

EXCERPTS FROM

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CONSOLATION FOR THE WEAK.

The history books of the world are full of the names of the great. Speaking generally the men of fame who have stolen the headlines of the historic records have been men of iron, men cast in a rigid mould and who were unbending. Nero stands out for his ruthless brutality, Fame surrounds Caesar because he ruled with a rod of iron, Luther finds a prominent place because he dared to challenge the Pope of Rome, and manfully thundered against the Vatican, Knox also comes into full view, he was a stem and unyielding character; but historians say little of the saintly Rutherford, or of Archbishop Leighton of whom men said "he was never known to lose his temper or to show the slightest sign of anger or displeasure". No! fame ever seeks the rough rugged peaks which tower into the clouds and defy the storms, but cares little for the smooth humble stones of the valley.

We as Christians within the church can so easily allow our thoughts to run along similar lines as to want the bold, the prominent. that which stands out; and to care little for that which is in the background or the shadows.

Perhaps too we look at the lives of the great men of the Scriptures, outstanding characters such as Moses, David, Nehemiah Elijah, John, Peter, Paul, Timothy, and we allot them a special place in our thinking, also men of the past centuries such as Bunyan, Watson, Whitefield, Wesley, Spurgeon, yes these too were giants of the faith. We come to our present day and generation, and we meet and hear Christians, and they preach, they pray, they talk of the things of God, their knowledge of the Scriptures is so vast that we feel we are so weak, so feeble that we do not count for anything. These are wrong and dangerous thoughts to entertain and harbour. Wrong, because every true child of God is precious and of equal value. When God "chose His people before the foundation of the world" it was not "en masse", but as individuals, personal, selective, "God hath from the beginning chosen YOU", reads the scripture, and the cost of the redemption of every elect soul is the same, for with regard to our position in Adam, the Word of God says "There is no difference", and the Blood of Christ is the alone price in every case. Some men may be very prominent in Christian work, (and it is good that God has raised up such) but their ransom price was no higher than any other, the tiniest child cost no less and the greatest redeemed sinner cost no more. As to our standing before God, there are no inferior children in His family, no defective members in His Body, therefore it is a

dangerous thing to make comparison of ourselves by others, for all members have not the same function but all are part of the same Body, and essential to that Body; to think otherwise will both rob us of our joy and also our sense of vocation for every redeemed one is INDISPENSABLE to the Body of Christ, even the weakest, "Those that seem to be more feeble are NECESSARY" says the scripture in 1.COR.12.V.22. In point of fact none of us differ in any way. As to our natural state - ALL dead in sins, as to salvation - ALL redeemed by the Blood of Christ, as to our present life EVERY believer has the same threefold enemy to contend with, the world, the flesh and the devil, and the warfare is continuous with ALL Gods children; although we tend to classify the heroes of the faith, did not Moses fail on occasions? and what of David? Think of Elijah in the wilderness of Beer- Sheba. 1 KINGS. 19.V.or of Peter in the hall of the High Priests palace LK.22.V.54. The Bible rightly states that they were "Men of like passions as we are", JAMES. 5. V. 17, ROMANS. 7.V.19. is common to all the people of God "The good which we would do, we do not, but the evil which we would not, that we do. How does our Heavenly Father deal with us when we err and are guilty of failure, David tells us in Psalm 103. He knoweth our frame, He remembereth we are dust, He is merciful, He forgives, He heals, He restores, indeed the Psalm pulsates with compassion. His ministrations to poor distraught Elijah is set down in great detail in 1.KINGS.19. and His tenderness to the disciple who denied Him thrice is probably unrivalled in the whole of the Bible. To His own the Lord is ever and always "THE GOD OF ALL GRACE" His mercy to us is from everlasting to everlasting.

Isaiah under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost made a wonderful statement concerning the Lord and His dealings with His own in chapter 42 of his prophecy, a statement which the Saviour quoted applying it to Himself in MATT.12.V.20. "A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench, till He send forth judgement unto victory". What encouragement is contained in this verse for those of us who feel our weakness. What in the whole of the world is weaker than a bruised reed, or what more feeble than a smoking flax? A reed growing in a marsh or swamp when bruised cannot sustain the weight of a tiny finch or tit. Think of a smouldering flax, true there is a spark there, but it would appear that even the breath of a small child could extinguish it. Have we ever felt as low as this, as to be just a bruised reed or a smouldering flax? If so this word is for us. NO! says the Word of the Almighty, such an one will NEVER be broken, he or she will NEVER be extinguished. Bruised reeds and smoking flaxes

of themselves may be, indeed are, worthless things, but it is what they are worth when God has finished with them. The value of an article so often does not depend upon the raw material, but it is the workmanship put into it. A ball of clay is little more than just mud, but when taken by the potter and washed, put upon his wheels and moulded, put into the kilns and subjected to the fire, then passing through the process of final decoration it becomes a thing not only of usefulness but also of beauty and value, and we are His workmanship, we are but clay, but the Potter is at work upon us, and in us, and He has a pattern and a design in His Sovereign mind, and "He which hath begun in us a good work, will complete it". A bruised reed of itself is a hopeless, useless thing, but when Gods hand is upon it, He will restore it. He will so perfect it that it will become an instrument to His eternal praise. A reed so restored, so highly polished, so tuned as to be fitted for the orchestra of heaven. The late C.H. Spurgeon likens the saints of God to the reeds and pipes of a huge organ, all making a different sound but each in perfect tune with Gods eternal plan. When the great organ of the eternal city is played, we shall hear the deep bass of the once bruised reed - Peter, sounding in perfect harmony with the clear ring of the soprano pipe - Mary Magdalene, completely harmonizing with the mellow tenor of a once bruised reed who on a cross cried "Lord remember me", and so in that day will peal out as the sound of many waters a chorus from a company which no man can number, and all in absolute concert, yet every instrument in that great orchestra was once a broken reed.

Let any who are feeling their weakness take courage for this is our destiny, there is hope and purpose in our calling, there will not be any out of tune. Our knowledge may be limited our grasp of deeper truths be small, we may find some parts of the Word of God difficult and complicated, but fear not, a bruised reed He will not break, nor will He quench the smoking flax - NEVER! Till He send forth judgement unto victory. To the Christian ultimate triumph and victory is guaranteed, "We shall be more than conquerors through Him that loved us", "The feeblest saint shall win the day, though death and hell obstruct the way". The infirmed, the sad, the discouraged, the weak, as well as the strong shall all come "WITH SINGING UNTO ZION", not one shall be left out, He shall send forth judgement unto victory; the portion of every believer is ultimate triumph through our Redeemer.

To those of us who seek to give and maintain a clear clarion note amidst all the discord and confusion of this

apostate age. we feel so small so feeble at times, our light and witness against the great glare of many modern movements appears but a smoking flax, let us always remember that Gods hand is ever upon His own, both as individuals and as a church, and although we have but "a little strength", much like the church in Philadelphia yet if we keep His Word and do not deny His name, "I also will keep thee", says the Scripture REV.3.V.7-12. At times we may be bruised, never will He allow us to be broken, for His purposes will be accomplished in us and through us, He will keep the flax aglow, He will never extinguish a true spark, and many has been the fire which has been started through the dropping of a smoking flax. So let us continue steadfastly until He shall send forth judgement unto victory. To the sick and elderly, what comfort is in this verse, when age casts its shadow, when the weakness of the human frame becomes apparent, when the profound language of Holy Scripture as found in the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 12, takes on a real meaning, "and the strong men bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, when fears shall be in the way, and the grasshopper shall be a burden", to such this verse is a special promise "The bruised reed I will not break, neither will I quench the smoking flax", "I will strengthen thee" is the promise of the Almighty, "When thy heart and thy flesh faileth I will be the strength of thy heart and thy portion forever". PS.73.V.26.

Even down to old age, all my people shall prove
My Sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs, they shall still in my bosom be borne.

"Until He shall send forth judgement unto victory", The final victory! as portrayed by the two pilgrims in Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress", having reached the very gate of the celestial city Bunyan writes, - "Now I saw in my dream that these two men went in at the gate, and lo!, as they entered they were transfigured, and they had raiment put on them that shone like gold. There were also that met them with harps and crowns and gave them to them; the harps to praise withal and the crowns in token of honour. Then, I heard in my dream that all the bells of the city rang again for joy; and that it was said unto them "Enter ye into the joy of your Lord". I also heard the men themselves singing with a loud voice saying "Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb, forever and ever". Now just as the gates were opened to let in the men, I looked

in after them, and behold the city shone like the sun; the streets also were paved with gold, and in them walked many men with crowns on their heads and palms in their hands and golden harps to praise withal. There were also them that had wings and they answered one to another "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord" and after that they shut up the gates; which when I had seen, I wished myself amongst them".

" A bruised reed He will not break. The smoking flax He will not quench until He shall send forth judgement unto victory". MATT.12.V.20.

"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto YOU abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ". 2.PET.1.V.11

W.H.M.

The desecration of the Sabbath is one of those evident indications of that criminal recklessness, that insane love of pleasure, and that subjection to the government of appetite and passion, which forebodes that the beginning of the end of social happiness and of true national prosperity has arrived. Hence we see how imperative is the duty of parents and of legislators on this subject. The head of every family is obliged, by the command of God, not only to honour this day himself, but to use all the means in his power to secure the observance of it by all those committed to his charge. He is thus not only promoting his own but his children's happiness for nothing is a more sure antagonist force to all the allurements of vice - as nothing tends more strongly to fix in the minds of the young a conviction of the existence and attributes of God - than the solemn keeping of this day. And hence also, legislators are false to their trust who, either by the enactment of laws, or by their example, diminish in the least degree in the minds of a people the reverence due to that day which God has set apart for Himself.

FRANCIS WAYLAND.

FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION

In GENESIS the world was made by God's creative hand,
In EXODUS the Hebrews marched to gain the promised land;
LEVITICUS contains the Law. holy and just and good,
NUMBERS records the tribes enrolled - all sons of Abraham's
blood.

Moses in DEUTERONOMY recounts God's mighty deeds,
Brave JOSHUA unto Canaan's land the host of Israel leads;
In JUDGES their rebellion oft provokes the Lord to smite.
But RUTH records the faith of one well-pleasing in His sight.

In first and second SAMUEL of Jesse's son we read.
Ten tribes in first and second KINGS revolted from his seed;
The first and second CHRONICLES see Judah captive led,
But EZRA leads a remnant back by princely Cyrus' aid.

The city walls of Zion NEHEMIAH builds again,
Whilst ESTHER saves her people from plots of wicked men;
In JOB we read how faith will live beneath affliction's rod,
And all the PSALMS are precious songs to every child of God.

The PROVERBS like a goodly string of precious pearls appear,
ECCLESIASTES teaches man how vain are all things here;
The mystic SONG OF SOLOMON exalts sweet Sharon's rose,
Whilst Christ the Saviour and the King the 'rapt ISAIAH shows.

The warning JEREMIAH apostate Israel scorns,
His plaintive LAMENTATIONS its awful downfall mourns;
EZEKIEL tells in wondrous words of dazzling mysteries,
Whilst glorious things of Christ the Lord DANIEL in vision
sees.

Of judgement and of mercy yet HOSEA loves to tell,
JOEL describes the blessed day when God with man would dwell;
Among Tekoa's husbandmen AMOS received his call,
While OBADIAH prophesied of Edom's final fall.

JONAH enshrines a wondrous type of Christ our Risen Lord,
MICAH pronounces what the Lord requires of man restored;
NAHUM declares that Nineveh the Lord shall overthrow,
A view of Chaldea's coming doom HABAKKUK's verses show.

Next ZEPHANIAH warns the Jews to turn and not be slain,
HAGGAI wrote of those who saw the Temple built again;
ZECHARIAH prophesied of Christ the reigning Lord,
While MALACHI was last to touch the high prophetic chord.

MATTHEW and MARK and LUKE and JOHN the Holy Gospels wrote,
Describing how the Saviour died, His life, and what He taught;
ACTS proves how God was pleased to own His church in every place,
St. Paul in ROMANS teaches us how man is saved by grace.

The apostle in CORINTHIANS instructs, exhorts, reproves,
GALATIANS shows that faith in Christ is what the Father loves;
EPHESIANS and PHILIPPIANS tell Christians what to be,
COLOSSIANS bids us live to God and for eternity.

In THESSALONIANS we are taught the Lord will come from heaven,
In TIMOTHY and TITUS too, an Elder's rule is given;
PHILEMON marks a Christian's love, which only Christians know,
HEBREWS sets the gospel forth, prefigured in the Law.

JAMES makes it clear that empty faith without our works is dead,
While PETER points the narrow way in which the saints are led;
In three epistles see how JOHN on love delights to dwell,
And JUDE gives awful warnings of judgement, wrath, and hell.

The REVELATION prophesies of that tremendous day,
When Christ, and Christ alone, shall be the sinner's only stay;
When all mankind He separates and sets on either hand,
Dear reader, ask you heart just now -

"ON WHICH SIDE WILL I STAND"

(Anon)

"I believe that much of current Arminianism is simply
ignorance of gospel doctrine. The work of regeneration,
conversion, sanctification and faith, is not an act of man's
free will and power, but of the mighty efficacious and
irresistible grace of God".

C.H. SPURGEON.

"No more soul-destroying doctrine could well be devised
than the doctrine that sinners can regenerate themselves, and
repent and believe just when they please. As it is a truth
both of Scripture and of experience that the unrenewed man can
do nothing of himself to secure his salvation, it is essential
that he should be brought to a practical conviction of that
truth. When thus convinced, and not before, he seeks help from
the only source whence it can be obtained".

CHARLES HODGE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

At the time of writing this report there are four "Drive-in" Church services left to be held, and what a season of witness this has been. As the Word of God has been faithfully preached literally thousands of seeds have been sown in the hearts and minds of the many hundreds of people who have come within range of the preacher's voice. That word, "Shall accomplish that which I please" says the Almighty in ISAIAH 55.V.11. That word spoken, can by the Holy Spirit's power result in eternal salvation, it can be to eternal condemnation. Once in the mind, it is there for eternity; in time, it can be brushed aside, maybe forgotten, but in eternity when man stands before his Maker and the memory is unlocked by Divine power, so will unfold EVERY detail of life, and that seed which fell by the wayside or in a stony heart will be the worm which will never die, (continually gnawing at the heart), and the fire tormenting the soul which shall never be quenched. How burdened we should be. ever praying; for the quickening power of the Holy Spirit.

It has been a great joy as we have all worked together in this each one who has been able, present to help in so many ways and to support, just as the eleven stood with Peter on the day of Pentecost. In this witness to the saving; power of the gospel "We are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish; to the one we are a savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life; and who is sufficient for these things?" 2.COR. V 15-16.

Looking back over the past months in all the meetings we must record the faithfulness of our God, our souls have been fed with the "Finest of the wheat". The current quarter brings the annual meeting of the Trinitarian Bible Society, also our Annual Church Meeting. Again, it will be seen in the Church Calendar that some will be visiting us for the first time, we pray for them, and look forward to their visits.

Our numbers have been weakened of late, and many are elderly, let us all who are able "keep rank". "I will go in the strength of the Lord God, I will make mention of Thy righteousness, even of Thine only" PS.71-V.16 Only in this way is witness maintained.