

EXCERPTS FROM

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THE
LINK

The Quarterly News Letter of
NORTH ROAD CHAPEL
(EVANGELICAL)

Internet Edition

Everything around us in nature displays something of the glorious character of our God. The humble blades of grass which carpet our fields, the stately trees adorning the countryside, the insects which dance in the sunbeams, the lark which soars into the heavens whose song can be heard long after it has disappeared from sight, the magnificent cattle of our pastures, the balmy air, the falling rain, the rising and the setting of the sun, all displaying His power, His wisdom, His goodness and His glory.

A bright and glorious world however, even such as it was in Eden prior to man's fall, prior to sin entering upon the scene, could only reveal to us a part of God's wonderful character. It could only show us that God was a God of power, that He was Holy, and that He loved that which was like Himself, Holy, pure and perfect, that He could hold fellowship with unfallen man. He, the almighty Creator, could commune and enter into unrestrained enjoyment with the works of His hands. But all the great works of creation could never reveal to us the depths of God's love, and the magnitude of grace.

This precious view of God's character was never seen until man fell,

and sin and death entered this planet, then was brought to light the hidden riches of God's grace. For when man was ruined by his sin and lay helplessly and hopelessly lost, GOD LOVED HIM STILL. While hating his sin He loved the sinner and made provision for man's recovery in the seed of the woman. Thus it was that man's sin brought to light the Sovereign Grace of our God.

It was not man's sin that created that grace, it lay hidden in the heart of the Eternal, but man's sin brought it into exercise and what was already there suddenly shone forth in all its eternal brilliance.

In our "Link" last quarter we were thinking of our individuality with reference to our salvation and security, as we thought of the Shepherd seeking, the Father falling upon the neck of the guilty prodigal, planting on the cheek of his ragged, outcast, wayward boy the kiss of reconciliation, the Saviour turning as He hung upon the cross to speak words of pardon to a dying thief. These are traits in the character of God which all the perfection of Eden could never disclose.

To seek and to save the lost was the mission of our Lord and Saviour,

and as we trace the records through the gospels, over and over again our attention is fixed upon ONE - not the many, but one sheep, one coin, one leper returns to give thanks, one prodigal welcomed home, one thief saved. The Holy Spirit would teach us our own individual importance in the sight of God. He would also teach that our salvation is an individual thing.

To return in thought to nature, it is a fact that not two blades of grass have ever been found alike, no two leaves have ever been found to be identical, even every snowflake which falls in a snowstorm is different. God is a God of infinite variety, so with regard to man the most noble of all His creation, every one of us was born an individual, no one exactly like us before or ever will be again. We shall die as an individual, we shall be raised as an individual. There will never be a replica of any one of us, and this is how God saves us: as INDIVIDUALS. No one can be saved for another, no man can possess the Holy Spirit for another, there is no proxy here, neither can any get through with the crowd, be it family or church. Why? Because every one of us is of peculiar value and interest to God.

In the epistles when dealing with the subject of the church, the Bible says, ye are built in as living stones - not blocks all the same in shape, size and appearance - but stones, every one different, and all perfectly fitting into the structure of the magnificent edifice.

Never let us say that we are so insignificant as to be of no importance. Remember that the Saviour travelled some forty miles one day through the dust and heat, in order to meet a poor outcast at the well of Samaria. Why? Because she was an individual of His choice. See how He reminds the church at Pergamos of one who had long lain in the dust, yet who was deeply graven upon His eternal heart, and so affectionately does the Lord speak of that lowly one as "MY faithful martyr Antipas". He was an individual, chosen in Christ and PRECIOUS. Again in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, He defends from unjust attack a weak woman as she poured over His head the offering of her heart - "Let her alone", says the Master - "She hath done what she could." There never had been, or ever would be to the Lord another woman exactly like this one.

So with us beloved, we are individuals, unique, peculiar to Him, individually created, individually redeemed, individually forgiven, individually born again and indwelt by His Spirit. Banish the thought forever that we are obscure and remote from Him. We are to Him as precious as His own blood. His arms are clasped around us as though there was not another being in the universe but ourselves. Yes, we are individuals in His sight, each one of intrinsic value.

MY NAME FROM THE PALMS OF HIS HANDS
ETERNITY CANNOT ERASE,
IMPRESSED ON HIS HEART IT REMAINS
IN MARKS OF INDELIBLE GRACE

May this little reminder of the GRACE OF GOD WHICH HAS BROUGHT US SALVATION be a help and encouragement to all in our fellowship at North Road, especially to our sick and shut-in friends. The Lord bless you, and may THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY GHOST BE WITH US ALL. AMEN.

W.H.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

The "Drive-In" church services have again been times of tremendous opportunity. Throughout the summer months the Word of God has been faithfully preached. Many families have been present at almost every service. Quite a few express their appreciation, and some have asked for booklets and spoken of help received. Others of course are quite indifferent and drive away as soon as the service commences. When one engages in this type of work it is so obvious how applicable is the parable of the sower. It is indeed a wonderful privilege to sow the good seed of the Word in this way, and those who have been active in helping and standing by, as well as our preachers, have found great joy and blessing in His service. Many of you have stood by us in prayer in your houses, let us all continue together in this that much seed shall yet spring up and bear fruit in the lives of our hearers.