tonight? Oh dear friend, can you say he is my God? Or do you sit there tonight with terror as you think of the coming judgment? When you will have to stand before God to give an account of all the deeds done in the body? Turn with me to the 23rd chapter of Luke for a verse. The 40th verse a part of it. But the other answering rebuked him saying dost not. Thou fear God. Oh my friend, tonight, do you not fear God? Do you know that you will have to do with God either as your savior? Or your judge. Tonight you can have the Savior, God and the Person of Jesus. Tomorrow he may be your judge. God would have always had to be a judge, my friend, unless Jesus came and died and shed his precious blood. But now that Jesus has died, there's a way. Of life. So that the vilest Sinner might come to God, have all his sins forgiven. Because of what Jesus has done, all my friends, it's God. For God. So loved the world. It is the God, the one who is going to judge. All unrighteousness, the throne of God and what it stands for, that great white throne. It's before that throne you'll have to stand, my friend, unless you know God. In the way of this 43rd Psalm. And you can say, my God. My exceeding joy. You sit there in that chair tonight and say he's my exceeding joy. What's the matter? All your soul is estranged from God. You're in your sins. Don't you know the? In the book of Isaiah says it's your sins that are separated between you and your God. That he cannot hear. Are you still in your sins? All my friends tonight. Are you in your sins without God? Are you going to die in your sins without God? Or you say I hope not? That you will. Yes, you will if you don't accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. For God. So love. Now what do we have? We have a measure brought in so loved and what is this measure? Can you measure this measure? God so long. How did they laugh? Oh, my friend, you know the story well. You live in a land where you've heard these things over and over again. The truth is literally fallen in the streets. God so loved, and what's the measure of it? Yes, as we look at that cross of Jesus, we see him hanging there. The one who was forsaken of God.

God's only son. There we see the measure of that love. Yes. And why did he do it? Oh, it is for your precious soul and mind. God. You know, in this creation of gods. One might have thought that he could have found something. In which his heart could delight in. I am speaking now of the creation. We know his heart always delighted in his son. But one would have thought possibly that there might be something in that creation that was good. That his heart could delight in. But no, there's only one thing it seems that God can find his delight in. In this creation, what is it? I'm Speaking of the angels of God over 1 Sinner that repents. All my friends tonight, are you going to make heaven happy? By repassing. By turning around and owning the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. Are you going to take that place tonight? Yes, God binds his delight. In the repentance of his creature. When his creature turns around and owns God. As his God. Through that precious blood of Christ, that's the only way back. Yes, my friend, God has provided a way. As the writer says in the Old Testament, we must all die. God has provided a way whereby is banished. Be not expelled from his sight. And we like to speak of that way my friend tonight that you might to find that way. Yes, there is a way. It's not found by natural intelligence. Not by works of righteousness, which we have done, no. There is a way, though. God has provided that way. And it says so love God so loved. And there we see the way provided when the Lord Jesus could say. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me. And now, my dear friend, have you come in that way? So that God might be your exceeding joy. Or are you still in your sins on your way to a lost eternity, and this knight may decide it for you? Yes, it may. I suppose as we hear the the sad report of one and another taken. We inwardly say, well, it couldn't be me. But my friend, it could be you this very moment. Pass from time until eternity. This very moment as you sit there in your chair. Yes, there have been many already that I know of Indiana, the little meeting rooms that have left this world sitting in their chairs. In the meeting rooms. You can leave too, in just that way. But my friend, how will you leave? Will you leave with a savior or will you leave lost without a savior? You're going to look and live tonight. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent Me hath everlasting life, shall not come into judgment, but is passed from death unto light. God sought for God so loved the world. Or you may say, well, I know he came to the Jews. And I know the Gospels are written to the Jews. Oh yes, that's true. One would not deny that. Determines me to the 16th chapter of John and we'll see. The 28th. I came forth from the Father and am come into the world.

There you have it my friend. Now what? Again I leave the world. Go to the father. And so we have that circuit. Of the Son of God. Leaving that place on high positionally leaving it. Coming down into this sad world. This world. Not just among the Jews who came into the world. If she says so. And that is how he can say whosoever, because he came into the world. But then he left the world. He went back to the fox. And now what does that tell the believer? Oh, this is a precious truth, that we won't dwell on it. Simply this. That when Jesus went back into the glory, he went back as a man. Of precious truth. And that's the assurance for our hearts, each one, that you and I as men will be found in the glory of God with Jesus, because he went back as a man. Yes, he went back as a man and he said I go to prepare a place for you. For God. So loved the world. But now we noticed in that verse that we read in the 16th chapter of John. The father's name. If you'll turn with me to Proverbs 30, reverse. The fourth verse. Who has ascended up into heaven, or descended? Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? Who hath bound the waters in a garment? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his name? And what is his son's name, if thou canst tell? Yes, my friend. What is his name? It was not known in the Old Testament. This is a new revelation that God has given you in this very age in which you lived, and He's going to hold you responsible for it. What is His name? And what is his son's name? Or you say, yes, I know his name was Jehovah in the Old Testament. Yes, indeed it was. But what is his name? What is the ultimate purpose of God to reveal Himself? His father isn't that. Oh how precious the truth we have with this. Oh, and how it brings us to the very heart of God. And this is so important in connection with John 316. Because it is here, beloved, that he reveals himself as Father. Father. Turn to the 17th of John. In the fifth verse. And now, O Father. Glorify thou Me with thine own Self, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the man which thou gavest me out of the world. There we have it. The Lord Jesus manifested the name of the Father. When he came into this world. Are my friend, and he sealed the truth of it with his own precious blood. When he died in the Cross of Calvary. The eternal Son of God. Yes. Then what is his son's name? Turneth me to the first chapter of Luke's gospel.

And the 35th verse. And the Angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee. And the power of the Highest shall over shadow thee. Therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. That's his name, my friends. The Son of God. But now turn also on the same page to verse 31. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth the Son. Shall call his name Jesus. Oh, my friend, there's never been a more precious name on human lips than the name of Jesus. Yes, that's his name. His name is the Son of God. Yes, and we better keep the 2000 faces too. The 2000 faces He is the Son of God. He is the eternal Son of God. And of him and of Him alone it was said, that holy thing. Never of Adam. Never. Or of any man. The just the Son of God. But when He is revealed

to us as the Savior, His name is given to us as Jesus. Jesus. Yes, that's the name that he took down here in manhood. Jesus, and that means Jehovah. Savior, Oh my friend. What is his name? What is his son's name, if thou canst tell? Thou tell it, Have you confessed that precious name on your lips of Jesus? Because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus. Believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead. Thou shalt be saved. Oh, my friend, are you safe tonight? If you confess that precious name. What is his name? What is his son's name, if thou canst tell? Are you willing to confess it tonight? Your own savior? Where God so loved the world. That he gave. Big game, you know we have in this verse. That he gave, and then we have later on shall have. Have. All, my friend, I trust that these two things might be brought together in your life and your heart tonight. What God gave and now what you have. Because if you receive what God gave, you will have a seat. He gave. Yes, God gave. Yes. What is the gift? You know when the Lord Jesus stood there at the well Sicar's well in the 4th chapter of John. And they were speaking together of the water. The Lord Jesus could say, if thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that spake to thee. Yes, if thou knewest the gift of God. Oh, what a precious gift. And the apostle as he writes about that gift in the book of Corinthians. He stops and he says, Thanks be unto God. For his unspeakable gift. Oh my friend, there's no way to measure this what God gave. Now God so loved the world that he gave. The game. And here we see the heart of God reaching out to the center. As we read the Old Testament and we see the law and all that it demands. We think of the people who are under it and unless they got the spirit of David. Or of Daniel, or of others. And they could see through the myths by faith, and could see that God was a God who was a giving God.

Poor souls never understood what it meant to be saved or to have any light whatsoever. But now, in a day when we have the full revealed Word of God for us. The truth of God. We see God's heart opened as the Father. Because the Lord Jesus came from heaven to reveal what was in the bosom. God yes to reveal it to the poor center. And so now he's Speaking of what God gave. Game. This is not natural to man. Man wants to do something to get credit for what he does. But my friend, if you will come to God, you must come God's way, and you will have to accept what God gave. And who wouldn't want to accept this, my friend? Would you not want to accept what God gave? God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Oh, what a gift. And you know this gift. Sometimes gifts are given between friends. And they're remembered for years, and they're brought out from time to time to remember that friend. And Oh my friend, this gift that God gave will be the central theme. For all eternity. God so loved the world that He gave His only begun Son. Is that going to be the theme of your delight for all the coming ages? What God gave. Yes. God gave. His only begotten Son. You know. This is a special term of endearment, but connected with his coming into this world. His only son. His only son. Think of it. In the 12th chapter of John we have one part of wheat. Just one. Upon that corn of wheat hangs the destiny, my friend of every living soul that will be saved. That that carnival wheat. Unless that corn of wheat fell in the ground and died, it would abide alone forever. It is said in Luke's gospel of the Lord Jesus that the time came for him to go up. And that blessed Savior, the Lord Jesus, could have gone into the heavens a man alone. What did he do? Turn his face Flint to go to Jerusalem? Is there he was to die? He might be the savior. He would not go alone. No, my friend, if you look and live tonight, you're going to be with Jesus in those courts of glory. Because of that precious blood that was shed on Calvary's cross. But if you reject the Lord Jesus, you will never see light. Nothing but the blackness of the darkness forever. Go, friend. Do you know the Lord Jesus? As your savior. Only begotten Son. This is the means that God used to bring salvation to you and me. Was there no other way? No, there was no other way. There was number other man. Joel said. Is there no man? No, there's no man. I looked and there was number man. Scripture says no man. And then mine arm wrought salvation. All blessed Savior. He looked and there was number Man. So he came down and became man. He took a place down here as man so that he might go into death. To pay that penalty that you and I owe. All blessed and Savior. He identified himself with Abraham's seed, seed of faith. Yes, he came into this world. The Savior.

That whosoever. Oh, what a marvelous expression this is. My friend, there's no one here this evening, but what comes under this? Not one. It doesn't matter how vile you are, it doesn't matter how many sins are piled in your history. It makes no difference. No. Oh, this precious, precious word, whosoever. Yes, you can come tonight in all your defilement, all your sins. And the Lord Jesus will receive you. In fact, he says, I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. And the apostle could say, when he was old, and he knew something of his heart, he could say that he was the chief of sinners. And yet Jesus not only died for him, but he raised him up to be a pattern. For those who afterwards should live godly in Christ Jesus. The Apostle Paul, who's. Who is the bitter enemy of the Son of God? And an enemy of the Church of God. Speaks of himself as the chief of sinners, and yet the grace of God saves him. Yes, the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth from all sin, and it can be the vilest Sinner, but it will cleanse from all sin. What's your case tonight, my friend? Are you the vilest Sinner? Well, God knows your heart. Whatever it may be. There's room for you within within that door of salvation tonight. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever. Whosoever. And now what's the way that you can't all you say you told me to Through the blood. Yes, it is through the blood of Christ. Because without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. But what does this verse say? Believe us, have you? Yes, for with a hard man believeth unto righteousness. With the mouth, confession is made to salvation. That's simple, isn't it? There's nothing complicated about this friend with the hard man. Believeth unto righteousness, righteousness. Fit for the presence of a holy God. And the word of God tells us that he is my righteousness. Yes, Jesus is that. The righteousness of God which is found in Christ Jesus. You have that. Don't come to God and say I want to bring my righteousness. Just come to God and say nothing in my hand. I bring simply to thy cross, I think. That's all. All the cross of Jesus. The work that was finished there on the cross when he hung there as my substitute, was he yours? Yes, you can confess his name tonight. And have that same salvation. Believeth in him, it's a person. It's a person. Oh how this excludes all the reasonings of man. When God speaks of believing, he adds in him. There's only one that you can believe in for salvation. It isn't a question of doctrines, no. I suppose literally it's on him. But just casting your soul upon the Lord Jesus himself. Believe it. In him. Should not perish. Oh, how faithful God is. And you know when we get a part of a verse like this, shall not perish. Oh, how it stirs the soul. What does it mean to perish? Does it mean annihilation? No, it doesn't mean annihilation, my friend. Because you have a soul that's going to live forever. Yes, and you will have to give an account to God for everyone of the deeds done in the body. Besides that, the word of God says God requires that which is passed.

That long list of sins. Guilt before holy God that you will have to give an account for in that day. Oh, my friend, have you thought of it, Aries? What does it mean? It means the change of state. That's what it means. Here you are sitting in prosperity. I'll give you an example, the 16th of Luke. There's a man who fared sumptuously every day. As he sat to his table each day, there was spread everything his heart desired. But one thing one day everything changed. And the next picture we see the man in hell. In Hell. Now what does he want? He wants some water to cool his tongue. Is that going to happen to you to this very night? There was a brother in Canada. Who was crippled? And a relative of his came to see him, who was a Hale and hearty man. In the prime of his youth. And as I understand the story. This man who was under who was unsaved. Hale and hearty, but unsaved, as he stood in the presence of his cousin who was saved and his cousin was giving him the gospel, he dropped dead with a heart attack. He had everything here. In hell, He lifted up, his eyes being in torments. Is that going to be your case, my friend? And the very thing his heart desired here he lost it all for all eternity. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Shall not perish. Do you want to perish? Do you want to perish? Friend shall not perish. Jesus and His precious blood is the only way that can stand between to keep you from perishing. Marriage. Some years ago. There was a ship built. You all know the story of the Titanic. It is supposed to be an unsinkable ship as far as man could make it. And people rushed for reservations. The wealthy. The people who are in. In places of position they were going to have the first ride on that unsinkable ship. Little did they think that that ship would ever sink. Oh, how foolish man is with his soul, his precious soul. But you know that ship had not gone far into the icy northern waters when it struck an iceberg. And then tore the bottom out of the ship. And all these various compartments were flooded with water. And as that ship sunk under the waves with the hundreds, perhaps thousands, I don't recall the Lord. There those people stood, terror stricken with their gold and their silver and their jewels on their dresser tables and their statements. Now they were all They're well. What good did it do them in that day, my friend? And what good will it do, my friend of the day, when the men will call for the rocks to hide them from the presence of a holy God? Oh, it's true that as that ship went under the waves, the band was playing. Mirror my thought to me. And all how near our souls were brought into the presence of God that night. Yes, but I wonder how many of them? Savior as they went under those cold waves of death. You say it can't happen to me. Friend can happen to you this very night. Do you have a savior? Are you sheltered under that precious blood? Are you going to a priceless raid? Shall not perish, shall not perish. Some years ago. In South America and Chile.

There was an earthquake, perhaps in the 20s. You can read the history of it. It was a mighty earthquake. And after the earthquake, a tidal wave. The tidal wave was so great that it took a ship, a battleship, 2 miles inland and left it on the shore. And as that wave swept in through the city, it uncovered the graves. Of the those who had been buried on the side of the mountain. The mountains were made of limestone and they've been cut out. In seats, as it were, and the people were buried in sitting fashion. And as the waves washed away. All of this ashes in which these bodies were left. It left the people sitting as though they were sitting before the Great White Throne. And the officer of the ship who was in the harbor described this, and in his language he said it looked as though doomsday had come Doomsday. We know what he means. We know what men mean when they speak about doomsday. Because that's all they know of the wrath of God that's coming when they'll have to stand before God to give an account of their sins. Oh, a terror that struck the heart of those officers as they view that. That scene where the waves had washed everything away from those bodies. And my friend, there's a day coming when every soul has died. Their bodies will be raised from the grave and death will be destroyed. And every soul will stand before God to perish. To perish because it will be the last resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that part of the first resurrection on him the second death can have no power. Friend, do you have part in the first resurrection? Are you going to perish? Are you going to be there at the last one, when death will be destroyed? Passed in the lake of fire in you too? Read with me in the Book of Revelation. The 20th chapter. There we have the next whosoever, my friend. The first one we have in John 3:16. For God so loved the world. He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish. Here we have the 15 first and whosoever. Was not found written in the Book of Life. Was cast into the Lake of Fire. Friend, we're preaching tonight the truth of God. Are you going to have a part in the first resurrection? Or are you going to have a part in the second one? Are you going to perish because you've rejected Jesus Christ as your Savior? Oh, the marvelous truth of God, that he sent a Savior, a loving Savior. Reveal the heart of the Father. You know the Lord Jesus when he he died. It was said then restored I that which I took not away. And you know the Lord Jesus could have restored man just to the place like he had been in the Garden of Eden. That is where man as creature would be surrounded with temporal blessings down here. And happiness on the earth. But you know, according to the law, there was a little clause added that anyone who had stolen. If he was found out, he not only would have to restore all that he took away, but he would have to have the 5th part to it. And that blessed Savior, he added the 5th part. Not only did he restore that which he took not away, but he added the 5th part. And now He can reveal to us the heart of the Father. He's made known the father. And you won't be placed in the Garden of Eden if you're saved, my friend. No, you'll be in the paradise.

You will be where Jesus is, in the Father's house. Where there will be no more. Opportunity. There will be no more nature. Ever to dishonor God again. No, because man has sinned and fallen from the glory of God. Never again will that occur because we're found in Jesus and Him alone. That precious Savior who is everything our life is hid with Christ in God. About your life tonight. And so in closing, we have in this verse. But have eternal life? And what kind of life is this, friend? Do you know something of eternal life? Oh, you say, I know something of this life. Yes, you may know plenty of it. You may know about his joys and sorrows. But up there, there will be no sorrows, my friend. But this life that we have spoken of in this verse. Revealed, I suppose, for the first time in John 3, because it's only when the serpent is seen. Raising Serpent le pole. Then when you have eternal life opened up. And what kind of life is this? Oh my friends, God gathering his children to his bosom. That's it. Is that where you want to spend your eternity? In the Father's bosom we can lavish upon you all that we're told about in the 22nd, the the 15th of Luke in the Father's house. Bring forth the best robe. Put it on him, Ring on his finger, shoes on his feet. Everything provided. There are the prodigal son. No, it's so dishonored. His father brought back in the blessing, and now his father's lavishes upon him all the blessings, but in the place where himself lives. In the glory. To be associated with the Son, the Lord Jesus himself. Oh my friend, is that where you want to spend your eternity? Or do you want the blackness of darkness forever? All my friends do not have plead with you. You're unsaved. Don't go out of this room tonight. Unsafe. Take Jesus, your Savior. I remember once. A sister coming home from a gospel meeting, 60 years old or more. She'd been coming to the gospel meetings for at least 40 years. She said to her husband. I'm lost. I want to be sick. There may be someone here tonight who's been coming to gospel meetings year after year. Never yet confess that precious name of Jesus. Won't you confess that name tonight? Perhaps is your companions that's keeping you. Perhaps it's your habits. Whatever it is, my friend. Do you want to spend your eternity? With God. And his son, Jesus Christ. Or do you want to spend your eternity? Where you'll perish. For God so loved the world, he gave his only begotten Son. Whosoever believeth in him should not perish. Have your last. Same #2. Come till Jesus gently calling. Ye with care and toilet press. With your guilt, however, falling, come and I will give you rest #2. And. God bless me. And praise you. Forever. And. Why don't we start God? Happy birthday.

Chicago Conference: 1984, God's Way with Peter

Address—C.E. Lunden

So we turn to Peter rather to John. The 1st chapter start with the 35th verse again the next day after John stood in two of his disciples and looking upon Jesus as he walked, he said, Behold the Lamb of God. And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned and saw them following, and said unto them, What seek ye? He said unto him, Rabbi. Where dwellest thou? He said unto them,

Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt in the boulders in that day for just about the 10th hour. One of the two which heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We found the Messiah, which is being interpreted, the Christ, and he brought him to Jesus, And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jonah. Thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation. A stone. We like to speak this afternoon a little bit about Peter and God's ways with him from Lukes Gospel but. We must begin in John, because John gives us the subject of life. And before Peter could be have any connection with the Lord at all, he would have to have life. He would laugh to have life anew as we have in John 3. Born anew, a new life. And so we. Pardon me, we have the beginning of God's ways with Peter and giving him life. Now he gives them a new name. A new name is a new beginning. A new name is a new beginning. And I would like to ask you this afternoon, dear ones, if each one of you here have a new beginning with the Lord. Have you taken the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior? Have you had your sins washed away? Because if you have not, you have no connection with the Lord Jesus. All the rest that we're going to speak of this afternoon will mean nothing to you unless you have taken the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and He's given you a new name, a new beginning. The flesh profits nothing. And it'll do you no good when it comes to facing God in eternity. You must have a beginning with the Lord Jesus. Now we'll turn to Luke's gospel in the 4th chapter. We'll probably hurry over various things here, but just to get the thought. That before we read this in Luke's gospel. I'd like to say that. We've already had Matthews Gospel, the public testimony that God recognizes here on this earth. We've had that in our readings. It's the Kingdom of the heavens. But in Luke's Gospel, we have the Kingdom of God. And. The King of God. Is the vast Kingdom. Where the Lord Jesus as man is head over it. It's a moral line of things. It's not the outward thing that you see, but it's characterized by righteousness. You don't see that, do you? You see the results of it. And peace. You see the results, but you can't see peace itself. And joy in the Holy Ghost. That's what characterizes the Kingdom of God. Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. And so it's rather the line of things that operates not outwardly as in Matthew, but inwardly. And what we're going to trace a little this afternoon is God's ways with Peter as he works with Peter down here for two purposes. One is companionship with himself.

And the other is for service. Because Peter, you know, was called to be an apostle. Now everyone here of course is not called to be an apostle or nor any because the day of apostles are over, but you certainly have a service for Christ of some kind. And so the Lord leads in all this in each individual life. But we get in Luke's Gospel a pattern. As we trace it of God's ways with Peter, both for companionship and for service. Now there are certain things that in our lives that have to be set aside. Their holdovers from the old order that we once were connected with. All that has to go. But we find the Lord Jesus as he works with Peter. He does so on the principle of grace, Heavenly grace. And so you could write that word right over this gospel. Heavenly grace. That's the subject of the operation of the Lord Jesus with his people down here. And we see the Lord Jesus, a man going about as anyone, we might say, on the street, but where would you find him? With the poor, with the needy? And with sinners, and he would eat with them. That's Grace. Oh, how near God has come to man in the person of Jesus. Jesus became a man. Now there's another thing before we speak of this passage in the 4th chapter. You get the word great over 30 times in Lukes Gospel. We won't speak of them all. Great. And so everything in Luke's gospel is great in the first chapter. John the Baptist was great before him. Also in the first chapter it says of the Lord Jesus, he shall be great. And truly, it saw. Because he fills all things. All the greatness of his person. But also we have the opposites. In the 6th chapter we find the man who builds his house on the sand. The fall of that house was great, and the gentile. In the 7th chapter the Lord said of him, great, I've no not found greater of faith. In Israel, in the 14th chapter, there's a great supper. But the father spreads for his son. In the 16th chapter there's a great gulf fixed for those who refuse that supper. Where they will spend their eternity in hell. So we have greatness in two aspects. But especially beloved. The sufferings that the believer goes through down here. Well and in greatness because we will be associated with the one who is great as his companions for all eternity. Now the 4th chapter. This is a very simple thing that we're going to read about that is one of those parts of God's ways. The 38th verse. From the 4th chapter. And he arose out of the synagogue and entered into Simons house. That's Peter. And Simons wifes mother was taken with a great fever, and they besought him for her. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she arose and ministered unto them. You'll notice here that this is a great fever. In Matthew, it's just a fever. The Spirit of God is pointing out something here. That Peter has to learn one of the first lessons he has to learn as he follows Jesus, and that is. If Peter takes up and follows the Lord Jesus in the place that he appoints for him, the Lord will take care of his circumstances at home. Isn't that lovely? Yes, the Lord is standing there ready to wait on Peter's household.

A principle in Scripture. God's ways with us. This was true of the woman who was carrying her son out to bury him. And as she turns, Jesus is standing there. Many cases can be mentioned where. All they needed to do was turn, and Jesus is there. And that's true, beloved, in everyone of your circumstances, no matter how difficult they may be, you, if you turn, you will find Jesus is standing there ready to wait upon you. And that is grace too. Now the 5th chapter. It came to pass that as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Ganesha. And saw two ships standing by the lake, but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their Nets. And he entered into one of the ships which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your Nets for a draft. Simon answering, said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night. And have taken nothing. Nevertheless, a thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes and their net break, and they beckoned onto their partners which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came and filled both the ships as they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus knees saying, depart from me. For I am a sinful man, oh Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draft of the fishes which they had taken. And so was also James and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not, from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, that forsook all. And followed him. Now we have a scene at the shore of Galilee, where Knesset. If you were to look on the map, you would see three cities about 5 miles apart at the top or the north part of the lake or sea. One of the cities is where Jesus lived, Capernaum. And to the right, as you look on the map, you would see the city where Andrew and Peter and Philip lived to say it. A little further north you would see cursing. Now these cities had more ministry of Jesus than any others I believe. Especially Capernaum and Corazon. And but we find that it's just a natural scene. Where the fishermen are casting their Nets out. They're going out after fish. But if you look in Matthew 13, you would see the same scene where the Lord is teaching the people those parables that you read in that chapter. But here we have him, and the parables are not mentioned because there's a very specific thing that the Lord has before Him to teach us in this chapter. And it is something that's very necessary for Peter if he's going to be a companion of Jesus. And he was a companion of Jesus, a disciple also if he's going to serve the Lord Jesus. He has to learn that lesson in this chapter. But you'll see how gracious the Lord is in teaching him. He doesn't go to Peter, say no, Peter, you're going to have to learn a lesson. No, Peter learns the lesson without realizing, perhaps, that the Lord is trying to teach him a lesson. Oh, how gracious the Lord is. So the first thing we noticed that the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God. You don't see that today, do you? No, you don't see that today. Now there are two ships standing by the lake, and the Lord chooses one of them because

he says his eye on Peter.

He singles Peter out. And he says to him, Entered in one of the ships which was Simons, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land, and he sat down and taught the people out of the ship. The rest of it you get in Matthew 13. Now when he left speaking. He said unto Simon, Lodge out into the deep, and let down your Nets plural for a draft. And Simon, answering, said it to him, Master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing. Nevertheless a thigh word, I will let down the net. We have. I and we here. Peter had to break with his companions in order to carry out the instructions of the Lord Jesus. Now you may have to break with your companions in order to carry out the instructions of the Lord Jesus. And they may be companions that seem to be good companions in a way. But still, whenever you take a step of faith, you have to take it alone in the presence of Jesus. You don't take steps of faith collectively, you take them individually. In his presence. This is a lesson that Peter had to learn. And he had been with the Lord before. And he had heard his word, as in John one. And so he says, nevertheless, that thy word. I will let down the net. He didn't let down the Nets. I don't know what would have happened if he let down the net. Because the one that filled not only his ship, but another one too. No, you can't limit the blessing that comes as a result of obedience to the Word of God. We're so slow to believe what God says in our lives. We're so used to using our own thoughts and we're we're so often taken up with others to the point that we are not able to act on the scriptures that God has given us to act upon. We have to do this alone in our souls. But you'll notice immediately when Peter acts, so do the rest. If you take a step of faith, somebody's watching you and they're going to take a step of faith too. But be sure of this. If you take a wrong step, people are watching you and they're going to take a wrong step too. Not solemn. Very solid, toiled all the night, taking nothing, nevertheless a thy word. I will let down the net. And when they had this done, now we have the companions brought in the blessing at the same time with Peter, and closed a great multitude of fishes and their net break. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came and filled both the ships as they began to sink, when Simon Peter saw it. He fell down at Jesus knees saying, depart from me for I am a sinful man oh Lord. Well, didn't Peter know that he was a Sinner before? Oh yes, he knew that. But he never knew before that the whole thing was bad. Everything. Have you discovered that? Are you still trying to salvage something from the flesh? Have you discovered that the whole thing is bad? That you're a sinful man? And that God can't use one thing of the flesh in you, not one thing. Oh, what a lesson to learn if Peter's going to follow the Lord. In companionship he must discover this, because the Lord will be everything to him. He doesn't need the flesh. Depart from me, for I am a sinful man.

Oh Lord, he owns his lordship. Does the Lord depart from him? No. The Lord is taking him up for blessing. Peter's willing to take that low place now, and he owns what he is before God because. He had gotten into the presence of God. Do you know, dear friends, that Job never got into the presence of God until the end of his history? The last few chapters. It was then that he repented. In dust and ashes. He'd gotten into the presence of God. You know, it's a good thing to get into the presence of God when you're young. Have everything out like Peter did and learn that in me, in my flesh, dwells no good thing, not one good thing. There's anything for God. It'll have to be what he brings. Not in you, in yourself. He was astonished. And so is also James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, fear not, from henceforth thou shall catch man. Peter said, depart from me. Oh, the Lord says, fear not, I'm going to make you a Fisher of men. You've been fishing for fish, now you're going to fish for men. Well, we must not tarry here. Let's go on to the 9th chapter. In the 9th chapter we find the certain disciples with the Lord on the Mount of Transfiguration and. In the 32nd verse, we can't tarry here. We couldn't speak of this whole chapter this afternoon. It's so wonderful, but we're just going to take a verse out of it or two. But Peter and they that were with him were heavy. With sleep. And when they were awake, they saw His glory and the two men that stood with him. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here, and let us make 3 tabernacles, one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias, not knowing what he said. While he thus spake, there came a cloud and overshadowed them, and they feared. As they entered the cloud, there came a voice out of the cloud saying, This is my beloved son, here him. And when the voice was passed, Jesus was found alone. Now we find. Peter. In a very favored place. Where the glory is seen. The Lords glory is seen but Peter is asleep at the time of the display of glory. He was awakened and he did see some of the glory. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter was asleep again. But in Luke's Gospel, you do not follow a chronology, you follow moral principles. And so if you're asleep, if I'm asleep, as to the sufferings of Christ. I will be asleep as to the glories of Christ. This Peter had to learn. And you'll read in his epistle. Later. That he speaks of this occasion as the excellent glory. It is firmly fixed in his mind. This scene of glory. It had made an impression upon him. And you'll find in his writings he speaks of the sufferings of Christ and the glory to follow. The glory was impressed upon his mind and heart. Without vision, the people will perish. Unless you and I have the glory firmly fixed in our hearts and minds, we may become discouraged along the way. But in order to have the glory fixed in our minds, we will have to be occupied with the death and sufferings of Christ. That comes first. Now we turn to the 12th chapter, the 41st verse.

Thor has been speaking about. That coming day of his. His coming. Now Peter says in the 41st verse. Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise Stewart, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom is Lord, when he cometh shall find so doing of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he have. This is Peter's call. Doesn't sound like it doesn't. The Lord doesn't say to Peter, now, Peter, you're going to be over the household. He doesn't say that. Here. Peter learns the language that the Lord is going to use with him. Not direct, but that which reaches into his innermost soul. Where he has to weigh things in the presence of the Lord to discover the pathway. God isn't going to tell you that you're to do this or that right out in so many words. You're going to have to discover it in His presence. Communion. Then you'll get the answer for what you're to do, whether it be service or whether it be anything in your life that you're to do. It's a result of communion if you're going to learn it rightly. And it'll be from the Word of God, a principle at least from the word of God. And notice to the reward that he gives him at the same time he tells them when he comes again, he's going to reward it. I'll make him. He will make him ruler over all that he has. Takes care of the household down here. Later day he'll make him ruler over all that he have. Well, we turn to the 18th chapter, the 28th verse. Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that has left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife or children, for the Kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time and in the world to come. Life everlasting. Now Peter, I don't know whether Peter was discouraged or not. It seemed that he was a little bit discouraged. As he saw those around him probably that had wealth and he had just heard from the Lord's lips about this rich young man who had come and wanted to know how he could get eternal life. But he went away sad because he had great possessions. No doubt there was an impression made upon Peter that the path he had taken didn't seem to have much reward to it. Is that the way you feel about the path of faith? I don't know the circumstances of all of you here. Some of you may have more than others. But sometimes. The pathway gets. A little bit trying. We see others and present things. They they become large in front of our eyes and we forget the end of the road. And we forget, too, that the Lord who is leading us is going to provide everything for us here that we need, and then in that coming day, He's

going to give us life everlasting. Do you know of anyone in this world or anything in this world that could measure up to this? Manifold more in this present time is what he promises to the Christian. Who follows in discipleship? And in the end, life everlasting. That's the encouragement for Peter. Is this grace though? We go on to the 21st chapter. Now we come to the Lord's table. Peter's at the Lord's table in picture at least. Well, we noticed in the first in the ninth verse. The time for the Passover and the ninth verse. They said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? And he said unto them, Behold, when you're entered into a city, there shall a man meet you bearing a pitch of water.

Follow him to the house where he entereth in 13th verse. And they went and found as he had said unto them, and they made ready the Passover. And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the 12 apostles with him. And he said unto them with desire, I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. Verse 19 And he took bread. Gave thanks and break it gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you, this doing remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the New Testament in my blood which is shed for you. Now we have the Lord in the midst of His disciples. The occasion is the supper. Passover first, then the supper. It's a beautiful scene, isn't it? The Lord in the midst. But we've been Speaking of in these meetings, the Lord in the midst. We find that. When this takes place, when a soul finds themselves in that particular place, gathered to the precious name of the Lord Jesus. That there is a certain amount of responsibility connected with it. Holiness becometh thine house, oh Lord. And so many things that might have gone on before. Now are brought into the limelight. Because in the presence of the Lord. Some things have to be set aside. Judas is not here. Judas has gone out this night. We learned that from John. It's the heavenly family here on earth with the Lord in the midst. Now look at verse. 24. And there was also a strife. Among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest? Notice that word greatest, greatest. Again, which of them should be counted greatest? Does that belong at the Lord's Table? Comparing one with another. As though that one would be greater than another. No, that doesn't belong with the people of God and at the table. No such thing in the things of God. There's no partiality there. Each one has its place. It's true. One may be an evangelist, one may be a teacher. One may do something else, but remember there's no one greater than another. If it be, be one who was serving and that's what the Lord was doing. And he sets his own example for them, that the one who served was the greatest. Now we find that Peter has to be corrected. He was the leader of the disciples. He had come a long way, that's true. But he still had many lessons to learn, and this was one of them. That he could not strive. Especially about a matter of this kind. Striving does not belong among the people of God. What are you striving about? He's already learned that he has everything in Christ. But he hasn't yet learned his lesson. The Lord is saying certain things to him about the Gentiles, exercise, lordship and so on. But Peter doesn't learn from that. Peter has to go through a deep trial to learn to discover this. Because he hadn't judged it in the 9th chapter, now we didn't read about it in the 9th chapter. But in the 9th chapter they were reasoning which should be the greatest. And if you don't cut the tree down when it's small, you'll have to cut it down when it's big. Sometimes it's pretty hard.

He hadn't judged this sin in the 9th chapter, so he had to judge it in this chapter. And the tree had grown big. They were striving. So. We see the Lord's grace towards Peter and the disciples here and before he says to Peter what he's going to tell him about his own condition, he says 28th, 1st year. They which have continued with me in my temptation. Isn't that lovely? He's correcting Peter and that's what he's saying. Heavenly Grace. Year they which have continued with me in my temptations trials, and I appoint under you a Kingdom, as my Father hath appointed me, that she may eat and drink at my table. In my Kingdom sit on Thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel. The Lord is conditioning Peter for the trial. His setting is his eyes on other things. He's preparing his heart for the trial he's going to pass through. In David's case of another day before David had sinned, the Lord had. As David sat before the Lord, he showed him about his house for a long time to come. That's the way the Lord acts with his own. We don't always treat our children that way, do we? Condition them for the trial in the correction. That's Grace. And that's the way you win your children. That's the way you keep your children. Let them know where they belong and they're dear to you, even though you have to correct them. That's what the Lord is doing here. He lets Peter know how much, how valuable he is to him. And then he says to Peter. Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as weak, but I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not. And when the art converted, strengthen thy brethren. You know when we go through trial, Satan has a place in it. If you were to read the book of Job carefully, where we get a pattern of this. See certain agents employed in this. First of all, you would see. The sons of God which are angels in the book of Joel. Then you see Satan. You'd see Job the elect. You'd see his kindred. Who oppose him? You see his three friends. Who? Just caused him a lot of trouble. And finally you see Elihu, the daisman that stands between. And then you see the Lord. Now you don't know this, but this is what's true in generally in the trials that the Christian passes through. These are the agents employed. Not simply amidst the people gathered to the Lord's name. Israel was the people of God, but God was dealing with Job, a man outside of the the country of Israel. And the same principles applied. To Job as it did to Israel and does today, those are God's ways. Satan, the desire to have you. But remember, Satan can't touch one believer unless God lets him do it. He desired to heaven and the Lord allows him in measure to correct Peter. Now notice in the 50th verse. Someone uses the sword. Someone uses the sword. John is the one who tells us who it was. It was Peter. Peter used the sword.

Peter said that he wouldn't deny him. That the Lord told him before the **** troll crow that would deny me thrice. Again, we see the Son of Man, and that's what lukes about the Son of Man. He has control of the birds of the air and the beasts of the field. He's created that bird for that purpose. For this very occasion, the Son of Man, he has control of them, just like he had control of the fish in the sea, to bring the coin to him. He had to control the fall of an *** to ride upon unbroken. Said a man has control of all this. Oh what a person Jesus is. Now notice in the 50 in the 54th verse at the end of the verse. The fall of Peter is rapid. And Peter followed a far off Peter sat down next verse. Three times, he says. I don't know the man. He said he would die with you, but now he doesn't know him. You see, Peter's fall was not a question of willfulness. It was weakness. You and I are no match for the enemy. He that trusts his own heart as a fool. Peter has to discover that all of his strength lies in the Lord alone. Not in himself. Not one bit of it. Hard lesson to learn, isn't it? Peter has to learn if he's going to be a companion of Jesus, if he's going to serve the Lord, he has to learn it where his strength lies. When Samson gave away his secret, all his strength was gone. Your secret, beloved, is that you're a heavenly citizen when you forget that you've lost your strength as a testimony down here. Peter has to learn. That. There's no strength in Peter to stand against Satan. Satan used the different ones to point directly at Peter, and God allowed it because Peter was being trained. For blessing at his latter end, Peter in the 60th verse said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake the cock crew and the Lord turned and looked on Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him before the **** crow, Thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out and wept bitterly. Now those three days and three nights. Or the part of them. Must have been very bitter for Peter, because you see, Peter's heart was set upon pleasing the Lord. But he didn't have the strength to do it. He was trusting in the wrong person to carry out what he wanted to do. It's entirely different thing from one who finds himself in willful evil. Entirely different thing. Peter's desire was to please the Lord. And yet he found that he was in trouble because he was trusting in his own heart. Bitterly now, we turn over to the. 24th chapter. 33rd verse and they rose up the same hour. Have returned to Jerusalem. These are the ones on the way to Emmaus. We can't read it all. And found the 11 gathered together and then that were with them

saying the Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. Now we learn from Corinthians that. Peter was the first one of the apostles that the Lord appeared to after his resurrection.

It's true that he did appear to some of the women. But Peter was the first one of the apostles that the Lord appeared to. And why was this? Because Peter's heart was broken, that's why. All the grace of our Lord Jesus, He didn't allow a moment to elapse. He went right to Peter on his resurrection to restore his soul. And that's the present work of our blessed Savior on high to restore our souls. Or to keep us in the path as the case may be. That appeared under Simon. Oh how much that means. Hath appeared unto Simon. The Lord is risen indeed, and appeared unto Simon. Now we turn to Acts. Acts 2. Verse 41. Peter is preaching now. Peter has come out of school, shall we say, not entirely, because he has a great deal more to learn in the pathway, but now he's prepared as a servant. The day of Pentecost has come. And Peter stands up fearlessly and proclaims the glories of his master and the guilt of the nation that has slain him. We have here then they that gladly received his word were baptized, and the same day they were added more added unto them, about 3000 souls. If you read in a chapter 2 following, you'll find that there were 4000 on another occasion. This couldn't be if Peter had not been prepared for it. No, this is the end of a of a schooling that Peter was put through where he could stand up fearlessly in the power of the Holy Spirit, not in the flesh as he was before. He has power now to stand, stand in the face, prison or whatever it may be, or death. And at the end of Peter's life, history tells us, not the scriptures, that Peter, when he was to be crucified, he requested that he be crucified upside down because he didn't feel that he was worthy of being crucified like his master. I say history tells us this, not the word of God. Oh, what a change had taken place in Peter the. Result of that gracious master that is working with each one of us individually today. Now in the closing, I just want to read what Peter says in his epistle at the end of the first Peter. In the 10th verse. Of the 5th chapter, first Peter. It's a lovely closing to statement for what we've had before us. But the God of all grace, just think of it. The God of all grace. Peters learned this now. The God of all grace. Who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus. After that she have suffered a while. Make you perfect, establish strength and settle you to Him. Be glory, dominion forever. And ever Amen should we sing that little hymn? 47 Grace taught our wandering feet to tread the heavenly road and new supplies each hour we meet while traveling home to God.

Toledo Conference: 1973, Sodoms Last Night

Address—C.E. Lunden

The first scripture I like to read is in the 19th of John's Gospel. The 30th verse of John 19. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished. He bowed his head and gave up the ghost. 34th Verse But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came their out blood and water. And he that sought their record, and his record is true, and he knoweth that he stepped through, that he might believe. But these things were done, that the Scripture should be fulfilled. A bowl of him shall not be broken. And again another Scripture said, They shall look on him whom they appeared. Matthew's Gospel. The 15th chapter. Verse 21. Then Jesus went thence and departed into the coast of Tyre and Sidon. The older woman of Canaan came out of the same coast and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord. Thou son of David, my daughters grievously vexed with the devil. And he answered her not a word. And his disciples came beside him, saying, Send her away, for she cries after us. But he answered and said, I'm not sent, but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Then came see, and worshiped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said it is not neat to take the children's bread and to cast it to dogs. He said truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, Woman, great is thy face, be it unto thee, even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. We have in this little passage we've just read in Matthew. A soul that had a need. And she came to Jesus. We find that. It was only the Lord Jesus that could meet her needs. And we learn from the Word of God that the only way the Lord Jesus could meet her needs. Was on the ground of what we read in the 19th chapter of John's Gospel. We find this woman was under a curse. He belonged to Tyre. He was a Canaanite. First would be Canaan. The dear friend tonight, do you know that? According to Galatians. Everyone is under a curse who does not continue. In the law and yet pretend to keep it. I would like to ask you tonight, on what basis do you expect? To find your way to heaven. If it's on the basis of human righteousness. We find that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness for all those who believe. There's only one thing that will meet man's needs, and we learn it from this little passage, and that's mercy. Mercy. Oh, how wonderful. The mercy of God. And dear Christian friends, and I, you and I will sing of that mercy forever. The mercy of God. The mercy that reached down because of our need. Here we have a poor woman who comes first of all, seeking to plead on the ground that he's the son of David, but he won't hear her. No, because he came for the lost sheep of the House of Israel, and she had no claim whatsoever on Jesus. Nor do you. Now there's only one ground. That we can come to God upon as sinners, and that ground is mercy. Mercy. And the reason that God can show mercy to the Sinner is because the Lord Jesus get his precious blood. To put away every spot and every stain. That you and I might go free. And the Word of God says, If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus. And blame the 9 hearts that God has raised him from the dead. Thou shalt be saved.

He that despiseth the word shall be destroyed. That he that regardeth the commandment shall be rewarded. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses from all sins. Nothing else. And it isn't how much you know, beloved or your intelligence and these things. No, it's the touch of the garment. Like that woman who simply reached out and touched the garment of Jesus. He was made whole. Oh what a savior, how near God has come to us. As we find the rest of that passage of Romans 10, the word is nigh thee, even in thine heart. The thy mouth, thy heart. The Word of Faith which we speak. Yes, the Word of Faith. Just to confess that precious name of Jesus. That's how simple it is. You're not going to get saved tonight, dear friend, because of some particular discourse you'll hear. You will be saved only if you receive Christ as your own personal Savior. Come on the ground of mercy because of your needs. Here's a woman who comes, she has no claim whatsoever, and you know what she says? Lord help me. Have you ever confessed that precious name of Jesus and own him as Lord? He that tumbles to me I will in no wise cast out. And you know his answer. Well, first of all, he says, it isn't me to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs. But she gives an answer. I thought it was so nice. The little dog takes the crumbs from under the table. They were allowed that, you know. And you're allowed to crumbs tonight. Making a pretty low place, isn't it? You're allowed to crumble tonight. But all you're going to find out it's more than crumbs. Because all of Heaven's provision is for you, dear friend. As we read of the prodigal who was clothed once he confessed he would send. The clothes are the best robe, shoes in his feet, ringing his fingers. Batted calf. Everything provided for the one who simply confesses Jesus as Savior. And if you're without Christ tonight, if you don't know your destiny, if you can't lay your head on your pillow tonight and know. Where you're going to spend eternity, Take Jesus now. He is the Savior. There is no other name given under heaven among men.

Whereby we must be saved just one precious name. Yes, and that name is sweet to every believer, and it will be sweet to you tonight if you take Him as your savior. Friend, where will you spend your eternity? Have you thought of it? Someone told me once they didn't care where they spent to return the teeth, but I knew they did. And I know you care tonight. But you know what keeps you from the Savior Either? Your habits. Or your companion. Isn't it true? Yes, something in the way isn't there to keep you from Jesus. Is a day coming when you're going to need a friend bad and the other friends will be gone, your relatives will be gone, all those you trusted in will be gone. But Jesus will be there. Have you put your trust in Him? Thorough, solemn. The gospel message, and yet, how precious. It delivers the soul for all eternity by simply Believing. And so when this woman says, the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table, he he says, Great as I say, be it unto the even as I will. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. Now what was the basis of all this? Ah, the Lord Jesus, we were singing went to the cross of Calvary and he went through those hours of darkness there. He was made sin for us, the one who knew no sin. He bore our sins in his own body on the tree, if you believe. Oh yes. He took our place.

And so the one who simply believes is free. The other night I'd like to speak particularly though. About an angel's Hand Have you ever heard of an angel's hand laying hold of a man? That's what I'd like to speak about tonight. An angel's hands, or, if you please, the last night of Sodom. It's a solemn subject. And I'd like you to turn with me. First of all to second, Peter. Second Peter, the 2nd chapter. Sex verse turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overflow, making them an example under those that after should live ungodly and deliver just lot vexed with a filthy conversation of the wicked. That word filthy couldn't be read abandoned conversation because it's Speaking of the very day in which we're living an example. And that's what characterizes our day. For that righteous man dwelling among them in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day-to-day with their unlawful deeds. The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished. Luke's Gospel, the 17th chapter. Verse 28. Luke 17 and 28. Likewise also, as it was in the days of lot, they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded. But the same day the lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even thou shalt it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed in that day. He which shall be upon the housetop and his stuff. In the house, let him not come down to take it away, and he that is in the field, let him not let him likewise not return back. Remember. Lot White. Now I want to connect that word stuff with lots white. Stuff You remember the time when Joseph sent his brethren back to pick to take their father and bring their father to them. In the land of Goshen. After he had instructed them, he said regard not the stuff. For all the land of Egypt is yours, all the wealth of that land is yours. Regard, not the stuff. Now that's connected with this expression. Remember Lot? Why? Oh, this is a solemn subject, dear friend. Because we are reminded here of the awful judgment that fell upon that. Group of cities in the plains and you get a little word here that says all. There was nothing left. Now this is a picture of the judgment that will fall upon Christendom. They shall not escape, it says in Thessalonians. 1St Thessalonians 5 says they shall not escape what the solemn judgments that will roll over Christendom. And what does that have to do with lots? Didn't she live in the House of a righteous man? And yet the judgment took her. You dear young people here tonight. Many of you have sat under the ministry of God's Word in your little meeting room. From their infancy, you've heard the gospel of the grace of God over and over again. Are you going to be like Lot's wife? End up a pillar of salt. The judgment of God coming over you. We've spoken of the gospel, the tender pleadings of the Spirit of God, how God has provided everything for you, a Savior, that precious blood that flows from Calvary Cross from each side. What have you done about it? Turn this May to the 19th chapter or the 13th chapter of Genesis first.

We've had this subject before us in these meetings. Abraham Lot. Unsold. And I felt constrained as the meeting went on. Having been asked to speak, I felt constrained to say just a little more about this subject in detail. In the 13th chapter, has much been said about. Life and his choice. But we'll read it. The 10th verse and Lot lifted up his eyes. In this plane of Jordan that it was well watered everywhere before the Lord destroyed Sodom Gomorrah. Even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest. And Tsar. Then Lot tells him all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated themselves, the one from the other. Abraham dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plains. And catch these tents towards Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked. And sinners before the Lord exceedingly. Now turn to the. 19th chapter. And there came two angels to Sodom, and Even, and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom, and Lot, seeing them, rose up to meet them. And he bowed himself, with his face short the ground, and he said, Behold, now, my Lord, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and carry all night. Wash your feet, you shall rise up early and go on your way. And they said nay, but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly, and they turned in onto him and entered into his house. And he made them a feat, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. Verse 12. And the man said unto Lot. Hast thou hear any besides done in law, thy son? Thy daughters, whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place, where we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxed and great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and set up, Get you out of this place, so the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked under his sons in law. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife and thy two daughters which are here. Or are found, lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand. And upon the hand of his wife. And upon the hand of his two daughters. The Lord being merciful unto him. And they brought him forth and set him without the city. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth broad, that he said, Escape to thy life. Look not behind thee, neither say thou in all the plains escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed and locked. Said unto him, Oh not so, my Lord, ye hold now thy servant have found grace in thy sight. Thus magnify thy mercy, which Thou showed unto me in saving my life, and I cannot escape to the mountains. But some evil take me, and I die. Behold, now this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little 10 Let me escape thither. Is it not a little one my soul to live? He said an MC, I've accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city for the which thou hast spoken. Hasty escape thither, for I cannot do anything to thou. Become thither. Therefore, the name of the city was called Zoar. The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zohar. Then the Lord reigned upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah, brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities in all the plains and all the inhabitants of the city. And that which grew upon the ground.

But his wife looked back from behind him. She became a pillar of salt. Abraham got up early. In the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord. That he looked towards Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and behold, and lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace. It came to pass when God destroyed the cities of the plains, that God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lotwell. We have in the passage that we read in the 13th chapter. The first thing that's mentioned is strife between Abraham's Herdman and Lot. Heard them. The next thing we have is Lot lifting up his eyes. And looking toward Sodom. The next thing we have? Is Lot pitching his tent towards Sodom? In the 19th chapter we find he has a house in Sodom. And then we see him sitting in the Gate of Sodom. I'm sure he never intended to sit in the gate and be a judge in that city when he left Abraham. Dear young people. Dear young parents, there's a solemn warning here for both. In fact, there is no person in this room this evening. But what? There's a solemn warning for us here. It was Abraham, as we were told today, who led Lot. Down into Egypt.

There he got the first touch of the world. The world. Yes, oh, what a solemn thing it is. And you know, all Abraham got out of Egypt was. The money to bury his wife with, to buy the field for the grave. That's all he got out of Egypt. No, he didn't gain anything to go to Egypt. He lost. If you and I, dear fellow Christians, take the wrong path, we're going to lead someone astray. But if we take the right path, we're going to lead someone into blessing. And we see Lot making up his mind now, not on the ground of the truth he had received with Abraham. If we had time, we could trace him from the mouth of that river Euphrates. As he goes up that valley of Mesopotamia to Heron. All the luxuries that were there that he left behind. Yes, Lot went along. He went quite a ways in the path of faith. But there came a time of parting. A time when his eyes no longer saw him who was invisible. And he turned aside. As his eyes looked on present things. What does this have to do with Lot's wife? The stuff. All the stuff, and all the stuff does is hinder our souls, beloved. It doesn't matter whether it's an unsaved person or whether it's a saved person. The stuff hinders our soul. Regard, not the stuff. The warning in Luke was don't go back to the house. Stop or don't go into the house to get the stuff please, please. You know this stuff isn't going to help your soul. There never was a day when there was more stuff to hinder. The sorrow coming to Christ. Yes, and it was the stuff. But kept locked back, locked twice back in Sodom. Her heart was in Sodom. The stuff. Yes, we find Lot on his way now. To Sodom, all he could see was the well watered plains. But it says the men were wicked exceedingly before God. No, what a solemn thing it is to put ourselves in the place of evil. And temptation. And how Solomon is for us to put our children in the place of evil and temptation. Now, what will happen at the end of our course, dear friends? Tonight, How about the end of your court? How about the last night of your life?

How about the end for those dear children of yours? Know how many things we have here to exercise our soul? Lord is courteous to these strangers, these two angels. But you know, he doesn't think along the lines of these two angels like Abraham did. These two angels came, and there was a third one, who was the Lord. In a previous chapter and they Abraham spreads the feast for them under the tree. That speaks of the cross. And they were refreshed. But there's only one thing that ever indicated. That lot was a believer in the Old Testament. And that was one thing that he gave these men was unleavened bread. It speaks of Christ to never sin or could sin. The only indication that Lot was a believer? We have to go to the New Testament to find out that he was a righteous man. Yes, and now we find that the angels would rather stay on the street all night. Then go into Locke's house. Is that a word from my conscience, your dear fellow Christian? Let the heavenly visitor rather stay on the street all night than to go into your house. The word of God says, What hast thou in the house? It says, What hast thou seen? What have I seen in thine house? Yes, but he persuaded them when they came in. But it was not a greeting like it was with Abraham. And we find the evil rises to the highest point in that city that night. The angels had gone down to see whether it actually was sold or how slow God is to judgment. And we find that the time had come when God must judge. And how do you know, dear friend, tonight? But what the time has come when God's judgment must fall in this world? One moment we could be gone. Those who are believers. And all the rest will be left for judgment. All. We learned in Luke all. 1St Thessalonians 5 all. Yes, they shall not escape the judgment. But God doesn't will the death of any. It's not his desire that any should perish. He provided a savior, as we noted, the one who shed his precious blood, that you and I might escape. Now lot. We don't think he was very faithful in his house. We don't believe that he was teaching his children. We wonder if he even taught his wife. We wonder sometimes. The things of God. He was busy in the politics of the city. A wicked city it was. And now we find. That there's a message that goes out and these angels shall lot. It's a solemn message. Hast thou hear any besides, Oh, how cutting that is to the heart? Do you have any loved ones in the City of Destruction that are going to be left behind? And you and I praying, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, are we in earnest about these loved ones? Hast thou hear any besides? Done in law. Sons. Daughters. Well, I remember reading about Judah. He was in earnest when Benjamin was in prison. And he says that, Joseph, how can I go to my father, and the lad be not with me? Is that the way you feel, father and mother about your loved ones? Are you unconcerned? Are you indifferent? Do you think possibly like Lot's wife? Well, I don't think God is going to destroy this city. It looks all right. I suppose that's what you thought. And yes.

God is appointed a day in which he will judge this world. And righteousness by that man that is ordained, and he is given witness unto all men. He's raised him from the dead. Oh, what a solemn day is coming when the very streets of this city will be empty. Yes, the last sound will be heard. Everything will be quiet. Judgment will take all. And if you haven't been taken home in the Rapture, you'll be left here for judgment. But a solemn thing that this is to consider, dear friend. And how about the children? How about the brothers and sisters? The sons, The daughters. Are we concerned about this? We have noticed the words. Of a man. Carry all night and rest yourselves. What are the words of angels? We will abide in the street all night. Again. The words of angels. We will destroy this place. A lot has said why in the morning you can go your way, no? Things are going to happen the next morning. Things are going to happen. 15 first, and when the morning arose, then the Angel hastened Lot. They arrived. Take thy wife and thy two daughters, which are here, lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. Yes. Was there any response while he lingered? Oh, how the heart gets wrapped up in this world, even of the Christians, the believer. Present things take possession. Being overcharged with the cares of this life. All these hindrances are habits. Or even our companions to hinder us as to heavenly and spiritual things. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand. I don't recall any other place where an Angel took the hold of the hand of a man. And his wife. And his two daughters. Perhaps there is. Think of it. Angel of God coming down and laying hold of the hand. Dear friend, that's what he wants to do to your hand tonight if you're unsafe. Yes, he wants to drag you out of this place. Because it's going to be destroyed. It's the mercy of God. Now I notice he doesn't take him into the City of refuse. The Angel doesn't do that. He simply. As Peter says, the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation. How does it get in the city of Refuge? He has to go in by faith. What is faith? Faith comes by hearing. Hearing by the Word of God is just that simple. Have you believed God? Do you believe God? You can show it by accepting Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. Well, they brought them forth, he said. Escape for thy life. Now here we have that which faceless acts on. First thing is escape for thy life, the next is look not behind thee, neither stay thou all the flames. Lest thou be consumed. Now, there were two things that characterized. The response? Here on the part of Lot's wife. We learn as we read on that he looked from behind him. And he became a pillar of salt in the 26th verse. What does this tell us? It tells us that he regarded the stuff. More than the message of the Angel.

That connect with Luke's gospel. He was on the housetop, not returning to the house. For his stuff, remember Lot's wife. Remember Lot's wife? He was more interested in the stuff. How about you tonight? Oh, I'll think about that tomorrow, you say? Next week when I get older. I have too much to be occupied with now. But you don't know what a day will bring forth. And you picture these people this very night going off, as it were, peacefully. To sleep. Expecting another day. And the sun did rise the next day. That they never completed their day. Not a one of them. Not a one except those. That the angel's hands were laid upon, and one of those did not escape. Yes, although she had a particular judgment of her own. Very singular judgment upon Lot's wife. He didn't fall with the. With the rest of the city. No, she became a pillar of salt. He became an example as we learn in Jude. For those who afterwards. That lived wickedly. No Ungodly. And what does it mean to live ungodly? Just to leave God out of your life? That's all. And if you haven't taken Jesus, dear one tonight as your own personal Savior, you're

living ungodly. Ungodly. You may be the best citizen of this city that you're living ungodly if you're without Christ. God invites you to take Jesus your Savior, but God commands you, dear friend. He's commanded all men everywhere to repent and believe the gospel. And it's on that basis that he will judge in that coming day by Christ Jesus for disobedience. And unbelief and these two things which mark Lot's wife, disobedience and unbelief are the two things that characterize Christendom today. Disobedience to the Word of God. Unbelief. It won't happen. Surely it won't happen, they say. But it will happen. Yes, it will happen. This was the last night of Sodom. Now a lot begins to argue with the Lord in the 18th verse. I suppose this was his habit. About yours. To argue with God. If you don't obey his words, it's the same as arguing with him, isn't it? Oh, what a solemn thing it is to hear the word of God and refuse to act upon it. And lots been in the habit of this. His whole life is checkered with disobedience to the Word of God. He knew all about Abraham and his blessings on the top of the mountain. But he turned aside to the things that. Satisfied the flesh. You know, I'm thinking right now of a little tiny creature, very small. That I read about. I don't remember the name of this little preacher. But it destroys Air Hills. In Ant colony, one little creature. And the way it does, it goes into this little colony and suddenly the ants rush upon it to destroy it because it's an intruder. And as soon as they get near it, a sweet aroma. Cut it forth from this little creature and they're stupefied. And they make friends with it. Until it finally destroys the whole Ant hill. That's what happens a lot.

Oh, how clever Satan is. He comes forth as an Angel of light. And he tells you that the pleasures of sin are what you want because there are pleasures, you know, in sin, but they're only for a season. Are you going to sell your soul for the pleasures of sin for a season? A lot didn't go all the way. But he went a long way. And lots of saved those by fire. Now what are you and what will I have? The last night of our lives here, what will we have? Scripture speaks in the book of Jude about autumnal trees. What does it mean? Without proof. Blankens been to autumnal trees, that is, trees in autumn without fruit. And when all the leaves disappear, what's going to be left? The leaves speak of the glory. The outward covering and. When all the leaves drop off, what will be left? All my friend tonight. Are you going to end your last night like Lot did? How about the children now? In the 23rd verse, the sun was risen. Upon the earth, when Lot entered into the Zor, then the Lord reigned upon Sodom von Gamora, brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven, and he overthrew those cities in all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. Oh, how solemn this is here. She had all the privileges of locked house. The privilege is. Of the House of a righteous land. If she didn't hear, she could have inquired. God had a great deal to tell her, I'm sure, about his experiences with Abraham. And how the God of glory had appeared unto Abraham. Called him out of Mesopotamia to a. To a place that he would show him and then afterwards give him. No, Lot didn't have the seven appearances. Of God to him, like Abraham did. No, he didn't. He did have an appearance though. When the angel's hand grabbed his hand and threw him out of the city. But it was being saved so as by fire. Oh dear friends, tonight. I want to warn you. Lane of the coming judgment of God upon this world. And if you and I are taken home as Christians tonight? The judgment will soon fall. What a solemn thing it is, for those will be left behind. When the doors closed forever and they'll knock. And there will be no response. The door will be shut and shut forever. Want to come to the Lord Jesus tonight before it's too late? Won't you receive Him as your own personal savior? Father and mother take stock. And the lesson that we have here about Lot and his family. The time is short, there's just a few days left. The day of the church is soon over. Soon we'll be in the glory about the last night. The angel's hand reaching out drag him out of the city, but they had to go into that city of refuge by faith. Thy faith. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. And thy house never leave that last part of it off thou and thy house. Faith believes this. Faith trusts God for it. My dear friend, tonight, if you're unsaved, remember. The hour is ticking away. Of your history here. And pretty soon, it'll be the last night of your life. As the angels hand dragged you out of the city, well you have been delivered, most of you, from the temptations of this world. But it takes faith to enter into the city of refuge.

Have you had that faith to receive Christ as your own personal Savior? Are you willing to own that precious name tonight? It also confessed with thy mouth the Lord Jesus. Believe in thine heart. The God has raised him from the dead. Thou shalt be saved. Want to do that tonight? Won't you take Jesus as your savior? Are you waiting for another night? It may never come. You know, now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation. Won't you come while it's still tall today? And now we have Abraham. What does he do? All this time? He's on the mountain praying to God. Is his prayer answered? Yes. Yes, and when God overthrew those cities of the plains. He remembered Abraham. And delivered lot out of the overthrow. Oh, what a comfort this is for those. Who have sold? On their heart. Because God answers prayer. They have it here. God answers prayer. And when God overthrew the cities of the plains? He remembered Lot and delivered. He remembered Abraham and delivered Lot out of the overflow overthrow. Remember Lot's wife, dear friend. Remember Lot's wife. You dear young people who have had the privileges of a Christian home. Remember Lot's wife. And don't go any further. Receive Christ as your Savior now while we sing this little song 21. Beside for Christ today. In God's salvation. See yield, soul and body, heart and will to him who died. For thee. They start for Christ today. And. Goodnight for you. The the the. Please do. The God for right today. Thy. Mother. No more. One right today.

Toledo Conference: 1971, Peace

Address—C.E. Lunden

When you turn with me to the 12th chapter of John, please. 23rd verse. And Jesus answered them, saying, the hours come, that the Son of Man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except the corn of wheat fallen into the ground, and die it abideth alone. But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it. And he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me. In Where I am, there shall also my servant be. If any man serve me, him will my father honor. The chapters that go along with the 17th chapter. Which are sometimes spoken of as the Upper Room ministry. Bring the person of the Lord Jesus before us. Now this chapter really is the ending, perhaps of his public ministry. And it's the it's the Greeks or Gentiles that come and inquire. That they would like to see Jesus. Jesus. Oh, what a precious thought, dear brethren, to see Jesus. And so we find that the Lord instructs them that when he's gone, they will see him. But in a different way when the Spirit comes. And that's been our privilege in these meetings to see Jesus. It's been expressed in the heap in the Book of Hebrews, the 2nd chapter. But we see Jesus. Made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death. Crowned with glory and honor. That's where he is now. Our brother has been speaking to us about new creation. We have that here. The corn of wheat falling into the ground and dying. That it does not abide alone. And the kind of fruit that's brought forth is just like itself, just like himself. And how was this? We've had it before us in the meetings. There's no corruption there. No, it's all new creation. It's like himself. The fruit is just like the seed that was planted. And so he speaks here of glory. Glory. Well, in this passage, we're not taken back to

our sins. We're not taken back to our history, but the believer is seen identified with one who has gone down into death and has come up like a corn of wheat that fell into ground and died. And so we have new creation, we have resurrection life here to start with. And I'd like to associate that with discipleship in the next few verses. Now we find that the Lord Jesus gave himself. He spent everything that he had. We learned in the 13th of Matthew for that Pearl of great price. And he appeals to our hearts in these scriptures. Is there going to be a return to him? And so he said. He that loveth his life. This life. Shall lose it. Lose it. I remember a young man who began by. Preaching the gospel in the street, attending the meetings. Taking part. And various activities connected with the Saints. But gradually he began to take up with things outside. And now he's an old man, he has a family grown up in the world. You can't speak to him of the things of Christ.

He lost his life. He lost. But not in the sense of this. No, it says here. He that loveth his life shall lose it, and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. He loved his life in this world. That he lost it, and it says here he that hateth it shall keep it. Until life eternal. The Lord Jesus gave himself for us. Now what is the natural thing for one who has that new nature? To do to respond. Well, to forfeit this present life and all that nature would. Suggest to us. For the one who gave everything for us. I'm going to touch just on a few points this afternoon in these various chapters. And this is the first one. The first one is that new creation and discipleship in response to it. If you'll turn with me to Luke to a verse in connection with this in the 9th chapter. The 57th verse. And it came to pass that as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord. I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes. And the birds of the air have nests, but the son of man is not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. And he said, Lord, suffer me first. To go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead, but go thou and preach the Kingdom of God. Another also said, Lord, I will follow thee, but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God. Now it seems to be that what we have here is fitness for the Kingdom of God. Fitness for the Kingdom of God. I suppose this passage, this last verse, is taken from the history of Elisha and Elijah. As Elijah comes out of the country, he finds Elisha plowing. Now that act speaks, typically, of repentance. Valley, ditches, trenches, plowing, all speak of repentance, state of soul, ready for the water and the blessing. That God has. He cast his mantle upon him, and he runs the following. But. He says let me go. Bid my mother and father farewell, or kiss my father and mother. Which is the real the same meaning? He says, go back again, what have I done to thee? He went back. Nor did he do. He slew the oxen with which he had been plowing. He brings death, beloved, upon everything that belonged to his former core. Why There's a new life, new creation? And now what does he do? He takes the oxygen, and he takes the instruments of the oxygen, and he makes a fire and he. Prepares the flesh for meat for the people of God. That's the ministry of grace. That's what you and I should be occupied with, beloved. The Ministry of Grace. As has been suggested in these meetings, we're sent here. We are not just left here. And what is our ministry? Grace. Grace. And so we find then that. As soon as he does all this, he turns his back on his father and mother. Now, of course.

Scripture doesn't suggest that we dishonor our father, Mother, but the point is that the issues of the Kingdom of God come first. 1St. All how we need to learn this beloved first. Are we occupied with that which belongs to the present, or that which? Belongs to that. Eternal day that lies ahead that we've heard so much about in these meetings. I'm not going to say anymore about that, but we'll turn now to John. 13. These chapters have often been opened up to us and only one appoint to a verse or two in each of these chapters. In this chapter we have cleansing. First we have new creation, and then we have discipleship. Now we have cleansing. And so. It says in this chapter. The fourth verse will not read only a part. He rises from supper, and laid aside his garments, and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples feet. And to wipe them with the towel with he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter, and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now, that thou shalt know hereafter. Peter said unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands in my head. Said unto him, He that is washed needeth not saved to wash his feet, but is clean every width and year clean, but not all. Verse 13. You call me Master and Lord, and you say, well, for so I am. If I, then your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet, for I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you. Now Peter thought the Lord was Speaking of cleansing him in another way. He was thinking of the literal side of things, of washing his feet and the Lord to stoop to do this. He wouldn't have it. But when he tells them that he won't have any part with him if he doesn't, then perhaps the light is beginning to breakthrough to Peter. Oh yes, we have to have our ways cleansed down here. Now how are our ways cleansed? Well, I'll read a verse in the next chapter that will tell us. In the in the you know the 15th chapter and the. 15th chapter. And the third verse. Now you are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Now I know that applies to salvation too. But it applies to the cleansing of our way. The words which I have spoken unto you. And so we find then, that the means of cleansing our ways is the Word of God. We find the exercise of the disciples that they do this to one another. That they wash one another's feet. Now, this wasn't a literal washing of the feet, necessarily. There's certainly nothing wrong with that. To stooping down and taking a little place. But the point here is. That which we learn for our souls. Blessing.

Oh, how good it is that we are taught to love one another, that we are also taught to wash one another's feet. The way of correction is the way of life. And beloved, do I resist correction? Or you say, well, I'd take it from an older brother. I heard a brother say not long ago, he's not going to correct me, I'm older than he is. Is that the Spirit of Christ, beloved? No, no. The way of life. The way of correction, the way of life. Oh, how blessed the end that's in view. And so. He called me Master and Lord 13 first, and you say, well, for so I am. If I then your Lord and Master have washed your feet. You also ought to wash one another's feet, for I have given you an example that she should do as I've done unto you. Now read the 17th verse. If you know these things. Happy are you if you do them. Now we turn to the next chapter. In this chapter we have communion. The person himself leading us into the Father's. How oh how blessed this is. Now I'm not going to read much in this chapter, I'm just going to read the start with the 21St verse. He that hath my commandments and keepeth them. Here it is that loveth me, and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and will manifest. Myself to him. Judah saith unto him, Not a scary at Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man loved me. He will keep my word and my father will love him. And we will come unto him and make our abode with him. Blessed are the boldness is. Experienced in the first chapter of John, when the disciples say Master were dwelleth thou. And he says come and see. Have you ever come to see? Have you ever had the experience of the first chapter of John's Gospel? Come and see. Oh, what a privilege. Now I know it's individual in John. Primarily. But all what a privilege we've had this morning together. But there must first be the individual. Enjoyment of Christ and the soul. And so in the first chapter of John. They, their hearts, have been drawn to the person. Just as in this chapter. And they said, Master, where dwellest thou? Where do you live? He says, come and see. And they abode with them that day. It says. Bless a day, precious day. To have the person of Christ before us in communion. Fellowship. Though it is his desire that we might have this as our continual experience. Not just for an hour. And you, dear young people, were not speaking especially to young people this afternoon. Have you ever tried when you

come home from school Oregon from the job? And you older ones do. Slip in your room and get down your knees, just for a minute, just for a minute. Have you done it?

To keep in touch, to keep happy in your souls. Have you done it? All this is the secret, beloved, and fellowship and communion. Often. You remember the Prophet? Who came to the great woman in the 4th chapter of Second Kings? He came once, and then pretty soon, it says. As often as he came, as often as he came. Is it so with us? Well, we have then Communion. Here. And is connected with the Father's house. Now we notice the order here. There is a new life in the 12th chapter. Then there is discipleship. Then there's cleansing. And what is the cleansing do? Well, it was the custom in that land, and perhaps still is. That if you went to visit someone, they would. Wash your feet. Why? To cleanse all the defilement from the road. That you have traveled. But that wasn't all. To refresh it. To refresh it. Now we'll go back just for a moment to that thought of refreshment. Do you think a sheep is happy if it's defiled? No. A pig might be, but not a sheep. But all when the sheep is cleansed, it's happy. Refreshment. Is there something, beloved, on my conscience this afternoon? On your conscience? That hasn't been judged. Has someone spoken to you and you won't have it? Well, you can't go on refreshing your spirit to enjoy the things of the Father's house. That are spoken of in the 17th of John. You can't do it. Why, oh Holy Father, we have in the 17th of John. Keep to thine own name, those that thou hast given me. Holy Father. There is no communion outside of holiness, beloved. And it's reversed to there's no holiness outside of communion. Again, we speak of that new creation and what belongs to it. Its character is that, and it was manifested in the person of the Lord Jesus when he was here. Not His glory, as will be exhibited in that coming day, but His nature and His character. Oh, how beautiful. To trace these things, these moral glories in the Gospels. As well as in the types of the Old Testament. Well then we've spoken of communion and it says. Will make our abode with him. You know we're going to make our abode up there in the coming day with him. We're going to be with Christ in glory. We're going to be in the Father's house. Are we going to wait until then? To enjoy that fellowship and communion? No, he says. Keep my commandments. And this will be the result. The Walking in obedience and dependence. Then he comes down and the Father comes down to make their abode with us down here, until that day when we go up there. Is that going to be your experience in mind? Now we go to the 15th chapter. Verse 3. Now we have the subject of fruit bearing, because, you know, beloved fruit bearing.

Follows Communion. Just as it does in this order. A new life discipleship. Cleansing Communion. Fruit bearing. Fruit bearing. Verse verse four I should have said. Now we have 3 abides here, the first ones in the fourth verse abide in me. And I in you. Oh, what nearness. He's not talking about when we get to glory. He's talking about now. Abide in me and I and you, as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself. Except to abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me. Now they're in communion. Nice. As you abide there, you abide there. No fruit unless you abide there. Saw precious fruitberry, the result of communion. Not abide in this doctrine or those set of rules. Abide in me. Oh how sweet this is. A precious abide in me. Aren't we in Christ? All right? Abide in the sense of it now, in your soul, by faith. Read the scriptures. Prayer. Abide in me. Now in the. Seventh verse. Well, we read the 6th. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch and is withered. And men gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. This is solemn, isn't it? It doesn't say if ye, it says if a man. If a man. You know, in a day like this, when? Things are getting lighter and lighter in a spiritual way. Sometimes there are those who slip in among the Saints. And pretend to be real, Judas did. I remember 1 morning after the breaking of bread. I noticed a young man who was not in the assembly where we were, but he was visiting with his parents. And I knew that there was something wrong with this young man. I didn't know what it was. But I know that the word of God has power. And so at the close of the meeting, he tried to get out before anyone could reach him, and I reached him before he got away. And this is what I said to him. If he live after the flesh, he shall die, and this is eternal death. He broke down and he confessed the life of sin. But he's still gone. He's still living a life of sin. But he was breaking bread for a good many years. If you live after the flesh, you shall die eternal death. Oh, how solemn. Here's the branch. The man abide not in me is cast forth as a branch. Now I'm not going to pass judgment on this young man. But it's an example, a picture to us. The one who manifests by his ways that he's not real never come back, as far as I know. Still living in that kind of a life. Wickedness. And is withered, and men gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

That's the final end of that course. There are steps here, but there's a final end to it. So it was with Judith. But you know, there are also things that come into our lives that. Where we may slip away and have to be brought back. Through this gracious washing of the feet. The plying of the Word of God to our consciences, and we should be able to admonish one another. We should be in that state of soul. So that we might continue in communion, we might be restored to communion and continuing communion. That there might be fruit. Now this chapter speaks of fruit. More fruit and much fruit. Fruit. More fruit, Much fruit. How is it with us? Well now we have if you abide in me and my words abide in you. You shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you. Do we have our prayers answered or is it because we ask amiss? To consume it upon our lusts, as James says. Do we have the happy? The joy in our soul of seeing our prayers answered. Do we beloved it? Well, here's the order, isn't it? Oh how blessed the Word of God is, how perfect the order, new life, discipleship, cleansing, communion, fruit bearing, prayers answered. Living in the good of Christianity, shall we say? I know the fullness of Christianity isn't brought out in John the beginnings though. And that's what we need, isn't it, to be exercised about these beginnings. Here it is, my father glorified that she bear much. Group how? Well, now we're asking, and now we're bearing much fruit. Asking and our prayers are answered. Though shall ye be my disciples? Now the 9th bird. That little word continue is the same word there as abide. You get the IT referred to in the following verse. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you. Abide ye in my love. Abide ye. In my love. And now how are we going to abide in His love? Well, it explains it then in the next verse. How perfect, how beautiful, how simple scripture is for the heart that wants to learn. The truth of God. If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love. Now. Is there anything simpler than that for our souls this afternoon? And he tells us, as his commandments are not grievous. So to abide then in his love. Now whether you think of it in the sense of being loved yourself by Christ. Or whether you think of the love as that very love, that with which he loved Christ as he went through this world. They're both beautiful to think of. He loves us, but the Father loves us, just as he loves Christ as he went through this world. They're both. Go through how do we have this happiness in our souls? As the next verse says, this joy. Keeping his commandments.

So you say, well, I don't have a definite commandment for this, and I don't have a definite command for that. No, you don't. But do you love him? Isn't that enough? Isn't it strange that we have to resort to scriptures that give us a direct command as to what we should do when we know by being guided by His eye what to do? Walking so close as this to be guided by his eye. We're instructed in the scriptures what to do, there's no question about that. We're instructed in every detail. As to our conduct here. You know, I was Speaking of the practical aspects of these things. I was telling about this young man who had made a profession of Christianity. I'll speak of something else practical too, because I have it on my heart. To just mention this. That. In the day in which we are living, the enemy is coming in. And there's the evidence, beloved,

that many of us are not abiding in His love, practically in our souls. And so I would suggest that. I won't read these scriptures, but I would suggest. For the. Young men and young women and older men and older women to read. First Timothy. The second chapter. And verses 8-9 and 10. In the new translation. And I would suggest also. That. Our dear sisters read Isaiah 47 verses 2:00 and 3:00. There's no mistaking, beloved, that the Word of God covers every part of our conduct. And we will not abide in Christ. If we just slide over these scriptures. We said we'll keep all these words. Someone said to me, oh, that's in the Old Testament, is it? Whose word is it? Admit God's word. Does it have any application to me? Indeed it does. Every word of God is pure. It has its application. A young couple went into assembly. A small assembly. And they handed their letter to the brother. And you know what this faithful brother said? You know, I hate to have to speak of these things, beloved, he said to that. Couple. He turned to the young lady. He says, Do your brethren allow you to break bread? Dressed like that. Isn't that solemn? Isn't that solemn? Is this abiding in Islam? Is this keeping his commandments? Is this in the enjoyment, beloved of his love? Bearing fruit, he sent us here. And it's his desire that we would bear fruit. But how can we bear fruit when the simplest things in our lives are neglected? That we refuse. Absolutely refuse. To bow to the precious holy Word of God. Oh, it's solemn. Well. It says here, if ye 10th verse, if you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you. And that's your joy might be full. Now how is our joy going to be full, beloved? By doing our own way. No, by keeping his commandments. Word from the beginning to end to command our conscience. Rightly divided, of course, to command our conscience. Now the 16th chapter, these things have I spoken unto you, that you should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogue gave the time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God's service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time should come, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go my way to Him that sent me. And none of you asked of me whether goeth out, but because I said these things unto you, sorrow that filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away. But if I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you, that if I depart, I will send him unto you, and when he is come, he will retrieve the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment, and so on. 13 First I'll be it when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all. The truth, For he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak. And he will show you things. Things. To come. We have the Spirit mentioned coming in three different ways in these three chapters, the 14th, 15th and 16th. And in each case, he's spoken of as the spirit of truth. Who? The only three times that I know of in Scripture, except in the Epistle of John where it simply refers to truth contrasted. With evil. He is the spirit of truth. Now in the 14th chapter he was going to leave them orphaned. He was going away, and so the Father would send the Spirit. And he would bring things to their remembrance. In the 15th chapter. We find that. In the end of the chapter, the spirit of tongue coming to bear witness, and they were the bear witness to. When the spirit of truth is come. Testimony there. But now in this chapter, we find they're under persecution. He's telling him about the time when they're going to be in the very path that he took. And they'd be persecuted. Perhaps John was the only one that escaped being a martyr. I don't know. History seems to. Suggest this, that all the rest were martyrs. Persecuted even unto death. But. He's comforting in their hearts with. Things to come. That's what the Spirit of God is doing for those who are under persecution. But you know, it's only those that will live godly inside Jesus that suffer persecution. So remember the order that we have here. The new life, the new creation. Discipleship. The subjection to correction, which is the way of life cleansing, and then that sweet communion. Bearing fruit. Now persecution and how does the chapter end that all close 33rd verse. These things have I spoken unto you, that in me. You might have to. Oh, it doesn't matter what your trial is, beloved. Here's something for your heart.

That didn't mean you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation. These were his disciples that had set their hearts to follow him. They're going to have tribulation. But be of good fear. I have overcome the world.

clickbible.org