

SOULS FOR CHRIST

The Soul-winner's Manual

Rev Dr Colin N Peckham

INTRODUCTION

“He who wins souls is wise” (Prov.11:30), is not just to be an ambition for a few choice souls who wish to be accounted wise in the sight of God, but rather a statement which sets out the great task in which every believer is involved because of his or her relationship with God. Every believer is primarily a missionary!

Not only must there be the spiritual equipment of the fullness of the Spirit but there is also a divine art to soul-winning. I trust that this little booklet will challenge us all and help us in our spiritual lives and practical activities as we seek to be involved in the great task of leading men and women to Christ.

The book sets out the reasons for evangelism, the methods used, the answers given and the theology affecting evangelism and soul-winning. I trust that it is theological, instructional, practical, inspirational and above all spiritual. May God use it to His glory in sending out and building up His servants for the extension of His kingdom.

Colin N Peckham
October, 2006

1 Kilpunt Gdns., Broxburn, Scotland EH52 5AT UK e-m: drc@peckham.net
(or FM, 2Drum St., Gilmerton, Edinburgh EH17 8QG Scotland, UK)

Contents

Chapter 1 The Case for Evangelism and Soul-winning

Part 1	The Criterion of Scripture	-	it persuades us.
Part 2	The Character of the Church	-	it stimulates us.
Part 3	The Crucifixion of Christ	-	it inflames us.
Part 4	The Condition of Sinful Men	-	it convinces us.
Part 5	The Concern for Man - Our Responsibility	-	it compels us.
Part 6	The Constraint of the Spirit	-	it impels us.
Part 7	The Love of Christ	-	it urges us.
Part 8	The Coming Judgment on the Christian	-	it stirs us.
Part 9	The Compensation, the Incentive of Reward	-	it inspires us.
Part 10	The Commission of Christ	-	it masters us.

Chapter 2 The Method of Soul-winning

Part	1. Qualification: The Personal Qualifications of the Soul-winner
	2. Demonstration. Jesus Christ – Master Soul-winner
	3. Supplication: Prayer in Soul-winning
	4. Application: Use of the Bible in Soul-winning
	5. Memorization: How to memorize Scripture
	6. Direction: Practical Advice to the soul-winner
	7. Presentation: How to lead a soul to Christ
	8. Instruction: Instruction to the New Convert
	9. Selection: A Helpful Selection of Texts in Soul-winning
	10. Motivation. The Motives for Evangelism

Chapter 3 Questions and Answers

Part 1	Do all religions lead to God?
2	What is a Christian?
3	Why do I need to be converted?
4	I have a problem
5	What happens when I become a Christian?

- 6 How do I read the Bible?
- 7 Should I testify?
- 8 What about Worldliness?

Quotations from NKJV & KJV

Chapter 1

THE CASE FOR EVANGELISM AND SOULWINNING

There are no negotiable factors. Evangelism is neither debatable nor optional; it is obligatory. The gospel must be proclaimed! All who know Him must make Him known! The whole church is a missionary community existing for the world and reaching beyond itself in its attempts to win the world.

Jesus Christ came to save the lost, so Christ-likeness is seen not only in holy living but in active and powerful witnessing. God never asks man to become a spiritual recluse, but He commands man to go and tell the story of His love.

Several factors unite to give clarity on the mandate for evangelism and soul-winning, and form the biblical basis for missions.

Part 1

The Criterion of Scripture - it persuades us.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" ¹ "The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness." ² God is the Creator of all things and it is therefore logical for Him to exercise His right and dominion over His creation and insist that all the world should hear His message of redemption.

The great promise that the offspring of a woman "shall bruise your head" ³ was made not to Sarah the mother of the one nation, Israel, but to *Eve* the mother of all living. God is dealing with the world. We read, "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord." ⁴ The Psalmist cries "let the whole earth be filled with His glory." ⁵ "All nations," he claims, "shall call Him blessed." ⁶ "Declare His glory among the nations, His marvellous deeds among all peoples." ⁷ "All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord..." ⁸ God declares, "My Name shall be great among the Gentiles." ⁹

God's purposes are that He might reach His creation. Man was created to be God's companion and God has first claim on his life.

The day came when God said to *Abram*, "all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ¹⁰ and his descendants, the Israelites, "to them were committed the oracles of God." ¹¹ The purpose of this was in order to bless "all peoples on earth" for Abraham would be "heir of the world." ¹²

God sent **Jonah** to the gentile city of Nineveh to preach judgement and repentance - and what a revelation of God's love that was! "And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city..?" said God.¹³ The Ninevites were far beyond the boundaries of Israel and would have perished were it not for Jonah.

In a Messianic psalm, God promises "I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession"¹⁴ Listen to this thrilling prophesy of the Servant of the Lord: "I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth."¹⁵

The Message of Jesus

In the New Testament, that great Servant of the Lord, Jesus Christ, came not only to His own but to all who would receive Him.¹⁶ He ministered not only to the Jews but also to the Samaritans,¹⁷ to the Syrian Phoenician woman,¹⁸ to the Roman centurion's servant.¹⁹ He said, "many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven."²⁰ He claims "this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations."²¹ The church is to be a witness "to the ends of the earth."²² He certainly saw God's great message of salvation spreading all over the world.

The Message of the Early Church

After Pentecost, the church, this living body of Christ on earth, began its task. Its ministry is really the extension of that of the incarnate Lord. **Peter** declared that "the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe,"²³ and despite his prejudices he preached to the Roman Cornelius.²⁴ The Jerusalem Council declared that pagans did not have to become Jews before becoming Christians,²⁵ and the work spread everywhere. "Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. **Philip** went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them"²⁶ **Paul** spoke clearly of his commission when he said, "Then He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.'"²⁷ He and Barnabas, being sent by the church in Antioch, sailed to Cyprus and then on to Asia Minor. Later Paul and Silas went out on a missionary journey, and still later he with Timothy and others travelled on with the glad news of salvation. The missionary character of the Bible is evident everywhere.

In the New Testament, evangelism is the normal expression of vital Christianity. It is neither explained nor justified; it is enacted. Christianity to be Christianity must be missionary. The meaning of the church's existence is to testify to the world concerning Christ's redemption. If we do not comply with this ministry we not only fail in one function, we deny our very nature. The Church is missionary.

Part 2

The Character of the Church - it stimulates us.

We are born to reproduce!

There must ever be the cry of the new-born babe in the community of the saints. The church is a fellowship where those who know Christ are bound together in the Spirit. It is a lecture room where great truths are expounded, an instruction class where teaching on every Christian virtue is given and a nursery where young Christians are nurtured and helped in the early stages of their new lives. It is also a maternity ward where children are born in grace and where new-born babes give their first cries of delight.

One of the things which delights every soul-winner is to hear the person whom he has just led to Christ thank God for his own salvation and then immediately pray for the salvation of someone in his family who is dear to him. It's the mark of reality. He has tasted, and others must come and taste too! He is born to reproduce.

A girl in high school was wonderfully converted. With the thrill of God's love filling her, and realizing the terrible judgment from which she had been saved, she burst into a room full of her friends. "You're all going to hell!" she cried. Plenty of zeal but not much wisdom there. Her immediate desire was for their salvation. She wanted them converted! She was born to reproduce.

"He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus."²⁸

When Philip began to follow Jesus, he immediately "found Nathaniel and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth.' "²⁹

The Samaritan woman who met Christ at the well was so convinced by His searching word that she rushed excitedly back to the town "and said to the men, 'Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?' "³⁰

When Jesus healed the man who was born blind, his exhilarating testimony was, "One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."³¹ So many who have met with the living Christ have the same testimony in the spiritual realm and they give it with great joy and gratitude, "I was blind but now I see!"

When Saul of Tarsus was suddenly converted on the road to Damascus, he was blind for three days, but when the scales fell from his eyes, "Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God."³²

When Peter and John were ordered to stop preaching, they declared boldly before the Sanhedrin, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." ³³

The deep concern of Paul's life was expressed when he cried to the Corinthians, "we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." ³⁴

How spontaneous was Paul's response to the Thessalonians, "So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us." ³⁵

Peter speaking to Christians says, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light...." ³⁶ That was the purpose of their existence. They were to be vehicles of vision, instruments of illumination, the medium of the manifestation of the great God and His wonderful salvation! They were to preach God, to show Him to all the world, and thus they would bring others into God's saving light. They were born to reproduce! "The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?" ³⁷ said Amos. "His Word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not," declared Jeremiah. ³⁸ The nature of the church demands expression, revelation, reproduction!

Part 3

The Crucifixion of Christ - it inflames us.

While the Great Commission is of the utmost importance, the obligation to spread the gospel to all nations depends as much upon the strength of His command to us, as upon the nature of His person in us. God is love, and this love which sent Jesus to the Cross to save sinful man is within us. His spirit of self-denial and sacrifice possesses our lives so that we are united with Him in this great crusade for the salvation of men and women. The more we are controlled by this sacrificial Spirit of Christ, so much the more will we be prepared to be involved in the sacrifice of ourselves, our ideals and our plans, for the sake of the gospel. To deny our involvement and responsibility would be to deny the essential character of the God who indwells us. Evangelism is grounded in the very nature of God.

Not only is Jesus the motivating power within us but He is also the great example to us. Paul states, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation...but humbled Himself...became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." ³⁹

But why did He have to go to a cross? Why did He have to suffer? Why should He be forsaken by God? Why was the cross necessary? Why? Because man could be saved in no other way!

Listen, the eternal counsels of redeeming love demanded it; man's guilty, ruined, helpless condition required it; the glory of God made it indispensable! There was no other way in which the divine glory could be maintained; no other way in which the claims of the throne of God could be answered; no other way in which heaven's majesty could be vindicated, no other way in which the eternal purposes of divine love could be expressed; no other way in which sin could be put away and forgiven; no other way in which Satan and his awesome power could be vanquished; no other way in which God could remain just and yet be the Justifier of ungodly men; no other way in which death could be robbed of its sting, or the grave of its victory; no other way save by the sufferings and death of our blessed Lord Jesus.

When men's sins were forgiven, they were mastered by a passion to share this forgiveness! Men did not spread the gospel because they were advised to do so or because they felt socially responsible. The motive was theological. They went because of the overwhelming experience of God's salvation. They were "redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ"⁴⁰ They received "forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."⁴¹ They were "justified by His blood," and "saved from wrath through Him."⁴² They were reconciled to God "through Christ."⁴³ They were set free from the bondage of sin through the liberating power of the work of Christ upon the cross. They could do nothing else but go and tell the wondrous story of the Cross and its power to save.

This broken body hanging on a Roman cross, scorned by the world, was the atoning sacrifice for the sins of men. Jesus stooped to unbelievable depths in becoming sin for us and receiving God's judgment on sin, but in this abject weakness, God's mighty power prevailed and man's salvation was accomplished. Paul could cry "we preach Christ crucified... Christ the power of God!"⁴⁴ Salvation was real. Through this death, lives are transformed, cultures are uprooted, nations are changed! Nothing moves men like Calvary! The tremendous story of the cross gripped the disciples and stirred them to action. It drew from them devotion and dedication, and gave to them dynamic and direction - and it does the same today!

I must about my Father's business be,
Must work the works of Him that sendeth Me,
Fulfil His will by love's extremity -
I cannot stay! I must go forth! I must!

I must my Father's sacred will now do.
Must preach in Galilean cities too.
My other sheep, them also I must woo -
I cannot stay! I must go forth! I must!

Constrained, compelled by Love's Almighty flow,
 Like flint My face set to the awful woe.
 My inmost soul consumed by Love - I go!
 I cannot stay! I must go forth! I must!

The glory which shall follow I behold,
 The million, million souls, more bright than gold,
 The Lamb be slain and then there be one fold!
 I cannot stay! I must go forth! I must!

Oh soul, and do you claim that He is thine,
 When worldly and self-centred you recline?
 When sacrificial service you decline?
 You do not go, nor can you say, "I must."

Oh God, the bonds that bind us - strong unseen!
 Deliver Lord, set free and make us clean,
 Oh, crucify in us the low and mean!
 That we may hear the words of Christ, "I must!"

Then fill with burning Love so mightily,
 That we will go compelled by Calvary,
 And one in passion, one oh Christ with Thee,
 Will cry with joy, "I must go forth! I must!"

C. N. Peckham.

Part 4

The Condition of Sinful Men - it convinces us

You don't read far in the Word of God before you begin to grasp the awfulness of the sinner's plight. All have gone wrong and have polluted their lives by their selfishness and sinfulness. They have turned from holiness and righteousness, and have tried to find happiness in their own pursuits of pleasure and folly.

Their minds are corrupt,⁴⁵ their imaginations and thoughts are evil,⁴⁶ their conscience is seared,⁴⁷ they are corrupted by deceitful desires,⁴⁸ in their inward parts is every wickedness,⁴⁹ their understanding is darkened,⁵⁰ they are rebellious and stiff-necked,⁵¹ their carnal mind rebels against God⁵² and in this state, the whole world is held accountable to God.⁵³ The depravity is universal.

A world without God! What a sorry picture it makes! Their problem is insoluble, their sickness is incurable, their frustration is interminable, their burden is unbearable, their

disappointment with life's possibilities is intolerable. They are dead in their transgressions and sins and are the objects of God's wrath.⁵⁴

"The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness of men."⁵⁵
 God is angry with the wicked every day.⁵⁶ "Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him..."⁵⁷ Man is corrupt and condemned, doomed and damned"

Who can describe the misery of fallen man! The wrath of God burns against them and hell opens its mouth wide to receive them. They are without hope and without God in the world; they have no refuge as the flood of God's vengeance and righteous anger bursts upon them. Oh, the fierceness and inconceivable fury of divine wrath flashing upon them with almighty power! They shall call "to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!' "⁵⁸ "Men will seek death but will not find it."⁵⁹ Woe! Woe! Woe! Truly men need a Saviour!

Part 5

The Concern for Man (Our Responsibility) - it compels us

Men without Christ are doomed! "Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."⁶⁰ Yet we have the light, "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."⁶¹ Jesus said to His disciples, "you are the light of the world."⁶²
 It is those who have the light of God who must "shine as lights" in this "crooked and perverse generation."⁶³

The gospel is "the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."⁶⁴ We are under obligation to share this dynamic life-transforming force with everyone.⁶⁵ We are in debt to the world and it is our solemn duty and responsibility to discharge that debt to the utmost of our ability. God has made us, like Ezekiel, "a watchman for the house of Israel." God says, "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die' and you give him no warning...to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand."⁶⁶ We are accountable! We are responsible! We are in debt! The task is before us and it is for us to cast ourselves into it with utter consecration and reckless abandon. Torpid ease-loving Christianity is crime! Only white-hot passion will carry the day. The urgency of the situation confronts us and we cannot turn from the sheer responsibility which God places upon us.

They die in their thousands but have no promise upon which they may stand, no illumination to light up their darkness, no Saviour to whom to turn when the way becomes lonely and frightening. Shame on us that we have become used to such things! We are content with our little world and are happy to remain that way. We are absorbed in our limited interests while the world rolls on to its doom. Shame!

Oh that the Lord of the harvest would move us to action! Look, my friend, the harvest is rotting on the fields! It is perishing! Look, look at the awful need, and then look at its vast extent. It is swiftly passing beyond your reach and there is no hope for it. Do you care? Are your hands not stained with the blood of those who would have heard the blessed story of redeeming love had you gone to tell them? Are you guilty? You shall stand on that day before Him when the cries of the doomed and the damned reach up to heaven and you will have to give an account of your wicked waste of time, of your sad disinterest in the salvation of men. See how they perish!

Earnest Christians who have a burning desire to see souls saved are an embarrassment to you! You appreciate their work but to be too deeply involved with them would upset the equilibrium of your life and would place you in a category in which you would prefer your friends not to know you!

Involvement will of necessity bring with it the need of discipline and of sacrifice - and there's the rub! The demands of gospel proclamation cut right across natural inclinations and the Cross takes on new dimensions as we prepare to accept new responsibilities. There will be demands on our time, on our mental and physical powers, on our financial resources, on our social involvements. Are you prepared to give these? The gospel must be proclaimed to all the world!

My brother, my sister, don't stay in your contented, self-orientated state any longer! Come throw yourself into this great battle for souls! If you don't go yourself, send others! Pray! Preach! Sing! Give! Go! Do anything, that souls might be snatched from the clutches of the devil, and that they might be saved from a sure and fearful judgment!

How wonderful, if at the end of the day we are able to say with Paul, "I am innocent of the blood of all men."⁶⁷

Part 6

The Constraint of the Holy Spirit - it impels us

Pentecost was the essential preparation for missions, and missions were its inevitable result. When the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke in languages which the many visitors to Jerusalem understood. At that time "there were

dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.”⁶⁸ God so arranged it that on the day when the church was born, the then known world should hear the gospel representatively. It was a sort of rehearsal in miniature of the great enterprise of world-evangelization which was launched that day. But it would have been futile without the Holy Spirit. He came as the Commander-in-chief of the great world-wide Crusade. Christian missions and the ministry of the Holy Spirit were inseparably linked from the very beginning.

When the Holy Ghost came, they began to speak! Their tongues were loosened and they were immediately transformed into living witnesses to the Gospel. Later we read that they "went everywhere preaching the word."⁶⁹ They were thrust out in the power and liberty of the Spirit of God, and they spread the message everywhere.

Time has not changed God's methods. When the Holy Spirit controls, He sends. The Spirit of God constrained the disciples and they went. "The Holy Spirit said, ' Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"⁷⁰ Down the years He has done it and today the Spirit of God is still sending young people to their friends and acquaintances across the street, and to unknown nations in the ends of the earth.

Here is a compulsion from which we cannot escape. As we daily read the Scriptures and sense God's desires to communicate the gospel to the lost, the Holy Spirit interprets those desires to us. After all, He indwells us and He makes sure that we understand that He wants the gospel to be preached to all the world. The inner urge and constraint will not be silenced. The message is within us. Paul knows the pressure of the divine Spirit when he cries out, "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"⁷¹ He senses the woe of Commission, the woe of Compassion, the woe of Condemnation if he does not go! He must proclaim! He must give expression to the compulsion of the Holy Spirit.

When the church becomes cold and formal, the Holy Spirit is grieved, and because He is not in control, missionary zeal and effort decline. If you or I grow cold toward God and allow materialism and indifference to crowd out His presence, our desires for God and His work will fade and grow faint and missions will lose their interest. But if we return to Him allowing Him to flood our beings and control our lives, we will certainly sense the Big Compelling of the Holy Spirit sending us out to tell the gospel story! How close to God are you my friend? When last did you hear Him speak to you? Are you conscious of the inward compulsion of the Holy Spirit to tell the story of divine love? This is part of God's great plan for the evangelization of the world.

“Whom shall I send?” The prophet heard
When he enraptured saw the Lord;
He rose and went, his spirit stirred,
“Whom shall I send today?”

Whom shall I send? Oh hear the cry!

*Whom shall I send? From sky to sky!
Whom shall I send to bring men nigh?
Whom shall I send today?*

Do the bright youth no longer care?
Do they not see the treasures rare?
Where are they then, oh where, oh where?
Whom shall I send today?

Following far they hear no call!
Sleeping so sound while millions fall!
Do they not care at all - at all?
Whom shall I send today?

Whom shall I send? Oh who will go?
Who then will preach with a voice of woe?
Who will be sped by love's strong bow?
May I send YOU today?

*Lord of the harvest; here am I,
I can no more resist Thy cry -
Cost what it may, to live or die,
Send me, dear Lord, today*

C. N. Peckham

Part 7

The Love of Christ - it urges us

Jesus looked at Peter then uttered those penetrating words: "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" It was a humiliating question. No longer was he Peter, the rock, the apostle. He was just Simon, son of John. It cut to the quick. He had denied His Lord and he knew it - oh, how he knew it! He replied, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus responded with, "Feed My lambs"⁷² The charge was conditioned on the confession of love. Love was the motivating factor of his service. From love to Christ flowed service to men.

When they grasped and experienced what God's love meant in terms of Christ's sacrifice and their salvation, the disciples responded with wholehearted devotion. "The Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."⁷³ cried Paul in amazement and plunged into a life of self-sacrifice showing to what extent he had been gripped by this the ultimate power in the universe, God's great love. John stated candidly, "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us." Because we have come to know Him

and His love is in us, the outcome is evident, "we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." ⁷⁴ The love of Christ motivated sacrificial service.

John brings up the same argument again, "This is love," he declared, "not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." And then comes the corollary, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." ⁷⁵ "We love Him because He first loved us." ⁷⁶

Paul states that "the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." ⁷⁷ He says, "the love of Christ constrains us." ⁷⁸ The Greek word used here speaks of being held firmly or gripped and bound together. We are held in the mighty grip of the love of Christ, so that we would do nothing that would grieve Him, but being bound to Him by this closest tie we are constrained to devote ourselves wholly to Him and to His service. For this reason Christians "should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them." ⁷⁹

Again, sacrificial service flows from the love which was evidenced in His great sacrifice on Calvary.

This love constrained Him to leave His "ivory palaces", to leave the worship and joy of the heavenly realms, to face ignominy and shame, to be downtrodden and rejected, to be an outcast among men. For me! He took my sins, He singled me out from the crowd. He looked at me, and loved me and died for me. What sacrifice! What love!

Gratitude wells up within me and becomes the irrepressible fountain of consecration and service. It bursts out into a passion of burning love which becomes the main spring and driving force of life.

Grateful loving devotion leads the way. How can we keep silent? If this love is poured into my heart and if it fills me, I am forced into action. I am compelled to proclaim my blessed Saviour to whom I owe all that I have and am. I gladly and whole-heartedly obey this loving Master .

This passionate love carries you through difficulties in spite of bitter disappointments. It enables you to witness boldly in the face of persecution. It compels you to devote yourself wholeheartedly to God and the gospel because you know that this will bring glory to your blessed Lord.

And as you go, know for certain that one day others who have heard and responded to His love through you, will, together with you, rejoice for ever in the presence of the One whom you love and serve.

Love so amazing so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Part 8

The Coming Judgment on the Christian - it stirs us

Through salvation we are released from the paralysing terror of the awesome judgments of God upon the wicked, but this does not alter the fact that we as Christian men and women will have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account of how our lives have been spent in the Master's service. "We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."⁸⁰

Jesus told the parable of the landowner renting his vineyard to tenants who ill-treated his servants and eventually killed his son. They had the privilege of being employed and of sharing the crop at harvest time, but they failed and were eventually brought "to a wretched end."⁸¹ The parable speaks of those in the service of God who will suffer the consequences of their unfaithfulness. Jesus also told the parable of the man who distributed to ten of his servants a sum of money before going on a journey. Some of the servants multiplied the money and were rewarded but one hid his money away so that it did not even gain interest. The master was angry and took the money from this servant giving him no reward.⁸² Both parables speak of that great day when we shall stand before the One who gives us a task to do and expects us to do it! "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement."⁸³ "We will all stand before God's judgment seat," and "we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ."⁸⁴

The question of final judgment before God figured prominently in Paul's thought. He says, if a man builds on the foundation of Jesus Christ "with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become manifest; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."⁸⁵

John declared that we are to "have boldness in the day of Judgment,"⁸⁶ and urges his "little children" to continue in Christ "that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."⁸⁷ The judgment is a spur, a goad in the total arsenal of God's weaponry to urge the Christian forward into battle. We must give account and we must not be ashamed!

How bitter will be our lot if on that great day we stand with sagging head - ashamed, ashamed - ashamed! And Christ's look? How it will pierce us, wound us, probe us, run us through! To think that we have grieved Him!

When I stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ
And I see His plan for me;
The plan of my life as it might have been

Had He had His way and I see.

How I blocked Him here, and I checked Him there,
 And I would not yield my will:
 Will there be grief in my Saviour's eyes,
 Grief, though He loves me still?

He would have me rich, and I stand there poor,
 Stripped of all I possess,
 While memory runs like a hunted thing
 Down the years I cannot retrace.

And my desolate heart will well-nigh break
 With the tears that it cannot shed
 I'll cover my face with my empty hands
 And bow my uncrowned head.

Oh Lord of the years that are left to me
 I yield them to Thy hand.
 Break me, melt me and mould me
 To the pattern that Thou hast planned.

Martha Snell Nicholson

Part 9

The Compensation, the Incentive of Reward - it inspires us

In the parable of the man who gave his servants money then went on a journey, the one who hid the money received no reward, yet those who increased theirs through their initiative and hard work were amply rewarded, "Well done, good servant!" his master replied "Because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities."⁸⁸ The day of rewards is coming! Then God "will reveal the counsels of the hearts; and then each one's praise will come from God."⁸⁹

Paul assures us that "whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord"⁹⁰ Jesus speaks of the day when He will return "in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."⁹¹ He stresses the certainty of reward when He says, "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."⁹² Daniel declares that "those who turn many to righteousness," will shine "like the stars forever and ever."⁹³

Right at the very end of the Bible, Jesus speaks again of the reward that He will bring. "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."⁹⁴

I don't want to lose my reward - do you? I don't want to have my heart shown up as having been shallow and superficial, with a burden for lost souls that was but skin-deep. I don't want to be exposed as one who was merely doing his duty with an external show of Christian activity which had neither depth nor worth. My reward will then be small. Paul says that he serves God with his "spirit in the gospel of His Son."⁹⁵ His whole being was in it! He did not spare himself. His service rang true. There was no hypocrisy with Paul; there was no serving God with ulterior motives, looking for the applause of men. No! No! The only reward he desired was that which Christ would give on that great day when he would stand before Him.

"Oh God cleanse us from every desire to gain acclaim and approval, commendation and praise, applause and admiration from men, for if we receive it, we have our reward. Help us to seek Your face that our reward will be received only from You on the day when the secrets of men's hearts will be revealed."

Part 10

The commission of Christ - it masters us

Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."⁹⁶ "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."⁹⁷ Here is the commission and the call. This command of Christ carries supreme authority, not the needs of the heathen. God uses these needs to move us, for Christ told His disciples to "Look at the fields,"⁹⁸ but more important than all is that He sends us. We mustn't emphasize the people's needs to the extent that human sympathy overwhelms the meaning of being sent by Jesus. The great motivating factor underlying all missionary enterprise is the command of Jesus Christ.

The Great Commission comes in the form of a command set in the framework of authority. Jesus says that He has "all authority," "Go therefore!"⁹⁹ It is set in the framework of divine love, "For God so *loved the world* that He gave His only begotten Son ..." ¹⁰⁰ "Go into all *the world* and preach the gospel." ¹⁰¹ It is set in the framework of God's plan, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."¹⁰² It is given in the framework of tenderness and sacrifice: "He showed them His hands and His side" and said to them, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."¹⁰³ It is given in the framework of power and ability: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses," ¹⁰⁴ In their own strength they could not

go, but with His enabling they will fulfil His commission. The fullness of the Spirit was the supreme condition of usefulness.

All these aspects form part of the Great Commission which comes to us with the solemnity of eternity from the Almighty Sovereign Lord. We can do nothing but obey! Down the centuries, men and women have left homes and loved ones to step out into His service. They have gone, yes, and they still go, drawn by the magnetism, compelled by the authority and thrust out in the power of God's Almighty Christ.

The last words which Jesus uttered here on earth are found in Acts 1: 8, "You shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." The last words which escape a man's lips are always important, and how much more so in the case of Jesus Christ - "The end of the earth!" Write them in large letters, will you, "the end of the earth!" As He recedes into heaven these words ring in their ears, "the end of the earth." Can you imagine those disciples ten years later, recounting the sayings of Jesus? Can you hear them say, "and what was it He said at the end? What were His last words?" "We'll never forget it," would come the reply, "He said, 'The end of the earth!'" The words fell with ponderous weight; the vision was imparted! They must go! They had no choice, for did He not say "the end of the earth," and did He not say "Go?"

Rich Christian countries with their numbers of young people standing row upon row singing the missionary hymn. What covenant have you made? What action have you taken? How far have you gone? To what extent are you involved in the task which He entrusted to You? How dare you pray that He will bless your comfortable self-contented existence when there is little reaction in your heart to the Saviour's mighty Word, and when His heart is being wrung by the cry of the dying.

Can it be that you are content with a materialistic outlook, a lukewarm experience with neither vision, passion nor action; a lackadaisical, casual religion with neither burden nor fruitfulness? Is yours a heart upon which a cross is stamped? Listen, He says, "Go!" Who will go?

This "Go" encircles the globe! Have you heard it? Has the call grown faint? Is the Voice no longer heard? Are you not perhaps too far away from Him to hear what He says? Stop! Stand still! Pay attention! Do you hear what He says?

He says "Go!" Oh, take it in! It comes to you again and again. "Go!" "Go!" "Go!" Jesus is looking for both young and older people who will lay all on the altar, and who will tell Him that they will follow Him wherever He leads them!
"O God, set us free to serve You! Oh cleanse us from our sins of selfishness, apathy and indifference! Oh liberate us and send us out into Your glorious service!"

Who will go? Who will respond to God's great call? Will you go?

I heard a call 'Come follow'

That was all.
 Earth's joys grew dim;
 My soul went after Him;
 I rose and followed -
 That was all,
 Will you not follow if you hear His call?

Rudyard. Kipling

Will you bow now, at this moment and pray this prayer, meaning it with all your heart?

"Heavenly Father, recognizing the condition of sinful man and the price paid for man's redemption, realizing the missionary character of the Church of which I am a part and the confirmation of the Word of God, acknowledging Your mighty commission and the responsibility of all who belong to You, I give myself gratefully, unreservedly, totally and for ever to You for You to do with me as You please. Cleanse me from every selfish aim. Take me and send me where you will. My all is on the altar.
 For Christ's sake, Amen.

My hand is on the plough, oh Lord,
 I hear Thy solemn call,
 Thy separating Spirit's sword
 Has claimed and conquered all.

I gladly yield to Thy blest will,
 And know Thy hand will guide
 While my fixed gaze beholds Thee still,
 Nor turns from Thee aside.

Ah yes, the blazing sun will burn,
 The field will be so rough,
 The soil be caked and hard to turn,
 My body cry, "Enough."

The time may come when I shall hear
 Some voice that calls aside,
 To turn from this which now is clear,
 In comfort to abide.

But, oh my God, Thy highest choice!
 Thy will! - my constant cry.
 For I would have no other Voice

To guide me till I die.

To souls in need I now must go,
The gospel they must hear,
To weep, to pray, to bend, to sow -
The peerless pathway here!

Empower with holy strength, oh God,
That nought too hard may be;
That I shall plough with Thee the sod,
Thy garnered harvest see.

Colin N. Peckham

References

Part 1

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Gen. 1: 1 | 2. Psalm 24: 1 | 3. Gen. 3:15 |
| 4. Hab. 2:14 | 5. Psalm 72:19 | 6. Psalm 72:17 |
| 7. Psalm 96: 3 | 8. Psalm 86: 9 | 9. Mal. 1:11 |
| 10. Gen. 12: 3 | 11. Rom. 3: 2 | 12. Rom. 4:13 |
| 13. Jonah 4:11 | 14. Psalm 2: 8 | 15. Isaiah 49: 6 |
| 16. John 1:12 | 17. John 4 | 18. Mark 7:24-30 |
| 19. Luke 7: 2 | 20. Matt. 8:11 | 21. Matt. 24:14 |
| 22. Acts 1: 8 | 23. Acts 15: 7 | 24. Acts 10 |
| 25. Acts 15 | 26. Acts 8: 4-5 | 27. Acts 22:21 |

Part 2

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 28. John 1:41-42 | 29. John 1:45 | 30. John 4:29 |
| 31. John 9:25 | 32. Acts 9:20 | 33. Acts 4:20 |
| 34. II Cor. 5:20 | 35. I Thes. 2: 8 | 36. I Pet. 2: 9 |
| 37. Amos 3: 8 | 38. Jer. 20: 9 | |

Part 3

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 39. Phil. 2: 5-8 | 40. I Pet. 1:19 | 41. Eph. 1: 7 |
| 42. Rom. 5: 9 | 43. II Cor. 5:18 | 44. I Cor. 1:23-24 |

Part 4

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 45. I Tim. 6: 5 | 46. Gen. 6: 5 | 47. I Tim. 4: 2 |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|---------|-----|-------|------|-----|-------|------|
| 48. | Eph. | 4:22 | 49. | Psalm | 5: 9 | 50. | Eph. | 4:18 |
| 51. | Deut. | 31:27 | 52. | Rom. | 8: 7 | 53. | Rom. | 3:19 |
| 54. | Eph. | 2: 1, 3 | 55. | Rom. | 1:18 | 56. | Psalm | 7:12 |
| 57. | Isaiah | 3:11 | 58. | Rev. | 6:16 | 59. | Rev. | 9: 6 |

Part 5

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------|---------|-----|---------|-------|-----|-------|------|
| 60. | II Cor. | 4: 4 | 61. | II Cor. | 4: 6 | 62. | Matt. | 5:14 |
| 63. | Phil. | 2:15-16 | 64. | Rom. | 1:16 | 65. | Rom. | 1:15 |
| 66. | Ezek. | 3:18 | 67. | Acts | 20:26 | | | |

Part 6

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|--------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-------|
| 68. | Acts | 2: 5-6 | 69. | Acts | 8: 4 | 70. | Acts | 13: 2 |
| 71. | I Cor. | 9:16 | | | | | | |

Part 7

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------|----------|-----|---------|------|-----|--------|------|
| 72. | John | 21:15-18 | 73. | Gal. | 2:20 | 74. | I John | 3:16 |
| 75. | I John | 4:10-11 | 76. | I John | 4:19 | 77. | Rom. | 5: 5 |
| 78. | II Cor. | 5:14 | 79. | II Cor. | 5:15 | | | |

Part 8

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------|------|-----|--------|----------|-----|--------|----------|
| 80. | II Cor. | 5:10 | 81. | Matt. | 21:33-41 | 82. | Luke | 19:11-26 |
| 83. | Heb. | 9:27 | 84. | Rom. | 14:10,12 | 85. | I Cor. | 3:12-14 |
| 86. | I John | 4:17 | 87. | I John | 2:28 | | | |

Part 9

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|-------|-----|--------|-------|-----|------|-------|
| 88. | Luke | 19:17 | 89. | I Cor. | 4: 5 | 90. | Eph. | 6: 8 |
| 91. | Matt. | 16:27 | 92. | Matt. | 10:42 | 93. | Dan. | 12: 3 |
| 94. | Rev. | 22:12 | 95. | Rom. | 1: 9 | | | |

Part 10

- | | | | | | | | | |
|------|-------|----------|------|-------|----------|------|------|-------|
| 96. | Mark | 16:15 | 97. | Matt. | 28:18-19 | 98. | John | 4:35 |
| 99. | Matt. | 28:19 | 100. | John | 3:16 | 101. | Mark | 16:15 |
| 102. | Luke | 24:44-48 | 103. | John | 20:19-23 | 104. | Acts | 1: 8 |

Chapter 2

THE METHOD OF SOULWINNING

Part 1

THE PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SOUL-WINNER

“Even if I were utterly selfish, and had no care for anything but my own happiness, I would choose if I might, under God, to be a soul-winner; for never did I know perfect, overflowing, unutterable happiness of the purest and most ennobling order till I first heard of one who had sought and found the Saviour through my means.”

C.H. Spurgeon

Wanted! Men and women, young and old, to enlist against evil forces, to engage against principalities and powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places, to wrench souls from the clutches of Satan, to rescue sinners from the portals of hell!

The war is on and all are needed in this great battle! None may retreat! The obligation to spread the gospel is upon us. We are debtors to all the world. The gospel must be proclaimed!

Physical health is indispensable in fighting in the front line of an earthly battle and spiritual health is also indispensable in fighting in the front line of the heavenly battle. To be useful in the Lord’s army we must fulfil the Lord’s conditions.

1. THE SOUL-WINNER MUST BE SAVED

It is tragic but true that there have always been preachers who have not themselves been converted. Nicodemus, the man to whom Jesus explained the necessity of the new birth was a religious teacher (John 3). Jesus described some religious Jewish leaders as “blind leaders of the blind” (Matt. 15:14). Many people are deceived, thinking that they have that which they have not. They are apparently consecrated but not definitely converted. They are religious but not regenerate, serious but not saved. They have a form of godliness but they know nothing of the power of the gospel. They worship an unknown God and preach an unknown Christ. They live exemplary lives but do not have the life of God within them.

True salvation means that our sins are forgiven, that we are born again, that we are children of God, that we have become new creatures in Christ Jesus, that He our Saviour lives in us bringing within us the assurance of the glad gospel message. Only as we are thus rightly related to God are we able to be soul-winners. Paul says, “we also believe and therefore speak” (2 Cor. 4:13).

2. THE SOUL-WINNER MUST BE YIELDED

“Yield yourselves to God” (Rom. 6:11). Paul’s cry to the Romans echoes down the centuries. It is we as well as the Romans whom God beseeches to present our “bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God” (Rom. 12:1). God wants our hands to do His will, our hearts to be flooded with His love, our minds to be filled with pure thoughts, our feet to go where He sends us. He wants no complaining. He wants the joyous co-operation and harmony which comes from our wills being in total submission to His own will.

A little boy yielded his dinner (5 loaves and 2 fish) to the Lord Jesus. It must have seemed an awful sacrifice, but because he gave everything so sacrificially, the hungry multitudes were fed! He was available when the Master needed him. He held nothing back. He gave all!

Philip was so yielded that when God asked him to leave a revival at the height of its blessing, he obeyed and went into the desert to aid a solitary black man in his search for God (Acts 8). Philip was available, adaptable, mobile. God could use his dedicated life and send him wherever He would.

3. THE SOUL-WINNER MUST BE CLEAN

“Be clean, you who bear the vessels of the Lord” (Is. 52:11). “Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Tim. 2:21).

Many have great natural gifts in the realm of personality, ability, oratory, adaptability, personal work, Scriptural knowledge, but if they are not clean they are disqualified. Your outward and your inward secret life before God must be clean. Purity precedes power. Many are toiling strenuously in God’s kingdom but seeing little fruit because they are harbouring sin in their hearts. We are serving a God who is unutterably holy, and we are to represent Him in life and character. We are to carry a savour of His presence with us; we are to reveal the holy excellencies of the One who has saved us from sin and sent us out to bring those who are now in sinful darkness into holy fellowship with Him. We are to be clean! In his great penitential psalm King David cries out for cleanliness, for heart purity, and then in Psalm 51:13 he follows these heartfelt cries with, “Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.” This is God’s order! To be used we must be clean. Are you clean?

4. THE SOUL-WINNER MUST LOVE

(a) **He must love Christ.** This will be the constraining motive. “For the love of Christ constrains us.” Jesus said to Peter: “Do you love me more than these?...Feed my sheep.” Service to men flows from love for Christ. When passionate love for Christ is burning in the heart then this controlling motive will thrust you forth into the harvest field. You cannot love Christ with all your heart and never breathe a word to anyone about the One who has captured your heart’s affections. In many cases, personal work is not done simply because the Christian is in a backslidden condition. Months, years, have passed since his heart glowed with divine love. His testimony is maintained but the throb of Divine life is sadly missing. Gone are those glorious times of being

broken in the Presence of Jesus. The joy of praise, adoration and worship has evaporated. The thrill of sensing the Beloved's voice has passed. Life is religious but empty of reality. To be forced to witness would be painful, and it thus falls away. There is no compulsion because there is no compassion! The love of Christ no longer constrains! To these people God's mercy is free and His promise is sure – "Return, backsliding Israel...for I am merciful" (Jer. 3:12-14).

(b) He must love souls.

- (i) *Souls are lost* – Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). The passion of the soul-winner is found in the Person of the Saviour. God's great heart of love is disclosed as the Saviour plumbs the depths of ignominy and shame and dies with outstretched arms for souls who are going to hell. The closer we get to Jesus, the more we drink of His great Spirit, the more we too will be moved with compassion as we gaze upon lost humanity. Jesus wept over sinful men. Paul wept as he besought men to be reconciled to God – for they were lost! Oh my friend when last did you weep over lost souls? Have you ever wept over them? Have you ever been moved to the depths of your being because men and women are rejecting your Saviour and are doomed and damned under the awful judgement of God? Have you? They are lost – lost eternally!
- (ii) *Souls are valuable*. Christ's estimate of souls must be realized. "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" One soul outweighs the world. Irrespective of colour, creed or tongue a human soul is before God of priceless value. It cost Jesus His blood to secure its redemption. Paul cried, "For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh" (Rom. 9:3). What utter devotion! What wonderful self-sacrifice! This is the Spirit of the Saviour speaking through Paul. This love comes from being identified with Him on the Cross. All other loves are slain, our hearts are united to love Him supremely, and as His love possesses and controls us, so it will thrust us out to rescue those whom God regards so valuable as to die for them. His interests become our interests; His love becomes our love; we are identified with His great desire for the salvation of the lost. Love carries us forward. Love dictates our motives and actions. Love never fails. Prophecies and tongues shall fail, but love never fails. Love is our greatest equipment. It conquers our inhibitions and shyness, it flows through us to the unlovely, it draws out all we have in a glad and vital consecration. He loves through us. Others sense it and respond to His love. Oh God give us love!

5. THE SOUL-WINNER MUST BE FILLED

Acts 1:8 is the key to the great exploits recorded in the Book of Acts. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me." Without this enduement we never would have heard of the glorious victories of the apostles and disciples. It is also the key to the great movements of the Holy Spirit throughout this dispensation. God gave men and women power to go and be His witnesses.

Paul prayed for the Ephesians that they might “be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:19). He urges them to “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18). Without the divine equipment, the fullness of the Holy Ghost, we can say so much which is but “words, words, words”; good words, instructive words, orthodox words, but powerless words. It is “not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts” (Zech.4:6). It is the Spirit that brings life. We must be possessed of a power far greater than human oratory or persuasive personality. The Spirit of God is our strength and glory. It is in the Spirit that exploits are done for the Master. As long as we persist in working in our own strength we shall gain merely the results which we are able to achieve in our own strength. But when we reach the end of our ability and seek God with all our hearts He will fill us with His Spirit and the unction of the Holy Ghost will rest upon us and flow through us. It is God who has then taken control and it is God who is doing the work. “Without Me,” said Jesus, “you can do nothing”.

The fullness of the Spirit was the supreme condition of usefulness in the early church. Time has not changed God’s pattern. Oh let us seek Him until He has come to His temple and diffused His gracious Presence throughout our redeemed beings for His great glory.

*“Holy Ghost I now receive Thee
I accept Thy mighty power
And by faith I claim the promise
In this solemn, sacred hour.”*

Part 2

JESUS CHRIST THE MASTER SOUL-WINNER

“Behold, My servant whom I have chosen” (Matt. 12: 18).

“The Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19: 10).

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (I Tim. 1: 15).

I. CHRIST'S PASSION

In Is. 42: 1 – 4. we have a beautiful picture of Him as God's perfect Servant. The words describe the calmness and composure which characterized our Saviour's approach, so different to the wranglings of the scribes and the ranting of the fanatics.

His Public Preaching.

He took full advantage of public preaching in the appointed places of worship, the temple and the synagogue (Luke 4; Matt. 9: 35). He also spoke to great crowds in the open air, beside the lake, on the plain (Luke 6: 17), on the mount (Matt. 5). When He taught,

healed, fed the crowds and moved amongst the people, it was with the studied object of winning them to Himself.

He always sought to show men and women that they were dear to Him. They may be faulty, sinning, unworthy or discouraged, but He was vitally interested in them as people, and He would meet them at the point of their need.

His Pressing Emphasis.

Jesus was tender and patient, (c.f. II Tim. 2: 24). His ministry emphasized the aspect of individual soul-winning. He gave the example of the shepherd who left the 99 sheep and went out to look for the one which was lost. He gave constant attention to the individuals, only twelve, whom the Father had given Him and whom He had won. Often He spoke to them as a small group but also individually. His piercing gaze at Peter after the cock crew told of an intimate relationship. Seven of the twelve disciples were won to Christ by individual work - Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Nathanael and Matthew. We are not told about the others.

His Private Counselling.

In both Matthew and John, at least 16 private interviews are recorded. Christ took full advantage of the freedom of private conversation and He teaches us that there is almost no place where we cannot speak personally to others. He spoke to a woman at the well in Samaria (John 4), a madman by the lake of Galilee (Luke 8: 26 ff.), people at the roadside (Luke 18: 40 ff.), or on a crowded street (Mark 5: 25 ff.), a man in a tree (Luke 19: 1 ff.), people in a home (Luke 8: 49 ff.). His words brought blessing everywhere. His example encourages us to speak to souls anywhere, everywhere.

His Impartial Reasoning.

He recognized the worth of a soul (Mark 8: 36), and spoke with equal respect and love to the unscrupulous tax collector (Luke 19: 2) and the upright gentleman (Luke 7: 36). He received alike the immoral Samaritan woman (John 4: 26) and the wealthy young ruler (Mark 10: 22). He raised from the gutter the defiled prostitute (Luke 7: 39), and the dusty blind beggar, Bartimaeus (Luke 18: 35). We need Christ to open our eyes to see beyond the defilement of the world to the needs of the human soul.

His Personal Sacrificing.

Jesus spoke to souls at various times. He counselled the woman at the well in the heat of the day (John 4), and Nicodemus at night (John 3). When He was weary and needed rest at Sychar, He thought of the woman's needs; when He needed to be refreshed at night, He thought first of Nicodemus' needs. He was selflessly sacrificing Himself in the ministry of others.

II CHRIST'S PRINCIPLES.

a. Commending Rather Than Condemning.

The surest way to drive men from us is to condemn and criticise. Christ denounced sin and sinful persons under certain circumstances (e.g. Matt. 11: 20 - 24, 12: 24 - 37; Mark 7: 1 - 13; Matt. 17: 19 - 21). But when He set out to win someone to Himself, He often looked for something to commend.

The disciples must have had glaring imperfections but He did not begin by exposing these. His first recorded word to faulty **Simon** was, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You will be called Cephas" (which is by interpretation, a stone) (John 1: 42). The case of **Nathanael** was the same. The first word was a commendation. "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" (John 1: 47).

Zacchaeus was not a likeable personality and when Christ met him He could easily have exposed his sin, but instead He tells him that He would love to visit him (Luke 19: 1 - 10). "Zacchaeus make haste and come down; for today I must stay at your house."

How tenderly He addressed the **scribe** - "You are not far from the kingdom of God" (Mark 12: 28 - 34).

The **centurion of Capernaum** (Matt. 8: 5 - 13), asked Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus commended his attitude and faith, saying: "I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you."

To the **woman who touched Christ's garments** (Matt. 9: 20 - 22), He said: "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." We sense, don't we, the intimacy and tenderness of His words as He commends her faith.

When He spoke to the **two blind men** (Matt 9: 27 - 29), He encouraged them to believe in Him and then He opened their eyes.

He placed the barriers of silence and apparent disinterest before the **Syro-Phoenician woman** (Matt. 15: 21 - 28) in order to increase her faith, and when He saw the reality of her trust in Him, he commended her and healed her daughter.

His tender dealing with **Bartimaeus the blind beggar** (Mark 10: 46 - 52), is very beautiful. Jesus stood still and listened to his cry; He called him to Him; He talked with him about his greatest need and then He healed him, commending him for his faith.

Of the **sinful woman** (Luke 7: 36 - 50), who anointed Jesus, he says that she has washed His feet with her tears and kissed them as she wiped them with her hair. Jesus commended her love, humility and faith and pronounced her saved.

The **Samaritan leper** (Luke 17: 11 - 19), was commended for his gratitude and pronounced whole.

b. Beginning With Men's Interests.

The story of the **tired fisherman** (Luke 5: 1 - 11) reveals Christ's understanding and tact. All they could think of was the fish which they did not catch. They were not at this point interested in spiritual instruction. Their interest was in fish. Fish then would be His bait - "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." They caught the fish and it was Christ who had helped them. He was interested in their livelihood. He could now from this point lead them into spiritual truth, and they were interested in anything He had to offer.

Nicodemus (John 3). Here Jesus needed no indirect means. The man's interest was theology and He seized upon that which was uppermost in the mind of the Jewish teacher. He spoke with conviction, (v 11) and won the day.

The sick man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5: 2 - 14). Jesus began with his interest. "Do you want to be made well?" v 6. "Take up your bed and walk." (v 11.)

To the hungry multitude (John 6: 25 - 35), He said: "I am the Bread of Life."

At the annual Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, it was the custom to pour out a jug of water at the base of the altar as an offering to the Lord. Jesus used this interest in water at that precise moment to direct the thoughts of the gathered crowds to **the living water** which He alone could give. (John 7: 37, 38).

The Roman yoke was a constant source of bitterness and resentment to the Jews. Jesus used this background when He said, "the truth shall make you free." He further uses their subsequent arguments to teach that **He alone can free them** from sin (John 8: 31 - 36).

The death of Lazarus was a marvellous starting point to speak, not only of death but **resurrection**, and to make the wonderful statement, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." (John 11: 18 - 27).

When Jesus told His disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them in heaven, Thomas complained that they did not know the way to get there. From this baffling situation came the mighty claim which directed them once again to Him: "**I am the Way**" (John 14: 6).

c. Seeking Points of Agreement and not Emphasizing Points of Difference.

On one occasion when **Thomas** was absent, the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples. Thomas refused to believe in His appearance. Eight days later Jesus stood among them and met the dispelled Thomas's doubt urging him to feel the nail-prints in His hands and the wound in His side (John 20: 24 - 29).

In Matt. 5: 17 - 19, Jesus said to the religionists: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfil."

d. Quoting Scripture When Appropriate.

If the Scriptures were prominent in the interest of those whom Jesus addressed, He recognized the interest by quoting Scripture.

In Mark 2: 23 - 28, He spoke to the Pharisees and said, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry?"

He also rebuked the Pharisees quoting from Isaiah and Moses, when they complained that His disciples were eating with unwashed hands (Mark 7: 1 - 13).

The Saducees were no match for Him when they fabricated the story of the woman who had seven husbands. He destroyed their arguments by quoting Scripture (Matt. 22: 23 - 33).

e. Refusing to be Drawn into Profitless Argument.

When faced with the argumentative young lawyer whose rash demand, "Who is my neighbour?" was there to be met, He disarmed him with the story of the Good Samaritan. He refused to be side-tracked (Luke 10: 30 - 37).

In John 4: 19 - 24, the woman of Samaria tried to introduce an argument concerning the correct place of worship, but Jesus drew her back to the one thing in which He was interested, viz. her soul's welfare.

III. CHRIST'S PATTERN

The example of Jesus with the woman of Samaria in John 4, is classic.

He was not class-conscious.

She was a woman of mixed blood and mixed religion. The Samaritans had a synchronized religion and were despised as being half-Jew, half-Gentile. The Jews had "no dealings with the Samaritans" (v 9). The love of Christ transcended cultural and

She brought in a red herring. "Let us discuss a little. Where should we worship?" She tries to hedge and dodge, but He does not allow her to get away with the argument. He refused to be side-tracked from the main issue and answers firmly before His final thrust.

He challenged her with His identity.

verse 26

In answer to her weak protest that one day she will be able to understand, one day when Messiah comes, Jesus says, "I am He!" She is face to face with Christ! He has led her from her interests, through her arguments and evasions to everlasting life - to Himself! What a Saviour! What a Seeker! What a wise Winner of Souls!

Part 3

PRAYER IN SOUL-WINNING

Souls! My heart breaks with the cry!
What counts else! What matters more!
Give me souls or else I die!
Violence storms at heaven's door.

Servants of His passion we,
Dazed and aching for the lost,
Marked the sighing forehead see,
One with Christ at life-blood cost.

Supplicate in bloody sweat,
Intercede in agony,
Plead for souls with faces wet,
Passion learned at Calvary.

Earnest Spirit's fervency,
Flaming breath ascends, avails,
Prayer transcends vocabulary,
Spirit unctioned prayer prevails.

Sobbing in the secret place,
Spirit's anguished travail know;
Children will be born in grace!
God's transforming blessing flow.

Heav'ns shall rend and mountain flow,

Fiends of hell in terror flee!
 Christ shall reign above, below!
 His the glorious Victory!

C. N. Peckham

Your work as a soul-winner will be successful if you learn the hidden secret of prayer, for prayer is basic to the soul-winner. The real work is done where only the eye of God can see. He who would speak much to men for God must speak much to God for men. Only as I truly know Him can I make Him truly known. The apostles said. "We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word" (Acts 6: 4). Prayer was first, ministry next. This is where the burden is imparted and where the tearful agony of spirit is experienced. Prayer makes the soul-winner and the character of that praying will determine the character of his work. Prayer gives your words strength and unction. No knowledge of the Bible can make up for the failure to pray. Prayer causes words to be scented with the air of heaven, to be fired with the light of God's glory, to be empowered with the dynamic of the Spirit.

Yet it is not an easy thing to pray. There is a price to be paid, a price of curbed freedom, of resolute concentration, of agonizing supplication. Prayer is the acid test of devotion. To stay in the presence of God and to wait upon Him baring your soul to His searching gaze costs everything! The one who prays must be transformed! Prayer must make him holier, purer, more Christ-like. Prayer is a purifying medium. It equips him for the spiritual battle of soul-winning. In prayer we get to know God, and "the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits" (Dan. 11: 32). From the place of prayer Samuel Chadwick's great words ring out, "Men ablaze are invincible. Hell trembles when men kindle."

1. **Prayer for Communion**

a. In Solitude

Jesus withdrew into the solitary place to pray. He needed the fenced spaces of silence. We too need habitual times of quiet waiting upon God where we enjoy sweet communion with Him and where we are revived by His presence. You must force yourself to be alone to pray! Let no excuse hinder your prayer time, for your real effectiveness as a Christian worker depends on your communion with God. Become familiar with the court of heaven! Prayer lifts the soul into heaven, it brings us into contact with eternity, it gives us vision of the invisible, it brings fragrance to the life, beauty to the face, heaven to the earth. "They looked to Him and were radiant" (Ps. 34: 5). Prayer is a transforming exercise. Here is the secret of the burning heart and of the shining face.

Get through the barriers of wandering thoughts and weary bodies and press on into the presence of God. This takes time but time must be made! Don't imagine that dreaming or dozing is praying! Prayer demands every faculty of mind and heart but the treasures it

yields are always worth the price that it demands. Wait on God! This is the open secret of spiritual vitality and growth.

b. In Service

Paul asked the Thessalonians to "pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified" (II Thes. 3: 1). The rule for the soul-winner is "Go as you pray and pray as you go." Prayer should precede, accompany and follow every phase of soul-winning. "Pray without ceasing" (I Thes. 5: 17) should be our motto.

We have the supreme example of the Lord Jesus as One who prayed. He prayed in the night (Mark 1: 35) so that He might have undisturbed communion. He prayed before His public ministry (Luke 3: 21, 22), before an evangelistic tour (Mark 1: 35, 38), before choosing His twelve disciples (Luke 6: 12, 13), before the great revelation of His death (Luke 9: 18, 21, 22), after the great achievement of feeding the five thousand (John 6: 15), before the simplest affairs of life (Matt. 14: 19), when He was busy (Luke 5: 15, 16), when He was weary (Matt. 6: 31, 33 - 36), and in the last moments of His life (Luke 23: 34). The life of Jesus was a life of prayer.

Another example of a prayer-filled ministry is that of Nehemiah. He "wept and mourned....fasted and prayed" (Neh. 1: 4). When the king questioned him, we read, "so I prayed to the God of heaven, and I said to the king" (Neh. 2: 4, 5). It was an ejaculatory prayer. He was in touch with heaven and easily and constantly called upon God. During opposition we read, "Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God" (4: 9), and again later, "Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands" (6: 9). Wherever we are we should not be far away from a prayer! Lift your heart to God in the middle of a conversation or as you face difficulties, for He is near and will answer your prayer.

1. **Prayer for Direction**

a. Prayer for Ourselves

i. For Guidance

We must be guided as to whom we are to speak. We cannot speak to all, and God does not expect us to do so. God knows to whom He wants us to speak and we must ask Him to reveal His will to us. As this habit is cultivated we shall find that He will guide us when to speak and when to keep silent.

ii. For Courage

It will never be easy to speak about Jesus Christ in the hostile world which rejected Him. There is always the reproach of the Cross to be borne. But as we pray He gives us courage to do what we never would otherwise have done. The early church prayed. "Grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word ... and they

spoke the Word of God with boldness" (Acts 4: 29-31). Paul cried, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me" (Phil. 4: 13).

Claim deliverance from the fear of men and from natural timidity, remembering that the Psalmist said, "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34: 4).

iii. For Power

Not only courage to speak but power to drive the words home! That comes only from the Holy Spirit! "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4: 6) We are told that those early disciples received power to witness (Acts 1: 8). This was not the power of oratory, it was the power of the Holy Spirit! The secret of liberated conversation is the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of the Lord takes the words and pierces the armour of the defiant and the disinterested. Pray then that the Lord will clothe you with power and make your words wonderfully effective as you speak.

iv. For a Message

We need to be sure what we must say. If God is directing you to someone, then He will give you a message for that person. He knows what the person needs and it is for you to trust Him to give you His message. Often even as a person is speaking and revealing a problem, God gives you the answer to that problem when you had no idea what you were to say next. "He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (John 14: 26). On many occasions it is things that we have learned from the Lord in quiet times with Him that come to our minds as we speak to souls.

v. For Adaptability

Concerning the Person

Paul claims, "To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (I Cor. 9: 22).

The Marechale, famous daughter of General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, had a tremendous impact upon France. It was said that much of her effectiveness "lay in her flexibility and adaptability - her Pauline habit of becoming all things to all men - to the rich and to the poor, to the wise and to the unwise - that she may win some." She mingled easily with the lowest classes of society and with princesses and baronesses. To a Russian princess she said: "Princess are you perfect? From the little I know of you I should think you have a very trying temper." On one occasion "a horrible old hag appeared. It would be difficult to imagine a more ugly, repulsive woman. 'Come along and have a talk with me,' said the Marechale, 'and take supper. I am delighted to see you' "

Concerning the Presentation

Don't give the impression that you tower above them socially, or on the other hand, that you must apologize for your presence because you don't consider yourself worthy to

Speak to them. Be yourself, commissioned by God Almighty. You have a weighty and eternal message to transmit and you can hold your head high in its delivery. Yet you must get on to their level, be tuned in to their wavelength! You must be adaptable in your approach and in the way in which you present the message. Pray then that God will make you adaptable so that the unchangeable message of the gospel will find a home in changeable men living in a changing society.

vi. For Wisdom

Wisdom is knowledge rightly applied. We may have knowledge but we need to speak wisely if we would win the person. It is no use impressing the man with your knowledge of Scripture and with your convincing arguments if you lose him in the end. Sometimes even when you know his argument is nonsensical it may be much wiser to let him have the last say in the matter. There are times when it is far wiser to keep silent. Claim the promise of wisdom (James 1: 5).

b. Prayer for Others

i. For the Elimination of Barriers

Often barriers of hostility, prejudice and indifference hinder the Word of God from having effect in the one whom you are seeking to win. Persistent believing prayer has often broken down the most determined opposition.

ii. For the Preparation of the Heart

"The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord" (Prov. 16: 1) The seed which brought forth a hundred-fold fell into good ground - prepared ground. It is the work of the Spirit to convict the world of sin (John 16: 8). He does this in answer to prayer. God has so constituted the communication of the gospel that prayer must be offered, our dependence upon Him recognized and confessed, and our trust placed in Him alone to convert the soul from sin.

iii. For the Salvation of the Soul

The mighty battle of intercession is joined and we are soon locked in spiritual warfare. The prayer warrior must learn to plead the merits of the blood of Jesus for the soul bound by Satan's might.

iv. For the Continuation of the Spirit's ministry

Pray that the Lord will continue to work after you have left him. There may be no outward response from the person, in fact there may be open defiance. Whether the conversation seemed successful or not, the person should be definitely committed to God in prayer. Trust God to continue speaking when your voice is no longer heard.

3. **Prayer of Intercession**

Many of us pray just enough to ease the conscience but not enough to win any decided victory. We are playing at praying. We have put very little into it and therefore have received very little from it. Prayer has not been a mighty force but merely a harmless conventionality.

a. The Burden of Intercession

There is a cross at the heart of true intercessory prayer, a burden, a passion, an agony. Ezekiel tells of the city given over to defilement but speaks of those upon whose foreheads God has set a mark. They are favoured and spared in the divine judgment for they "sigh ... and cry over all the abominations" that take place. (Ezek. 9) Hannah, one of the most profound intercessors, had no language. "Her lips moved, but her voice was not heard" (I Sam. 1: 13). Her heart was so full of grief that she could only groan. Rachel in an agony of distress cries, "Give me children, or else I die" (Gen. 30: 1). It was this cry which John Knox was to take up and apply to Scotland in his famous prayer, "Give me Scotland or I die!"

Moses knew intense agony as he lamented, "Oh, these people have sinned a great sin... if You will forgive their sin – but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book" (Ex.32:32). In the same vein, Paul with "great sorrow and continual grief" in his heart said, "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren" (Rom. 9: 3). This attitude is again revealed in his prayer for the Galatians: "My little children, for whom I labour in birth again until Christ is formed in you" (Gal. 4: 19). The Lord Jesus "offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him" (Heb. 5: 7). Paul longs to know "the fellowship of His sufferings" (Phil. 3: 10) The Spirit of God "makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Rom. 8: 26).

The gospel of a broken heart demands the ministry of bleeding hearts. True intercession is sacrifice. When we cease to bleed we cease to bless.

F. W. H. Meyers in his poem on St. Paul says:

"Desperate tides of the whole great world's anguish
Forced through the channels of a single heart."

Because of the demands and price of intercessory prayer many do not enter its portals and consequently do not gain its benefits. When last did you feel the pain-filled fellowship of the pierced hand?

b. The Blessedness of Intercession

Not only are there the passionate pleas but also the prevailing power of intercessory prayer. There is the grief and the groaning but also the glory; the agony and sorrow, but also the bliss and ecstasy. "As soon as Zion travailed, she gave birth to her children" (Is. 66: 8). "He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Ps. 126: 6).

Abraham pled for Sodom (Gen. 18), Jacob wrestled in the night (Gen. 32), Moses stood in the breach for the nation of Israel (Ex. 32), Elijah prayed on Mount Carmel (I Kings 18) and they prevailed! Jesus tells the parable of the importunate friend who asked for bread at midnight and whose request was granted because he persevered (Luke 11:5 - 10). He also tells the parable of the unjust judge who responded to the widow's persistent pleas for help (Luke 18: 1 - 8). What power there is in prevailing prayer! Pray on! Pray on!

As we pray, God teaches us to pray. No book on the subject, no sermons, no advice can substitute for the Spirit as a teacher in prayer. It is in prayer that the Spirit cries out within us for souls to be won. We may sometimes have to pray through a period of unbelief before we get to faith. Don't lose heart in the battle. Encourage yourself in the Lord and continue trusting in God. Sometimes God will give you a promise upon which to stand as you determinedly pray through to victory.

Our prayers should be Spirit-taught and definite (Rom. 8: 26); they should be persevering (Luke 11: 9, 10; 18: 1); they should be believing (Heb. 11: 6; James 1: 6, 7).

Let us use this great weapon of prayer which God has given to us! By spending time in prayer, we do not decrease our activity, but we increase our productivity and accomplish vastly more. Wesley said, "God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it." Jonathan Edwards said, "There is no way that Christians, in a private capacity, can do so much to promote the work of God and advance the Kingdom of Christ as by prayer."

Then let us pray!

Part 4

USE OF THE BIBLE IN SOUL-WINNING

“Oh, you may talk about power, but, if you neglect the one Book that God has given you as the one instrument through which He imparts and exercises His power, you will not have it. You may read many books and go to many conventions and you may have your all-night prayer meetings to pray for the power of the Holy Ghost, but unless you keep in constant and close association with the one Book, the Bible, you will not have power. And if you ever had power, you will not maintain it except by daily, earnest, intense study of that Book.

Ninety-nine Christians in every hundred are merely playing at Bible study; and therefore ninety-nine Christians in every hundred are mere weaklings when they might be giants, both in their Christian life and in their service.” -Dr. R.A. Torrey

The greatest equipment that the soul-winner can have is a knowledge of the Scriptures. Wesley said that he was *homo unius libri* – a man of one book. Nothing can replace this as a tool in soul-winning. It is the soul-winner’s indispensable weapon. He must be a man of the Book. Whilst this is so, to carry a formidable black volume and look the aggressive soul-winner will defeat your purpose. If they do not know that your business is their soul’s conversion, conversation will flow easily and soon you can guide it along religious lines.

When quoting Scripture it is not necessary to check the flow of the conversation by referring constantly to the Scripture reference of the text. Invariably you cannot remember exactly, and then fumble hesitantly as you seek to assure the person that what you have just said really is in the Bible. When at a later stage the person is in a position to receive the Lord, a few definite texts with their reference can be applied strongly with great benefit.

1. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIBLE

The Word of God is described as seed, a sword, a fire, a mirror, a “hammer that breaks the rock in pieces” (Jer.23:29). We read that “faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom. 10:17). As the Scripture itself comes to them, they will believe. In the parable of the Sower (Luke 8) we read that, “The seed is the Word of God.” It is not our comment on the Word but the Word itself which is the seed. Peter writes that we are “born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever” (I Peter 1:23). It is claimed that the Holy Scriptures “are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:15).

The youthful Mary in her Magnificat quotes liberally from the Old Testament (Luke 2: 46-56). She had obviously been giving herself to the study of the Scriptures. Jesus in the Great Temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4), was able to defeat the devil by thrice quoting Scripture. Jesus used the Word of God in His battles against evil forces – how much more should we! When Peter preached his great sermon on the day of Pentecost he said: “This is that...” and then quoted from Joel. The Word of God was uppermost in Peter’s mind and when he used it, its power was evident to all. Nothing is more important to the dedicated servant of the Lord than the Word of God. The better our knowledge of the Word, the more effective we will be as a soul-winner, as a counsellor and as a guide. Therefore let us “Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph.6:17).

In John Bunyan’s immortal allegory, *Pilgrim’s Progress*, we have the story of Apollyon attacking Christian, ‘throwing darts as thick as hail.’ Christian was wounded and gave way. In the conflict Christian fell and his sword flew out of his hand. As Apollyon was about to finish Christian off with a mighty blow, ‘Christian nimbly reached out his hand for his sword and caught it.’ With that he gave Apollyon a deadly thrust and he retreated.

Christian made at him again and Apollyon sped away. It was the sword that gave him the victory and it is the sword of the Spirit which gives us ours.

Later in the book we read of Christian and Hopeful being taken captive by Giant Despair who cast them into his dungeon in Doubting Castle and beat them mercilessly, advising them to take their own lives. They were in “a lamentable case” when Christian suddenly exclaimed, “I have a key in my bosom called Promise.” With the key he opened the dungeon door, the outward door and the iron gate, and they were free. Giant Despair pursued them but he took a fit and was unable to capture them. They had escaped from Doubting Castle with the key called Promise!

2. THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). We study the Bible for personal spiritual advance, for protection against Satanic attack, and for practical soul-saving activity. Knowledge of the Bible may be obtained in various ways.

- (i) **Read.** An overall panoramic view that places issues in their right perspective is obtained by simply reading the Bible as an ordinary book. If we read four chapters each day, the Bible can be read through within a year. A chapter would take most people about four minutes to read. By investing therefore about a quarter of an hour a day in reading the Bible, a good Scriptural knowledge is obtained which is both beneficial to the soul and useful in Christian work. Two chapters can be read in the morning and two in the evening. Who cannot give 15 minutes a day to reading the most important Book in the world? King David said long ago, “Nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which cost me nothing” (2 Sam.24:24). It may cost a small amount of time but it is worth it, for you are benefiting all the way.
- (ii) **Study.** This is a more intensive method whereby a chapter, or a portion of a chapter is studied in detail. Doctrinal teaching, teaching about Christ, about God, about the Holy Spirit, about Salvation and other issues are noted. Themes might be followed, characters may be studied, words could be examined. Use a concordance. The Word of God is searched for the instruction and development of Christian character

Read Diligently,
Observe Doctrinally,
Learn Devotionally,
Think Discerningly.

There is no easy road to Scriptural knowledge. It requires persistent and painstaking study. In order to teach music, the subject must be studied; so too with the Bible. It must be diligently and systematically studied.

- (iii) **Meditate.** In our rushed Western world the art of meditation has largely been crowded out. However it remains true that tarrying with the Word in the presence of the Lord makes the Scripture live. The Book must not only be read

methodically but pondered prayerfully – we must meditate! Meditation is the divine impartation of truth into the inner man causing us to expand in the knowledge of God. It is revelation by the Holy Ghost. It is feeding on Christ the living Word. It is the digestive faculty of the soul. As we seek His face, Holy Ghost illumination pours from the pages into our souls and we are immeasurably enriched.

Farmers know that when the cows return after a day's grazing, they seem a little lop-sided, for the left side of their body is distended, but when they get up in the morning the cows are perfectly symmetrical. What has happened in the night? The cow has four stomachs and in the night it chews its cud. That which has been gathered in the large stomach during the day is returned to the mouth and is chewed before it returns to the other stomachs where it is absorbed into its system and it can then produce milk. This activity is called rumination, or chewing the cud. Cows have to take time to chew their cud!

Every growing Christian is a ruminating animal! By rumination, or meditation, truths are absorbed in the soul and they produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life.

It is not necessary to have a great intellect to meditate. What is needed is the ability to sit still and to hear Jesus speak. Jesus said: "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). The Word is spoken to us, we receive it and with it receive divine life. To hear Jesus speak, to respond and obey, this is spirit and this is life. The more the Word is imparted to us, the more Spirit and life we receive. The Spirit of God takes, as it were, the Word from the page and places it in our hearts and we are built up on the sure word of Holy Scripture. This takes time. We can read quickly, work quickly, act quickly, but we cannot meditate quickly! Time is needed and time must be made for this vitally important aspect of Christian development.

Meditation leads to prayer, to worship, to confession, to intercession, to witness. It draws forth a response from hearts which have been touched by the revelation of God to the soul. Would that all Christians would discover the worth of this sacred and blessed exercise. Here is the open secret of growing in grace – waiting on God with His Word. Read it, soak it in, pray over it, meditate on it, learn it, grasp its teaching, follow its leading! "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly!" (Col. 3:16). It will bring you into God's presence and by it you will get to know God. It will strengthen and deepen your Christian walk. It will guard you against the constant and vicious attacks of the devil and it will equip you for the great task of winning souls for Jesus. Oh, men and women, let us be meditators of the Word!

(iv) Memorize. The memorization of Scripture pays enormous dividends.

To the soul-winner the great advantage of memorizing Scripture is that when speaking to people the Holy Spirit is able to bring to your memory the right Scripture for the situation

on hand and you are able to say “Thus says the Lord”. Scriptures which you had not thought of for months are suddenly brought to your mind and they are a blessing to you and to those who hear you. God will use every part of your dedicated being, but He can only use what is there! If Scripture has not been committed to memory it is not there to be used and the work of God is handicapped. There is no short cut to memorization. It’s hard work but hard work which is thoroughly worthwhile, exceedingly blessed and of inestimable value.

To know the Bible then, we should Read it Extensively, Read it Repeatedly, Read it Thoroughly, Read it Methodically, Read it Regularly, Search it Diligently, Study it Carefully, Ponder it Prayerfully, Meditate upon it Constantly, Memorize it Frequently, Obey it Instantly.

3. THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE BIBLE

As has been mentioned “faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God”. (Rom. 10:7). The Word produces faith. The Word of God piercing the soul must have results. It is sufficient to meet the need of every human heart. The Bible contains the truth which sets men free (John 8:36). Through the Word men are born again (I Peter 2:23) and believers are sanctified (John 17:17; Eph. 5:25 and 26). Jesus said: “ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you” (John 15:3.) The Psalmist writes, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Ps. 119:11). The Word cleanses our lives. Its entrance gives light (Ps. 119:130), and this light falls upon and solves problems, for “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps. 119:105). Objections and excuses can be met from the Bible. Modern heresies must be answered not by philosophical argument but by the Word of God. This Book of the Ages is a life-giving force (Ezek. 37:7), a saving power (Rom.1:16), a probing instrument. “The Word is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (He. 4:12). God honours His Word! If the personal worker depends on anything else, be it charm, personality, oratory, intellectual reasoning or any other quality, he is doomed to failure.

It is God’s Word which the Holy Spirit uses to produce conviction of sin. It is God’s Word which brings light and salvation. It is sufficient! For this reason we are exhorted to, “Take the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Eph. 6:17). It is the only offensive weapon in the description of God’s armour (Eph. 6). As we take it so will we be able to use it; use it to show people the fact of their sin and their need of a Saviour; use it to show them Jesus is the Saviour whom they need; use it to show them how He can be their Saviour if they will receive Him; use it to solve problems; use it to lead wistful, defeated Christians into an experience of victory in Jesus. Get to know the Bible!

Part 5

HOW TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

“I cared not where or how I lived, or what hardships I went through, so that I could gain souls to Christ. When I was asleep I dreamed of these things; when I waked the first thing I thought of was this great work. I longed to be a flame of fire continually glowing in the Service of God, and building up Christ’s Kingdom to my latest, my dying moments.” - David Brainerd.

Jesus said, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). When Scripture is memorized the mind has to meditate upon the words which are being mastered and these often become the words of Jesus to the heart. These words come with life-giving force. The soul feeds upon the words of Jesus and power and blessing is the result. To quote Scripture is to speak with authority. It silences opposition, it stands supreme in its pronouncements, and it demands attention and obedience, for this is the Word of the living God. Nothing equips us better for effective soul-winning than memorized Scripture.

It helps in so many other aspects of life as well:

- * It keeps the believer from sinning (Ps.119:9,11)
- * It comforts in time of trouble (Ps.119:52,92)
- * It keeps your mind on God (Ps.43:3)
- * It provides daily sustenance for the believer (Deut.8:3)
- * It gives constant guidance (Prov.6:20-23)
- * It gives a basis for your children’s instruction (Deut.6:67).

It is **Beneficial**

It trains us to concentrate. As our abilities of concentration improve in the realm of Scripture, they do so in other areas too, and students have obtained better marks in their school subjects as they have given themselves to memorize Scripture.

ii. It also leads to easier memorizing. It gets easier as you continue because the power of concentration is improved.

iii. It is a blessed exercise. A verse may be committed to memory but only some time afterwards does its full meaning sink in. The wealth, the riches, the wonder and the glory of the text! It flashes beams of light into your soul. You are thrilled to bits! It makes your heart sing. You are filled with joy as you meditate on the memorized words. This gives you greater confidence, boldness and courage in personal work. The bands of self-consciousness and shyness melt away before the warmth of the precious Word burning in your heart. Your mind is elevated, your heart is warmed, your tongue is liberated, for now you have something to say, and what you have to say is authoritative. It is God’s word!

iv. It helps to store Christian truth. After a while when listening to sermons you will be surprised at the number of texts you recognize. Each memorized text forms a sort of 'hook' in the mind and when the preacher speaks, the material gets caught on the 'hooks' and is absorbed in the mind. Had there been no memorized verses – no 'hooks' – the matter would have simply passed by without being grasped. Knowledge can now increase and Christian maturity will advance more readily.

The use of cards.

It is very useful and helpful to use cards.

- * Write the text on a card with the reference on the other side.
- * Cards can be easily carried and are always accessible.
- * They can be taken everywhere and you can quickly and easily review them or add verses to your list.
- * Opportunities can be brought up. Odd moments at bus-stops, on trains or when walking can be put to good use when small cards are carried.
- * It helps you to be accurate when quoting. To misquote Scripture is to weaken the impact.
- * It helps break up unnecessary mental associations with your own Bible which you have marked and with which you are so familiar. If you were handed someone else's Bible, or if you bought a new one you would be lost, but if you know the reference, you can go straight to the text.

To memorize therefore there should be:

1. SUPPLICATION

Ask the Lord to help you to memorize His word each day, to love and appreciate its worth and to grasp its meaning. Draw on His strength and ability as you apply yourself to the task. Simple and utter dependence upon God carries us forward in triumph where we thought we never could be successful. People who have very little intellectual ability have been able by God's help to master numerous texts and have become useful workers in God's harvest-field. All can do it! Some will take a little longer than others but all can memorize Scripture. It is the attitude of dependence and trust that is so necessary as we set out to learn the Scriptures. Seek God's face and trust Him to help and enable you to learn His Word.

2. COMPREHENSION

Sometimes you may wish to memorize a text but do not fully understand it. Read the whole passage in which it occurs over and over until the meaning becomes clear. If necessary, consult commentaries to determine the meaning. Without full understanding it is difficult to learn and it is ineffective in its use. In fact it could be quoted in support of something with which it is not even remotely connected. A text out of context is a pretext! Thus the words which we memorize must be understood in their context so that we may apply them correctly and powerfully.

3. DETERMINATION

There must be sincere determination! The normal mind is lazy and untrained. It needs to be disciplined and drilled to do what you want it to do. You must be master of your mind. Often the greatest battle is with the few texts with which you begin. If you fail here, all is lost. Others have learned Scriptures off by heart, and so can you. Never take the attitude that you will not be able to do it! Away with such thoughts! Grasp that first text and master it.

This dedicated determination is vital to success. Don't be put off by thinking that it takes too long to learn. Don't be put off because all the little words such as "and" and "but" do not readily fall into place. Banish defeat! Doggedly cling to the verse. Repeat it! Grit your teeth and refuse to give in! After mastering it come back to it again half an hour later and attempt to quote it correctly. You will probably find that part of it has already slipped away. Don't be discouraged for that is quite normal. Keep at it until you know it so well that you would be able to repeat it were you suddenly awakened in the middle of the night and asked to quote it!

4. CONCENTRATION

Concentrate upon the *matter* of the text. There must be studied application and patience! Do a thorough work. Strive for accuracy and perfection. Study and repeat the verse until you can say it without hesitation or error. Fix every word in your mind. Put away other pursuits. Banish wandering thoughts. Wrestle with the verse until you master it.

Concentrate also upon the *meaning* of the text. This is an enormous help in memorizing. If you understand the logic and the reasoning of the text it becomes far more meaningful and rewarding as you learn it.

5. MEDITATION

There must be meditation! As you grasp the truth apply it to your own heart and life. Let it be operative within you. The Word has a sanctifying influence (John 15:3, Eph. 5:26); an establishing influence (Matt. 7:24); and an illuminating influence (Ps. 119:103, 105). It will enrich your life beyond measure. Live in the words which you learn. The Scripture working in and through you will bring blessing to your heart and glory to your wonderful Lord.

6. REPETITION

Review! This is the great secret of Scripture memorization! Without reviewing you have little hope of effectively retaining Scriptures already memorized. If the card system is used the better known texts can be sorted out and laid aside. Carry only those which you are learning. Once a week go over the texts which you have learnt and laid aside. Later these may only need a fortnightly or monthly review. To fix Scripture permanently in the mind this reviewing of texts already learned is essential. In a sense you are "over-learning", and these "over-learned" verses are retained for years in the mind, in fact in many cases, for all of life.

7. APPLICATION

Use the texts! Scripture is memorized so that it may be used. Put your knowledge into practice and you will find great joy in being able to quote the Scriptures.

Use it as you pray. Quote portions of Scripture in your personal devotions. It helps the mind to concentrate, it reminds the heart of scriptural teaching, instruction and promise, and it leads the soul out in worship. When you quote Scripture in public prayer it is always a blessing to those who hear, and it brings authority and assurance into the gathering. It encourages men and women to lay hold upon God's Word in living faith as they hear it pouring forth.

Use it as you witness. At last your labours bear fruit as you sense the effect of the powerful Word of God in the lives of those who hear you speak. They cannot gainsay Scripture. It speaks with the solemnity of eternity and with the authority of divinity. It gives you confidence, for you realize that what you are saying is true. There is no doubt concerning these words and there need be no hesitation nor fear of contradiction in the quoted Scripture. Is this not the very Word of God; the Scripture which cannot be broken? Jesus said, "the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). The truth which has come to you, which you are now proclaiming is able to make the sinner free! Learn it! Quote it! Proclaim it! Don't fear to use it! It is a sin-destroying, liberating, life-giving force! It is the power of God.

8. CONTINUATION

Don't stop! Satan knows the power of the memorized word and will do his best to thwart your attempts to commit Scripture to memory. Resist half-heartedness! Work at your texts! Keep going on and God will reward you with a flow of Scriptural language, enriching both yourself and all who hear you.

Part 6

PRACTICAL ADVICE TO THE SOUL-WINNER

"A soul-winner can do nothing without God. He must cast himself on the Invisible or be a laughing-stock to the Devil, who regards with utter disdain all those who think to subdue human nature with mere words and arguments." – C.H. Spurgeon.

The following suggestions are meant to help and guide in a practical way those who are seeking souls for the Master. Remember Jesus said: "Come after Me, and I will make you become fishers of men" (Mk. 1:17). Soul-winning is learned as we follow Christ, as we keep close to Him! This is the heart of successful soul-winning. Jesus commanded His disciples to follow Him, and as a result He promised to make them fishers of men. We may not be talented, we may lack experience, we may be afraid, but as we follow Him closely, wholeheartedly, yieldedly, we shall learn the art of personal soul-winning. We must learn how to approach the hostile and disinterested, how to present the gospel simply and forcefully, how to skilfully use the Word of God, how to discern and diagnose

the conditions of a man's heart. This knowledge is not suddenly imparted at salvation, but as we follow the Master Fisherman, He promises to make us to become fishers of men. Here then are hints in the great task of soul-winning. Remember, "He who wins souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30).

1. Keep your eyes open for opportunities – the waiter, the butcher, the neighbour the workman, the porter, the delivery boy, the taximan, the relative, the friend. Improve your opportunities.
2. Be pleasant and sweet. A forceful, intense, compelling introduction will make him feel that he is being cornered. A natural pleasant attitude draws out conversation.
3. Let him do much of the talking – at any rate until you have assessed his problem. This enables him to face his own situation honestly and you get to know him.
4. Respect his thoughts and ideas at all times. Don't laugh at things which to him may be important.
5. Be sincere, and tactful. Show genuine interest in him. Be human in your contact, friendly, kind and thoughtful.
6. Start where the person is. Don't speak as if he had great Scriptural knowledge if he knows little of the things of God.
7. Avoid critical comments about ministers and congregations. You will lose his confidence if he feels that you are building your own work by breaking down that of others.
8. Quote just the relevant portion of a verse. For example when using I John 5:13 quote only "These things I have written to you... that you may know that you have eternal life." Quoting the rest of the long verse with its reference could confuse the issue and interrupt the hearer's train of thought especially if you stumblingly seek the reference.
9. Don't quote too many verses. This will but bewilder him. Use normally a few well chosen and appropriate verses.
10. Draw from personal experience as you talk. Whilst your testimony must not attract attention to yourself, its power is enormous because it is fresh and living.
11. Don't monopolise the conversation, but don't let your prospect control it. You must lead it. You have an end in view! Keep the conversation to the point.
12. Don't take the "I-know-the-answer" attitude. Be humble.
13. Don't be drawn into an argument. You may win the argument and lose your man. When Nathaniel countered Philip's excited claim to have found the Messiah with "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (an intellectual argument) Philip confidently stated "come and see" (John. 1:46). Experimental knowledge silences the mind's arrogant objections.
14. Don't carry a large Bible – it will frighten people away. A New Testament in your pocket or handbag is sufficient.
15. Don't try to win everybody – you can't do it. Trust the Lord to lead you to the right person.
16. Dress neatly and attractively. There is no virtue in being unattractive. Sloppy and dirty shoes, unkempt hair, a dishevelled and untidy appearance does not speak well of the King of whom you are an ambassador.

17. Dress appropriately. There is no point in dressing as if you were going to see the queen, if you are going into a rough area of town. They will think that you are some sort of official and you won't be able to get near them.
18. Dress modestly. Girls wearing short skirts or plunging necklines are a hindrance and a stumbling block. They often lead men away from Christ and not to him. Indecent dress is not consistent with Christian witness.
19. Be clean. Use soap and water – and deodorant if necessary. Don't let bad odours put people off.
20. Ask a close friend whether or not you have bad breath. Get rid of it or your prospect will seek the first opportunity to escape.
21. Don't deal with a soul in company. He will more easily disclose his heart when alone.
22. Don't as a rule deal with someone much your senior.
23. Don't as a rule deal with someone of the opposite sex. Be discreet and careful so that you do not bring reproach and condemnation upon yourself and the work of God.
24. If you are speaking to an enquirer in a church or hall, if possible face the enquirer's chair into the corner so that he/she is not distracted by the activities and conversations of others.
25. Don't work merely on emotions – you will produce spurious fruit. The mind must be convinced, the emotions stirred and the will conquered. The whole man must be won. The change must be intellectual, emotional and volitional.
26. Don't interrupt when another person is dealing with a soul. These are weighty moments and whilst one worker is talking let the other worker pray.
27. Don't be unduly familiar with the enquirer. Don't lean on him, or shout in his ears, or breathe in his face. Avoid putting your arm around his shoulders. These things may cause resentment.
28. Don't hurry or do shoddy work. "Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord deceitfully" (Jer. 48:10).
29. Don't give the devil the blame for your ignorance and lazy thinking. Always seek to improve.
30. Don't be discouraged by apparent failure. You learn as you go. Pray and think over every case, asking the Lord to show you how to improve.
31. Don't talk too much when the enquirer is seeking salvation and is ready to pray. Today is the day of salvation.
32. Rely completely upon the Spirit of God and the Word of God.
33. Carry an extra handkerchief or have tissues close at hand. You may need them.
34. Keep the door open. Don't let the conversation close in a way which would make him wish never to see you again.
35. Be conservative in your estimation of what has happened. Take care not to make rash statements of numbers who were "saved", when perhaps they might merely have decided to follow Christ without any real divine encounter and true repentance to salvation.
36. Don't force a premature decision. Fruit softens and ripens naturally. It is not 'squeezed ripe.' Forcing the issue only produces shallow results.
37. If you have led him to Christ, give him a list of verses to study, e.g.

1John 1:9 Forgiveness; John 1:12 Receiving Christ; Rev.3:20 Opening the heart's door to Christ; John 3:3,7 The New Birth; 2 Cor. 5:17 A New Creature; 1 John 5:12&13 Assurance; Rom. 10:9,10 Witnessing.

Have these verses written on slips of paper before the meeting so that you can just hand them these "bookmarks" without wasting time when dealing with them.

38 Leave easy-to-read, carefully chosen, helpful literature for the new Christian.

Guidance at this point is crucial.

39. If the interview was in a home, be sure to close the gate as you leave to avoid giving offence, as children may run out or animals may run in.

40. If possible make an appointment to see him in the next few days to help him in his new faith. Take his name and address.

41. Pray for the one whom you have had the privilege of leading to Christ.

42. Never give up!

43. Purpose to win one soul! Have you ever honestly tried?

Part 7

HOW TO LEAD A SOUL TO CHRIST

"The work of conversion is the first and great thing we must drive at; after this we must labour with all our might. Alas! The misery of the unconverted is so great, that it calleth loudest to us for compassion..."

"Who is able to talk of controversies, or of nice unnecessary points, or even truths of a lower degree of necessity, however excellent soever, while he seeth a company of ignorant, carnal, miserable sinners before his eyes, who must be changed or damned? Methinks I even see them entering upon their final woe! Methinks I hear them crying out for help, for speediest help!..."

"O, therefore, brethren, whomsoever you neglect, neglect not the most miserable! Whatever you pass over forget not poor souls that are under the condemnation and curse of the law, and who may look every hour for the infernal execution, if a speedy change do not prevent it. O call after the impenitent, and ply this great work of converting souls, whatever else you leave undone." –Richard Baxter 1656.

The heart of counselling is actually leading the soul to Christ, and it is here that the gravest responsibility rests upon the soul-winner. Sometimes dreadful confessions are made and confidences shared which must be scrupulously respected. The temptation to talk to another worker about the "case" must be resisted. We cannot act in an untrustworthy manner toward those who have made us their trust. Time must be taken to discover the true state of the enquirer.

Sometimes people go through great trials and tragedies, and when the soul-winner comes on the scene, he is over-whelmed with these stories. At times he can give no advice but

must give moral support by just being there. Later the time may come when his words will make sense and when he will be able to guide the troubled soul to peace with God.

1. EVALUATION

A doctor must discover what is wrong with his patient before prescribing the cure. The doctor of souls must do the same. Questions must be asked, the soul's condition must be analysed and diagnosed. It is exceedingly important that the correct diagnosis be made. Take nothing for granted! Many people are resting their soul's salvation on false foundations. These must be discovered and eliminated. Your first question may be "are you sure that you are a child of God?" If there is the slightest doubt, and sometimes even when there is no doubt, put the question in another way to satisfy your mind, "Do you know that your sins are forgiven?" "Are you born again?" If the person is building on a false foundation, you can do nothing until this is removed. Your task is a formidable one.

The correct diagnosis is made as we ask questions and listen to the replies, observing his tone and manner all the time. Watch the enquirer's face for any revelation of an inward condition. A face tells a great deal! It often reveals the heart. Rely utterly on the Holy Ghost to give you understanding, perception and discernment. He knows all about the problem and He has the answer. Trust Him whilst you are ministering to enlighten your mind.

Be careful not to solve the problem you think he ought to have! Sometimes after a little conversation the soul-winner may mistakenly identify the seeker's need and give the wrong advice altogether.

Sometimes people have enormous problems and they pour out their hearts not because they want to come to Christ, but because they desire to be helped through their problem. The worker must sort out the difficulty and bring the enquirer back again to the only Source of his redemption, problem or no problem. It would seem that there are occasions when God can reach men and women in no other way than by allowing some tragedy to strike their lives, and by using it to turn their thoughts heavenwards to be the means of their salvation.

Often the worker will listen to grave problems for which he has no solution, but at the end of the conversation will stand amazed at the God-given perception, at the words which he uttered and at the way in which God led him to bring the soul to the One who can solve every problem. It is God's prerogative to save and we must trust Him utterly to do His own work through us.

You never have exactly the same problem before you! People differ, so your plans and methods must be 100% flexible. The human heart is the same however and the remedy of that heart is Christ. How you present this remedy will differ, but there are basic principles which can be applied in most cases.

The message must be intelligently delivered. It is not sufficient to string together a number of texts and hope that they will work.

2. CONVICTION

A sense of need must be established. Sin must be seen in its rebellion and awfulness. The sinner has no hope outside Christ for salvation. Passages such as these may be used: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23); “The soul who sins shall die” (Ezek. 18:20); “For the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23(a); Eph. 2:2,12.

The Holy Spirit uses Scripture to produce conviction of sin.

Great harm is done in personal work simply because this area is rushed over. Take your time here. Many workers simply ask, “Do you know that you are a sinner?” The answer is “yes”. Thinking that this mental assent is spiritual conviction they gladly urge the enquirer there and then to accept Christ. The foundation is not well laid. The enquirer must know that he is sinful, and that his sin deserves eternal death. He is lost forever without Christ. The Holy Spirit must bring about conviction of his sin.

3. SALVATION

It must be clearly understood that man cannot save himself. He is totally incapable of engineering his own salvation (Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8 and 9). However God has a remedy! God can save! Depending upon the preceding conversation it will be wisest to keep to one aspect of salvation.

If you have been speaking about atonement, use Is. 53:6, I Pet. 2:24.

If you have been speaking about the new birth use John 3, John 1:12 and 13.

If you have been speaking about assurance of salvation use I John 5:12 and 13.

If you have been speaking about sin and forgiveness use I John 1:9, Gal. 3:13, John 1:29.

God does not wait until we understand redemption before saving us! What the seeker needs is Someone whom he can trust, and the way to that One must be clear whichever road we take.

4. DIRECTION (REPENTANCE)

Repentance means a change of direction. It means turning from every evil thing. It means being sorry enough to quit, and it means to turn to God for salvation. You cannot have salvation and sin! Repentance is the heart of conversion. It springs from a deep sense of conviction. If he turns from and confesses his sin (Prov. 28:13, I John 1:9), God will freely forgive him and he will be saved (Acts 17:30, 3:19, 2 Cor. 7:10.)

5. DECISION

A decision must be taken but a decision will not save anyone. To decide to come to Christ is an essential but only the initial part of salvation. The prodigal son decided rightly that he needed to go to his father, but if he had not acted upon what he knew to be right, he would still have been among the pigs. The sinner must respond to Christ’s call – he must come! God can do nothing for him unless he comes! Will he come? Will he come now? (Matt. 11:28, John 6:37).

6. APPROPRIATION

Faith! The seeker must not only *come* to Christ, he must *trust* Christ to save him at that very moment. Illustrations are sometimes helpful. Offer a pencil to the seeker and ask, "If I were to give you this pencil, what would you have to do to possess it?" The obvious answer is, "I would have to take it." This presupposes that the enquirer has *believed* your word, and that he *acts* upon what he believes to be true. He put out his hand *in faith* to take the pencil, he receives it and says "Thank you" *in gratitude*.

Another illustration is that of a parcel slip at a Post Office. I believe that there is a parcel waiting for me because of what I read on the slip. I take the slip to the counter and believingly, I *present* it to the official who is able to give me the parcel. I *claim* and accept what is offered to me and *thank* him for it.

The Bible says: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (John 3:16). Here is the proffered gift.

"But as many as received Him, (the One whom God gives) to them (alone!) He gave the right to become the children of God" (John 1:12). Here the gift is received.

Then follows the word of assurance, "He who has the Son has life" (I John 5:12). Here the gift is assured.

"Will you receive Jesus right now? He will enter your heart in response to saving faith and God will save you."

Bow with the seeker and allow him to pray audibly before you pray. Perhaps the seeker has never prayed in public and needs help. In that case pray the words slowly and let him follow you in a simple prayer of confession and faith such as the following:

"Our Father, I come now to You. Acknowledging that I am a sinner and that Christ died to save me, I repent of my sin and ask Your forgiveness. Please come into my heart. I receive You as my personal Saviour now. I thank You. In Jesus Name, Amen."

7. CONFIRMATION

Having prayed ask him if the Lord Jesus has now forgiven him and has now come into his heart. He may say that he is not sure. Go over the same ground again – pray again – ask again. Perhaps a third or even a fourth explanation may be necessary, until you are as sure as you can be that he has come into living contact with God.

He may say that he feels so different and now knows that he is God's child, but it must be clearly stated that his feelings are not the ground of his hope. God's Word is the foundation. You may have to return to John 1:12 – "as many as received Him".

"Have you received Him?" "Yes."

"What does He promise to those who receive Him?" (Show him the verse and let him read) "To them He gave the right to become the children of God."

"Will God do what He promises?" "Yes."

"What does He promise?" "To make me a child of God."

"What are the conditions?" "That I receive Him."

"Have you received Him?" "Yes."

“What has God done then?” “He has fulfilled His promise and made me His child.”

Sometimes this patient dealing causes the light suddenly to shine in the soul and the glory of the new life floods the heart! The same procedure may be used with other verses, for instance, Rev. 3:20.

However it is not for the worker to tell the seeker that he is a child of God – God tells him that! Tell him that whatever experience he may have at that moment, to seek God, to read the verse over and over, to cling to it tenaciously until the Lord seals it to his heart and gives him the assurance that he is born of God (I John 5:12 and 13). Not only does he receive Christ but Christ receives him. God desires the gift of our hearts (Prov. 23:26). He must yield his life unreservedly to the control of the Lord Jesus Christ. We receive the gift of His life and we present Him with the gift of our lives.

Sometimes an illustration is helpful such as the following: A man owns a precious jewel and leaves it with a friend to keep in safety while he takes a long journey. Each morning and evening he phones the friend to make sure that the jewel is still safe. The friend will eventually become angry and cry, “Does he not trust me? Does he doubt my integrity? I gave him my word that I would keep it.” In like manner let us not *keep* asking God whether He has received us. Surely His Word, His character, is to be trusted. His *Word* is enough to set our hearts at ease. He has said that He will keep that which we have committed to Him (Phil. 1:6, 2 Tim.1:12), and we are safe in that keeping. We can rest in His saving power never doubting His Word nor His ability.

Always have a slip of paper with a few verses on it for the seeker to take home and ponder before the Lord. In fact always have with you several small bookmark sized pieces of paper with those verses on them to give to those who trust the Lord. Go through the verses briefly with the person with whom you are dealing. If possible allow him/her to read the verses out loud and make a few appropriate comments on each.

Verses on that slip of paper could be:

Condemnation – Rom. 3:23;

Repentance – Acts 17:30;

Confession and Forgiveness – 1 John 1:9;

Reception – John 1:12, Rev.3:20;

Regeneration – John 3:3,7;

Assurance – 1 John 5:12,13;

Witnessing – Rom.10:9,10.

Close with a prayer of gratitude for the great things that God has done.

Part 8

INSTRUCTION TO THE NEW CONVERT

To one who asked him the secret of his service he said: "There was a day, when I died, utterly died," and, as he spoke, he bent lower and lower until he almost touched the floor – "died to George Muller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will – died to the world, its approval or censure – died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends – and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God"

George Muller

The Corn of Wheat lay buried, buried deep
 Within the bowels of the earth – alone, alone!
 The grave the Corn of Wheat shall safely keep!
 The sepulchre they locked with mighty stone!

'Tis not the end, 'tis not the end – the grave!
 'Tis but a doorway into life to die!
 Behold the Empty Tomb! He rose to save!
 And now the Corn of Wheat can multiply.

The dying Corn of Wheat, has given root –
 Behold the swaying harvest lives in Him,
 Red life has burgeoned forth amazing fruit,
 That swells redemption's never-dying hymn.

O Corn of Wheat, is this the only way?
 Then haste me to the Cross to die with Thee
 To self in all its hidden forms; and yea
 The sheaves which Thou shalt garner, we shall see.

C.N. Peckham

"But if it dies, it produces much grain" – John 12:24.

Never take for granted that the elementary essentials of the Christian faith are known.
 The new convert needs instruction.

1. He must have the witness of the Holy Ghost

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Rom. 8:16).

Sometimes the witness of the Spirit is immediate but at other times it may be a little while before the one who has trusted in Jesus knows deep within his heart that he belongs to the Lord. However as he maintains an attitude of sincere *gratitude* and *trust* the Holy Spirit will witness in his heart to the fact of his new birth.

The convert must rejoice in what Christ has accomplished. He must not wait until he is walking on air before he believes that he is saved. He must trust God's Word! God honours His promises. Advice something like this could be given:

Thank Christ for forgiving you, for coming into your heart, and for receiving you as His child. Thank Him for saving you from sin. Trust Him to reveal Himself to you so that you may know with full assurance that you are born of God. As you continue to trust God He will bring the witness to your heart. “He who believes (trusts) in the Son of God has the witness in himself” (I John 5:10). As you *keep* believing, so you will “*know* that you have eternal life” (I John 5:13). His indwelling Presence brings assurance and in this you rejoice.

2. Doubt

Never let the devil shake you from the ground upon which you now stand, for it is the Word of God. He will do his utmost to destroy your new-found faith. He will attempt to sow doubt in your heart, but refuse to believe him. Tell him that you are believing what God has done in and for you. “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Go back in your mind to the time and place where you trusted the Lord, and say: “Lord, You say that if I receive You, I will be a child of God (John 1:12). Now it was there that I received You, so Lord Your Word must stand. I refuse to believe the devil’s suggestions. I believe You and I thank You for doing in me what You have promised.” Now You are standing upon the firm foundation of the Word of God. Here you are safe. Ask Him daily to keep you from sin. Thank Him daily for saving you. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free” (Gal. 5:1).

3. Prayer

It is absolutely essential to have a daily Quiet Time with the Lord. If there is no time, time must be made! The best time of course, is early in the morning when all is quiet.

It is a good suggestion to begin the prayer time with praise and worship. Is He not worthy to be praised! Thank Him for saving your soul. Rejoice in all He has done for you in Christ Jesus. Praise brings you quickly into the Presence of the Lord. Requests can then be brought to Him and prayers can be offered for relatives and friends. Some of the most important elements in prayer are the following: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication, Intercession. Taken in that order prayer is helpful and blessed although one moves unconsciously from one to the other. Take time in the Presence of the Master! How very important it is to sense that you have prayed through the barriers of wandering thoughts and a tired body into His Presence! It is here that the soul is fired and strengthened to meet the demands of each day. Satan will do his utmost to keep you from prayer, but make sure that you have your daily time with God! “Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength” (Is. 40:31).

If possible, pray with other Christians. Read the Bible together and encourage one another in the Lord. This is a real source of strength to the young convert.

4. Bible Reading

This is another exercise which must be done daily. The Israelites picked up manna early every day, and we too must feed our souls on the heavenly manna each day. Read methodically, not haphazardly. Some parts are more difficult to understand than others, and it is well to begin where the message is clear and understandable. Begin with the

New Testament. Take note of the truths. Read a chapter or two each day. If you must read less, ponder the words all the more thoroughly. The Author of the Book now dwells within you and He interprets the truths to your heart. Ponder the pages prayerfully. It is thrilling to experience how truths are revealed to your seeking heart as you give yourself to the study of the Word. “The entrance of Your words gives light” (Ps. 119:130).

5. Witnessing

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with your heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation” (Rom. 10:9 and 10).

It is absolutely necessary to tell what God has done for you. By this means others hear of God’s saving grace, and you place yourself on record. Often as you testify the Spirit witnesses with your spirit that you are a child of God (Rom. 8:16). Often in the telling of your salvation, your soul will be filled with such joy that you will know that the words which you are saying are living truths. It is real! It is true! I am changed! Christ lives in me! I am His child! Wonderful truths. They become more blessed as you continue to tell them to others.

6. Obedience

Not only must we meditate upon the pages of Holy Scripture but we must obey the Word of God. The still small voice of the Spirit will sometimes encourage, sometimes instruct, sometimes reprove. To grow in grace there *must* be obedience! As light is received and obeyed, more light shines upon the pathway and you are enabled to go forward. You might have to change your habits or life-style for God says: “Be holy in all your conduct” (I Peter 1:15). Obedience is essential to joy, growth and usefulness in the Christian life.

7. Short Accounts

If you fall, if you sin, go *immediately* to the Lord. Confess it, ask Him to forgive you, believe that He has done so, be assured that the relationship has been restored and continue your Christian witness. “My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (I John 2:1). Here we are commanded not to sin, yet *if* we happen to fall, there is a way back to God. This is not a license to sin, for we are called from evil to holiness and righteousness. Sin is condemned and judged. By the very nature of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us we have desires after holiness and after God. This is basic. Yet should we fall, God calls us to Himself by way of repentance, confession and faith. It may cause grief and shame but it must not bring us into darkness. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9). Being saved has not brought you into a state where it is impossible to sin – that is unscriptural – but on the other hand it is impossible to be saved and to continue habitually sinning. Should there be a slip do not doubt your salvation, “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward” (Heb. 10:35).

8. Attend Church Regularly.

It is necessary to mingle with believers, to share testimony, to have fellowship, to have prayer meetings and Bible studies together. This is body-life and it is essential for spiritual growth. Messages from a Bible-believing preacher instruct and establish you in the Word and guide you in your spiritual life. If, however, you are in a church where little is known of the true gospel and where there is very little scope for fellowship, it is necessary to find true Christians outside of your immediate circle with whom you can have meaningful and blessed fellowship.

9. Reckon the Cost

Now that you have come to Christ, you are separated from sin and the world. This may be somewhat of a problem to some of your friends, for they may not understand your change of heart and affections. They may pour scorn upon you and ostracise you. You no longer enter into all their worldly amusements and this is incomprehensible to them. Remember that Jesus was rejected, and as the Master so the servant will be. There is the reproach of the cross. There is a price to pay. Moses made the great decision to suffer with the people of God (Heb.11:24-27), and it may be that that will be your lot too. Take your stand and keep following the Lord. Keep true to Him in all the difficult times and He will most certainly cause your righteous life to be respected and appreciated. You will know the joy that comes from following Him wholeheartedly.

10. Restitution

It may that you will need to make restitution. There might be a wrong that needs to be put right, a letter which needs to be written, an apology made, a debt paid, a confession made, a stolen item returned. It may be a humbling pathway. Be careful to be guided by the Spirit of God, for sometimes things are brought out into the open when it would have been wiser not to have mentioned them at all.

On the other hand it is a wonderful opportunity to testify to the change that has taken place in your life and to exalt the Lord who has forgiven you and who has given you a new life to live in holiness and righteousness before Him.

11. Literature

Read! That is an essential part of a Christian's life. You need material that will help a young convert immediately. These basic Christian beliefs will give you a firm foundation and will help you day after day. Get a good daily reading book and use it with your Bible every morning. Keep reading and you will keep growing as you respond to the truths which the Lord will place not only in your mind but also in your heart.

12. Follow up.

If possible make an appointment to see the new convert in the next day or two to encourage and consolidate the work done in his heart.

If possible slot him into a live prayer and fellowship group where he will be able to share his problems, be encouraged by more experienced Christians and where he will be able to grow in grace.

A HELPFUL SELECTION OF TEXTS IN SOUL-WINNING

“What the church needs today is not more machinery and better, not new organisations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use – men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men – men of prayer.”
- E. M. Bounds

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5:16.)

*Oh for a passionate passion for souls!
 Oh for a pity that yearns!
 Oh for the love that loves unto death!
 Oh for the fire that burns!
 Oh for the pure prayer-power that prevails,
 That pours itself out for the lost –
 Victorious prayer in the Conqueror’s name;
 Oh for a Pentecost!*

*Infinite Saviour, in mighty compassion,
 Take Thy poor child tonight!
 That which she hath not, in tenderness give.
 Teach her to pray and to fight.
 Cost what it may, of a loneliness after,
 So only souls be won.*

- Amy Carmichael

The following texts are by no means a comprehensive collection of suitable Scriptures for the soul-winner. They are but a brief selection which will nevertheless be of great assistance in dealing with souls.

NKJV

1. THE INDIFFERENT

(a) The seriousness of sin

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

“Against You, You only, have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight...” (Ps. 51:4).

“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10).

(b) The consequences of sin

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that he will not hear” (Is. 59:2).

“...The soul who sins shall die” (Ezek. 18:4).

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels’” (Matt. 25:41).

“For the wages of sin is death...” (Rom. 6:23).

“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).

(c) The conviction of sin

“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12).

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?” (Heb. 2:3).

2. THE SEEKER

“And I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9-13 – vs. 9 quoted).

“‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool’” (Is. 1:18).

“Then you will call upon me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:12 and 13).

“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28).

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37).

3. THE PENITENT

“Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy” (Micah 7:18).

“I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance” (Luke 15:7).

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).

4. THE DOUBTER

Doubt can be caused through:

(a) Ignorance

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God...” (John 1:12).

“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life...” (I John 5:12,13).

(b) Sin

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; And to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Is. 55:7).

(c) Dependence on feeling

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but has passed from death into life” (John 5:24).

5. THE BACKSLIDER

(a) The unconcerned

“Prepare to meet your God...” (Amos 4:12).

“For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them” (2 Pet. 2:20-22, vs. 21 quoted).

(b) The concerned

“Return, backsliding Israel,’ says the Lord, ‘And I will not cause My anger to fall on you; For I am merciful,’ says the Lord, ‘And I will not remain angry forever. Only acknowledge your iniquity, that you have transgressed against the Lord your God.’” (Jer. 3:12-14).

“I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him” (Hosea 14:1-4, vs. 4 quoted).

The story of the Prodigal Son. (Luke 15:11:24).

6. THE COMPROMISER

“Abstain from every form of evil” (I Thess. 5:22).

“Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you” (2 Cor. 6:14-18, vs. 17 quoted).

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (I John 2:15, 16).

“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4).

7. THE TEMPTED

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (I Cor. 10:13).

“For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted” (Heb. 2:18).

“ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

8. THE AFFLICTED

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you” (Is. 43:2).

“ Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:1 and 2).

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17).

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28).

9. THE DEFEATED

“Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin” (Rom. 6:6).

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace” (Rom. 6:14).

“ Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place” (2 Cor. 2:14).

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it” (I Thes. 5:23, 24).

“To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:19).

10. THE ENSLAVED

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6).

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (I John 3:8).

“ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Cor. 15:57).

KJV (the same texts)

1. THE INDIFFERENT

(a) The seriousness of sin

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

“Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight...”(Ps. 51: 4).

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10).

(b) The consequences of sin

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Is. 59:2).

“...the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezek. 18:4).

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).

“For the wages of sin is death...” (Rom. 6:23).

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).

(c) The conviction of sin

“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12).

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...?” (Heb. 2:3).

2. THE SEEKER

“And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you” (Luke 11:9-13 – vs. 9 quoted).

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Is. 1:18).

“Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:12 and 13).

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28).

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37).

3. THE PENITENT

“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy” (Micah 7:18).

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance” (Luke 15:7).

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).

4. THE DOUBTER

Doubt can be caused through:

(a) Ignorance

“But as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God...” (I John 1:12).

“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...” (I John 5:12, 13).

(b) Sin

“Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him: and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Is. 55:7).

(c) Dependence on feeling

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).

5. THE BACKSLIDER

(a) The unconcerned

“Prepare to meet thy God...” (Amos 4:12).

“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (2 Pet. 2:20-22, vs. 21 quoted).

(b) The concerned

“Return thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord, and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord Thy God” (Jer. 3:12-14).

“I will heal their backsliding. I will love them freely; for mine anger is turned away from him” (Hosea 14:1-4, vs. 4 quoted).

The Story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24.)

6. THE COMPROMISER

“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (I Thess. 5:22).

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (2 Cor. 6:14-18, vs. 17 quoted).

“Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (I John 2:15, 16).

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).

7. THE TEMPTED

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (I Cor. 10:13).

“For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted” (Heb. 2:18).

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

8. THE AFFLICTED

“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee” (Is. 43:2).

“Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:1 and 2).

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17).

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28).

9. THE DEFEATED

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Rom. 6:6).

“For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom. 6: 14).

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place” (2 Cor. 2:14).

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it” (I Thess. 5:23,24).

“ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:19).

10. THE ENSLAVED

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly...” (Rom. 5:6).

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (I John 3:8).

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Cor. 15:57).

Part 10

THE MOTIVES FOR EVANGELISM

1. Damnation of the Lost

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb.9:27). Peter speaks about “the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” 2 (2Pet.3:7). “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb.10:31). “Our God is a consuming fire” (Heb.12:29). “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” (2Cor.5:11).

Souls outside of Christ are lost. They are going to hell. There is no hope for them. They will die in their iniquity. The awful wail of the damned reaches our ears. It is their ghastly plight that moves us to action. Ease-loving Christianity is crime! Only white-hot evangelism will do. They need to be saved and we have the message that will bring to them eternal salvation.

Can a mariner sit idle if he heard the drowning cry?
 Could a doctor sit in comfort and just let his patients die?
 Could a fireman sit idle, let men burn and give no hand?
 Can you sit at ease in Zion with the world around you damned?

Leonard Ravenhill

2. The Compulsion of God’s Love

God’s love is:

- Everlasting “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jer.31:3). Before they were born He knew of their coming and of their sin and yet He loved them.
- Enduring “He loved them to the end” (John 13:1). Despite their failures, their sins, their evil, their depravity, He loved them.
- Universal “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John3:16). He loves all, lovely and detestable. No matter what colour, culture or country, all are included in His love.
- Redeeming “In His love and in His pity He redeemed them” (Is.63:9). He bought them free from bondage simply because He loved them, not for any merit they have or any quality which could commend them. He just loved and saved.
- Individual “The Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal.2:20). He saw me in a sea of iniquity and died for me. Amazing love!
- Sacrificial “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us” (1 John 3:16). His enormous sacrifice at Calvary was a revelation of His love.
- Constraining “For the love of Christ constrains us” (2 Cor.5:14). This love constrained Him to leave His ivory palaces; to leave the worship and joy of the heavenly realms; to face ignominy and shame, to be down-trodden and rejected, to be an outcast among men, to be crucified. What a day when Jesus died! What sacrifice! What love!

Could we with ink the ocean fill
 And were the skies of parchment made
 Were every stalk on earth a quill
 And every man a scribe by trade,
 To write the love of God above
 Would drain the ocean dry
 Nor could the scroll contain the whole

Though stretched from sky to sky.

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure
How measureless and strong,
It shall for ever more endure
The saints' and angels' song.

This is the love that sent Jesus to Calvary. Can I refuse anything that He might ask of me to spread His love among the doomed and damned? If His love fills me I will be propelled by its power to go and tell this wonderful story. I cannot remain silent. I am forced into action. As the Master, so the servant. "As He is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17). I am constrained and compelled by the Spirit of the One whom I follow and who indwells me. *That* Spirit motivates me. I must proclaim!

3. The Expectation of the Lord

Jesus Christ is coming soon and to Him I must give account. Paul speaks from his heart to young Timothy when he says, "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season" (2 Tim.4:1).

Preach the word in season even if it is out of season. Make your out of seasons in seasons! Make opportunities even when it seems that there are none. This text contains a solemn charge because it is:

1. Before God. I charge you, he says, before the Holy God of Israel, the Creator of all things, the One who holds your breath in His hand, the Mighty and Omniscient One.
2. Before the Lord Jesus, your Redeemer, the One who loved you unto death, the One who has called and commissioned you, who is watching your every move, who knows your heart's desires and deceits. I charge you before Him!
3. Before the Judgment. I charge you to preach the word because of the coming judgment when He 'will judge the living and the dead.' There is a day coming when all the secrets of men shall be disclosed. The lazy evangelist and the casual Christian worker will have to give account. The one who has done the work of the Lord negligently, sloppily, and the one who has put his hand to the plough and turned aside will be held responsible. The charge is very solemn. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ" (2Cor.5:10). The judgment looms ahead. I charge you in the light of this moment of truth.
4. Before His Coming. What a moment it will be. His appearing! His presence! The moment when God comes and says, "It's closing time!" Time will be no more. He shall come physically, royally, gloriously, majestically, suddenly and eternally! He shall come in the twinkling of an eye when we least expect Him.

Paul's charge is extremely solemn. It is before God; before the Lord Jesus; before the Judgment and before His coming. These are some of the last words that Paul wrote as this is his last epistle. Paul the aged is delivering this last charge.

In v. 6 he says, "I am already being poured out as a drink offering and the time of my departure is at hand." In the Greek culture of the day, this speaks of being poured out as

a libation. When an offering to a Greek god had been completed, they poured out a little bowl of wine upon the altar. Paul says that his life's offering is now complete and already the libation is being poured out. 'My life's sacrifice has now been consumed, the last drop will soon fall from the bowl and I will be gone. My home-coming is in sight. Listen,' he says, 'this is my last word to you. Whilst my martyr's blood is being poured from my veins, I charge you:

Live in the sight of God who knows you through and through;
 Live in the sight of the Lord Jesus who died for you;
 Live in the sight of His judgment when you must give account;
 Live in the light of His coming!

And what is the charge?

Preach!

Preach the word!

Spread the message in season, out of season! Go to the ends of the earth! Don't wait unnecessarily! Tell it; preach it; speak it! Souls are lost! Christ loves them and died for them. Let His love flood your soul and Go!

Go, faithful in your duty, with the authentic and authoritative word. Go, joyfully, go solemnly, go passionately, go gazing around you upon lost souls and let your heart be moved with compassion. Go, gazing up at a crucified Lord and let your soul break in amazement with wonder and love. Go, expecting the risen Lord to return from heaven. Go with the love of God flooding your soul. Go sacrificially. Go for the sake of the One who died for you.

What has our service been like?

Has there been failure? Will you confess those failures to Him? Has there been laziness, a lack of dedication and motivation, a lack of love? Has your heart been cold and empty? Has your service been wood, hay and stubble? Your co-operation with others, has it been begrudged? What of selfish attitudes?

Are you still spiritually effective for Jesus? Have you been working half-heartedly? Oh, the joyless hours in His service. Oh, the lack of a spontaneous reaction of love to people, the calculated amount that you give of yourself, the careful measured generosity, the dark moods when your will is crossed, the harsh and critical words spoken about others, the sad break in fellowship patched up somehow. Perhaps there are people with whom you work whom you would rather avoid in the work of God. A gulf has grown and hard feelings separate you from intimate fellowship.

Do heart conditions need to be exposed? Do confessions need to be made? Has self-pity crept in and is it developing into bitterness? Can you say that your heart is filled with love? Is this the motivation of your service? Come to Jesus. He understands your heart but He does not excuse your sin. With infinite tenderness He can forgive and heal the breach and bind up the broken places.

Come, confess, yield, turn to Him who will have mercy and abundantly pardon. Pour out your soul to Him. Let His light shine into the deepest crevasses of your being. Be honest. He sees you as you are. Don't try and cover up.

Bend, break, confess, yield. He shall clasp you to His bosom. He seeks your good even as you yield to His Spirit. With Him is restoring grace. He repairs, renews, restores, fills and re-commissions. Praise His wondrous Name. We go forth refreshed and revived from His presence, and begin again to sound forth this mighty gospel of His great deliverance! May God help us. Amen and amen!

Chapter 3

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question 1

DO ALL RELIGIONS LEAD TO GOD ?

In the theological climate of the day, where all religions are said to lead to God, it is necessary to state clearly that the Christian religion is the only one that leads to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

False Gods

There are elements of morality and truth in other religions, but the God of creation can be approached only through Jesus Christ. Man cannot come to God by any other way. The philosophies of men fail in their attempts to bring men to God. The heathen sculptured gods from wood and stone and worshipped them. Philosophers have created gods in their minds. They have called them by various names, for instance, the “Great Spirit” or the “Supreme Power”. These gods they acknowledge, but they are as false as the gods of wood and stone, for they are gods of their own making, mere fabrications of the imagination. The intellectual philosopher is as much an idolater as the ignorant heathen in that both worship gods of their own creation, one created by hands, and one created by the mind. God cannot be approached by reason; “the world through wisdom did not know God” (I Cor. 1:21). God is a God of revelation and He revealed Himself to mankind through the written Word, the Bible, and through the living Word, His Son Jesus Christ.

One true God

The psalmist states clearly, “You alone are God” (Ps. 86:10). Paul says, “For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven, or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is only one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live” (I Cor. 8:5-6). He speaks to the Romans of those, “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever” (Rom. 1:25). The Creator alone is God and all other gods are false.

To the disciples the statement of Jesus must have been mind-boggling, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). No one had ever made such a fantastic claim before. Such words had never been uttered by mortal man. When Peter preached before the rulers and elders of Jerusalem, he said, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12.) No other name! He is a perfect, powerful and present Saviour. All other saviours are pretenders.

In its description of faith, the Westminster Shorter Catechism says, “Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospels.” Salvation is received by faith in Him alone!

In these days of compromise, when unwanted doctrines are pushed aside, we must state clearly and firmly that the only way to God is through Jesus Christ. It matters not who contradicts this basic truth, the Bible states that Jesus Christ is the only way to God. If it is said that God can be approached through any other means, Jesus Christ, who claimed to be truth, would be a liar. How could a liar found a religion of righteousness? No. Jesus Christ is the only way to God. This is exclusive and may be offensive, but to those who believe, He is “the power of God and the wisdom of God” (I Cor. 1:24).

Question 2

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN ?

The clearest description of a true Christian is given us in the Bible.

A Christian is a person who has realised his sinfulness.
“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

A Christian is a person who has knowingly come to Christ for help.
“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”
(Matthew 11:28).

A Christian is a person who has repented of his sin.
“But unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).

A Christian is a person who has put his faith and trust in Jesus Christ to save him.
“He who believes (*or trusts*) in the Son has everlasting life” (John 3:36).

A Christian is a person who has opened the door of his life to Christ and let Him take control. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him” (Revelation 3:20).

A Christian is a person who has called on the Lord Jesus for salvation.
“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21).

A Christian is a person who has been born again.
“unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

A Christian is a person who has been changed by the power of God.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

A Christian is a person who is seeking to discover and endeavouring to obey the will of God.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matt.&:21).

A Christian is a person who is trusting Jesus Christ and confessing Him as Saviour and Lord, by life and lip.

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

Question 3

DO I NEED TO BE CONVERTED ?

Some people say, “Why should I come to Christ anyway? I know some pretty good people out there, and they are as good as you Christians any day.”

Did God express His love in vain? Did Christ suffer for nothing? If you can get to heaven in any other way why did Christ have to go through the terrors of Calvary? Why does the Spirit of God plead with men and women to be reconciled to God? Do you realize that eternity is real and you will have to give an account of yourselves to God? What of the judgement? What of God’s wrath?

We need to come to Christ and be saved from sin and its dreaded results. We need to repent and be converted, forgiven, be born again and made new creatures in Christ Jesus. The transformation is essential. Why?

1) Because God loves me!

The amazing thing is that God loves me. Who am I to receive His love and kindness? God so loved that He gave His Son for the world, and that includes me! (John 3:16). He says, “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jer.31:3). Paul states clearly that “the Son of God... loved *me* and gave Himself for *me*” (Gal. 2:20). Isaiah says, “In His love and in His pity He redeemed them” (Is. 63:9). God has set His love upon us and we need to respond to that love.

2) Because it is God’s will

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9).

3) Because it is God’s command

“Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die?” (Ezek. 33:11).

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17).

“Enter by the narrow gate...” (Matt. 7:13 and 14).

4) Because without it I am lost

“The soul who sins shall die...” (Ezek. 18:4).

“The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

“unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

5) Because by Christ’s death He reconciled us to God

“that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself” (II Cor. 5:19).

6) Because by Christ’s death He redeemed us from the curse

“Christ has redeemed us...” (Gal. 3:13 and 14).

7) Because Jesus died to save me.

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”(John 1:29).

8) Because the angels will rejoice when I am converted .

“There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents”

(Luke15:10).

9) Because the Holy Spirit as well as those who are saved desire it

“And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’...” (Rev. 22:17).

10) Because it satisfies my soul

“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28).

11) Because I will never regret it

“For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation, not to be regretted” (II Cor. 7:10).

12) Because heaven is undeniably wonderful and hell incomprehensibly terrible

“he was caught up into paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter” (II Corinthians 12:3-4).

“And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”(Matt. 25: 30).

13) Because the wrath of God awaits me if I reject His salvation

“Who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (Matthew 3:7-8).

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men” (Rom.1:18).

14) Because Jesus is praying for my conversion

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word” (John 17:20).

Question 4

I HAVE A PROBLEM

Despite Christ's call, "Come unto Me" (Matt. 11:28), many offer excuses and refuse to take the most gracious offer ever made to man.

- **I Must Get Better First**

"But seek first the kingdom of God..." (Matt. 6:33).

Good living without grace does not merit God's favour. You cannot improve yourself. You must come as you are.

- **God is Too Good To Damn Anyone**

"...unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

God is loving but righteous too. His judgments are for the unbelieving and the ungodly.

The prisoner who is being taken to jail by the officers of justice has learned that the judge will not allow the lawbreaker to go unpunished.

All who refuse to accept life through Christ's death and resurrection must forever "dwell with the devouring fire" (Is. 33:14). "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9: 17). "...he who does not believe on the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36).

- **It Makes No Difference What I Believe as long as I am Sincere**

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 16:25).

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (John 14:6).

A man may drink a bottle of poison, sincerely believing that it is medicine, but his sincere belief will not save his life. It matters what you sincerely believe in! The object of faith is very important.

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36).

- **My Friends Would Persecute Me**

"The fear of man brings a snare..." (Prov. 29:25).

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

Friends can distract us in our search, deviate us from our purpose and dilute our desires for God. Don't let them! The fear of ridicule, of being the odd one out and of rejection is a strong deterrent. Think of the Saviour. If you choose their pathway, you will have

rejected Him, and you are lost forever. If you choose Him, they might see a better way and respect and follow you.

- **I Am Doing the Best I Can**

By your own standards you are perhaps doing the best that you can, but our best is not good enough. Our goodness is tainted by sin. God must forgive and remove this sin if we are to have fellowship with Him.

“There is none righteous, no, not one” (Rom. 3:10).

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

“all the world may become guilty before God” (Rom. 3:19).

“The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

“the soul who sins shall die” (Ezek. 18:4).

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us” (Tit. 3:5).

- **I Am Too Great a Sinner**

If you recognize your sinful condition, you have come a long way. Take heart, all is not lost. The purpose of Christ’s coming was to save sinners. No matter how deep the pit of sin is into which you have fallen, He will forgive and cleanse you.

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions...” (Is. 43:25).

“ ‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the Lord, ‘though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool’ ” (Is. 1:18).

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).

- **I Always Was a Christian**

It is very commendable to be religious, but religion is not salvation. Many people are lost under the wings of the church. They are committed to the church programme and are involved in church activities, but they have no knowledge of sins forgiven, and no joy of assurance of salvation. They walk in a twilight state of religious formality, and of dead orthodoxy. They are good living, moral and kind people, but they do not know Christ. With all their religion they are lost.

“In sin my mother conceived me” (Ps. 51:5).

“All we like sheep have gone astray...” (Is. 53:6).

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ” (Gal. 2:16).

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).

“Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

We may be in a “Christian” country, have Christian values and accept a Christian way of life, but if we have not repented of our sin and received forgiveness; if we have not trusted Christ for salvation and life, we are yet without God and without hope in the world.

Question 5

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I BECOME A CHRISTIAN ?

When we trust Jesus alone to save us from our sins we become His children and are on the way to His home – heaven. Here are some of the things that happen when I trust Jesus as my Saviour.

1) My sins are forgiven.

“Let the wicked forsake His way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him” (Is. 55:7).

“Through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things” (Acts 13:38-39).

“And you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).

There is no sin too vile, no wickedness too great, no evil too revolting, but God will forgive it. God will clasp the penitent sinner to His bosom. Forgiven! What a word! What healing to the tortured mind! What a joy to the seeking heart!

2) I am justified.

“Being justified freely by His grace” (Rom. 3:24).

“Having now been justified by His blood” (Rom. 5:9).

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God” (Rom. 5:1).

We are justified by grace, by blood, by faith and by Christ. We stood condemned before the great Judge. Our sins rose like a mountain and we were doomed and damned. But One came into the court and declared that He would take our sins upon Himself. That meant He took our punishment too, and we left the court, not as condemned criminals, but as free men and women. It is salvation by substitution. Jesus died in my place, and I am free.

3) I am reconciled to God.

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ” (2 Cor.5:18,19).

Formally an enemy of God, going my own way and doing my own thing, by His grace I have returned to God. I was far off but He has brought me near. Now we are one in heart and spirit. Now I want to do His will with all my heart.

4) I have been redeemed.

“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Col.1:14).
 “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things...but with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Pet.1:18,19).

I have been bought free from the slave-market of sin by the blood of Christ. I am no longer under the dominion of Satan. I am no longer his slave. I have been made free to serve the Lord Jesus.

5) I am not condemned or accused by God.

“We shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Rom. 5:9).

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1).

“Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies” (Rom. 8:33).

I am saved from God’s wrath!

My condemnation was placed on Christ, and now I am as though I had never sinned. My sins are gone! He took my punishment. God’s wrath fell on Him and I am free.

6) I am saved.

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom.10:9).

This salvation is not merely a social or economic salvation. It is a salvation from sin. I am no longer the old person I was, and have left my sinful ways.

7) I am no longer in darkness but in the light of the Lord.

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” (Eph. 5:8).

Christ Jesus is our light and as we follow Him we walk in His light.

8) I am a child of God.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (I John 3:1).

As His children we have His characteristics. We experience His life, His love, His joy, His peace. I am going to be with Him in His home forever!

9) I have peace with God.

He is our peace (Eph. 2:14).

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1).

We were under conviction of sin. We were troubled by a guilty conscience. But now the turmoil and unrest has gone. We find fulfilment and rest in Him.

10) I have joy

“Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:2.)

Peace and joy are the twin blessings of the gospel. Someone has said, “Peace is joy resting, and joy is peace dancing.” We rejoice in this hope. This is no vague hope, but a certain hope of an assured welcome at the end of the journey. This hope speaks of the glory of God and it is this glory which we will see and experience!

11) I am born again.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13). Those who ‘received Him’ are ‘born...of God!’

Christ lives in me! (Gal.2:20).

We are made “partakers of the divine nature” (II Peter 1:4). God dwells in man. Deity indwells humanity! A Christian is one in whom God dwells. He has God’s life and is therefore God’s child. As God’s child he will inherit God’s home and live with Him forever.

12) I am a new creature in Christ.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (II Cor. 5:17.)

I have not just turned over a new leaf, I have received a new life. I have new desires, new longings, new aspirations. My appetite has changed. Whereas all I wanted was to please myself, now I want to please the One who has saved me for I am His forever. He expresses His desires for me in His Word and I want to do that which He requires. Pleasing Him is my joy and delight. I am altogether changed, for I have His life within me.

13) I have received the Holy Spirit.

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor. 3:18).

“Indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you...” (Rom. 8:9).

The Holy Spirit lives within me to live His holy life through me. God living in me makes me a Christian. Nothing less than that! I am regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

14) I am in Christ.

“Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:11). Paul writes to “the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (1Thes.1:1).

I am no longer enjoying the world’s pleasures but my delight is in Him!

15) I have received a new heart and a new nature.

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezek. 36:26).

He will enable me to know His will, to love His will, and to do His will.

16) I have assurance of salvation.

“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life” (I John 5:12-13).

God brings His own assurance into our hearts. This is not presumption, but “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.” It cannot be described but it is known by all those who have received Christ. It is an inward persuasion that I am His forever.

17) I am a saint, set apart for God.

“Greet every saint in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:21).

“To the church of God...to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints” (I Cor. 1:2).

We no longer have the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit of Christ Jesus, and we follow Him.

18) I receive power to love Christ and to live righteously.

“We love Him because He first loved us” (I John 4:19)

Love begets love. The more you know of His love in you, the more you will love Him and the more you will want to serve Him by living a pure and holy life.

19) I receive the precious promises in the Bible.

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us” (II Cor. 1:20).

What riches there are in these promises. God gives us all the promises in the Bible.

20) I am part of the church, the body of Christ, the family of God.

“And gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body...” (Eph. 1:22-23).

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.” (Rom. 8:16-17.)

I am not alone in Jesus; no, I am introduced to the vast number of those who have been redeemed. We form a wonderful world-wide fellowship of the redeemed. We are His body here on earth. I am part of the wonderful family of God.

21) I have access to God.

“Through Him we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Rom 5:2).

“In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him” (Eph. 3:12).

Access indicates that we have the privilege of approaching someone high-placed. Jacob had access to Pharaoh through the one whom Pharaoh treated as his son, Joseph, and we have access to God through His Son the Lord Jesus.

22) I am an heir of God.

“...we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:7.)

We are part of God’s family, by creation, by spiritual birth and by adoption (Rom. 8:16-17). Now we share God’s eternal riches.

23) I have received eternal life.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.” (John 6:47.)

He has given us His life. We are indwelt by the eternal life of God. We will be with Him forever. Praise His wonderful Name!

“Through whom we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” (Rom. 5:2.)

We rejoice – there is joy; in hope – there is expectancy; because we have access – there is entry; to God – there is intimacy; and we stand – there is stability; in this grace – there is sufficiency; this is all in His presence, which is glory! We have a forgiven past and a glorious future!

Question 6**HOW SHOULD I READ THE BIBLE ?**

- **Read Reverently**

The Bible is God’s book. It was given under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and it is He alone who can make it plain to you. “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (II Peter 1:21).

If a boy is doing his maths homework on the floor with his dog beside him, both he and his dog look at the geometric figures on the book, but only he understands the truth conveyed by those figures. You could be an unsaved professor in a university and understand as much of the inner meaning of the words of Scripture as the dog understands of the geometry. It is only when the Holy Spirit flashes the truth within you that the words transform you. Revelation from the Holy Spirit is illuminating and energising. It is then that the words are not only truth but life. The Word speaks to me. Revelation becomes experience.

- **Read Prayerfully**

Not only must our attitude be reverent, but prayerful as well. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Word as you read. Ask the Lord to speak to you and to guide you through the Word. It is good to gain general knowledge as you read, but this knowledge must be personal and real. If you casually and carelessly flip over the pages, don’t expect to gain very much spiritually. In fact, don’t expect to grow. But when you say, “Lord, bring these sentences home to me in a personal way: Lord speak to me,” it is then that you are placing yourself under the authority of the Word of God and are in a place where He can

reveal His word, His will, and His way to you. A prayerful attitude is a must as you come into His Presence. Read meditatively. Ponder the words prayerfully.

- **Read Expectantly**

If you don't expect to hear God speak to you, don't be surprised if He doesn't. When you approach the Word, you get what you come for. The archaeologist approaches it to get historical clues; the English professor looks for literary style and goes away with literature; the moralist goes away with ethics. But we approach the Scriptures to find the Saviour. The Scripture is called "the oracles [speaking-place] of God" (Rom. 3:2). Expect then to hear the Lord speaking to you. "The Scriptures," said Jesus, "testify of Me" (John 5:39). We meet the Saviour as we search the holy pages. Expect to meet Him – and you will.

- **Read Intelligently**

If you are mentally lazy, you will stagnate spiritually. God gave you a brain and He intends you to use it. The subject matter in the Scriptures requires thought and as you apply yourself you develop your thinking ability. The style of the Scriptures is so condensed as to require much intense study. Thousands are spiritual paupers because they are too lazy to think.

Take time to analyse, study, compare and contrast Scripture, to dig up hidden meanings, to use the concordance and look for the gems. Most people have no inclination to study. Mental laziness is a hindrance to intelligent reading and consequently to spiritual blessing. Shake yourself free from this Spirit-hindering frame of mind. Study intensively, intelligently, zealously. Establish a method of study. Train yourself and you will be amply rewarded.

- **Read Carefully**

You should use not only the microscope but also the telescope when reading the Bible. By the microscope I mean that you should study a portion with intense care and enquire into the meaning of each word or phrase. In this painstaking work, words which at first you skated over seem to rise up and hit you. Fresh meaning charged with blessing thrills your soul.

However the telescope must also be used. Bible books should be read through to gain a panoramic view of the whole Scripture. If you are about to study a book in the Bible which is not too long, read it through several times.

If you read four chapters a day you will read the Bible through in less than a year. This gives an overall picture of the whole Bible, and gives a necessary background to the more intensive study.

To do *this* of course, you must often turn to the Word. It cannot be neglected or you will lose touch with its history and its truths.

- **Read Regularly**

Handle the Bible every day. Make this a habit of life. When you wake up in the morning, the first thing should be the Bible. When you retire at night the Bible should be read. Get yourself awake in the morning and see that you are not too tired to read it in the evening. Don't read a few verses sleepily and hope that the Lord will magically make them a blessing to you. Give yourself wholly to the Word and your life will blossom in freshness and fruitfulness.

- **Read Methodically**

Don't dodge here and there. Don't just open the Bible and read a chapter at random. You would never do that with any other book; why then do it with the Bible? Go through it methodically and you will accumulate matter that God blesses to you and which you can use to the blessing of others.

- **Read Obediently**

It seems hardly necessary to say it as it is so obvious, but man being what he is needs nevertheless to hear again and again that what God says must be obeyed. The man who hears the words of Jesus and does them is the wise man who builds his house upon the rock (Matt. 7:24). "To obey is better than sacrifice" we are told (I Sam. 15:22). God gives His Spirit "to those who obey Him" (Acts 5:32). Again and again we are urged to obey the Lord, and by doing so we build solid character and prepare our hearts for further revelations from the Lord, (John 14:21).

Go forward then with the Word of God in your hands, in your head and in your heart, and your profiting will be known by all who keep company with you.

A Few Methods of Bible Study

1) Panoramic Method

Read through the Bible as quickly as possible to get a view of the Bible as a whole.

2) Character Study Method

e.g. Jacob; Joseph; David; Paul.

Make notes of the different characteristics with the appropriate texts.

3) Topical Study

Examples of Topics: Prayer, Grace, Salvation, Forgiveness, Blood, Assurance, Faith, etc. Use the concordance and write down verses dealing with the chosen subject in a notebook. Sort out and rearrange the texts which "belong" together as you ponder their contents. Computers make this task so much easier and you could well accumulate a great deal of material in a short space of time using this method.

4) Word Study Method

Examples of Words: But, Now, Come, Believe.

Again the concordance is used and verses dealing with the chosen subject are written down in the notebook. Sort out and rearrange the texts which "belong" together as you ponder their contents.

5) Book Study Method

Deal with one book at a time, e.g. Ephesians and note the key thought of the book as well as any other important facts. First of all read through the book a couple of times.

6) Devotional Method

Answer the following about the passage or chapter which you have just read:

- What is the main theme?
- What is the chief lesson?
- What is the best verse?
- Who are the persons mentioned?
- What is the teaching concerning Christ?
- What is the teaching concerning the Holy Spirit?
- Is any great Biblical Doctrine emphasized?
- Is there any example to follow?
- Is there any error to avoid?
- Is there any command to obey?
- Is there any promise to claim?
- Is there any challenge to meet?
- Is there any prayer to echo?
- Is there any message to proclaim?
- Personal:
 - What does God say to me?
 - Where does my life depart from it?
 - What am I going to do about it?
- Are there any difficulties in the passage?

Question 7

SHOULD I TESTIFY ?

You have often heard folk say: "I don't talk about my religion!" Well, maybe it's not worth talking about!

Paul's commission three times renewed was not only to preach but also to testify:

"He is a chosen vessel of Mine to *bear My name*" (Acts 9:15).

"You will be His *witness* to all men" (Acts 22:15).

"So you must also bear *witness* at Rome." (Acts 23:11).

"To make you a minister and a *witness*" (Acts 26:16).

When Paul's life hung in the balance and he was given opportunity to defend himself before governors, this master logician told the simple story of his conversion. Personal

experience is a tremendously powerful weapon in spreading the Gospel. In Paul's writings we constantly have deep theological thoughts mingled with personal testimony. He spoke his faith.

- 1) Testifying of the grace of God is not preaching. It is telling of what God has done and is doing in your own personal life. "I believed and therefore I spoke" (II Cor. 4:13). It is an *expression of faith*.
- 2) It is not telling what others say, but *what God has done in me*. "I will declare what He has done for my soul," cried the Psalmist (Ps. 66:16).
- 3) Witnessing is also very *necessary*. "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9).
- 4) In a specific instance in Mark 5 Jesus *commands* testimony. "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you" (vs. 19). Although on other occasions Jesus requested silence because of special circumstances, here the man was going to the Greek cities outside of Judea. He was to testify about Jesus to those who did not know him. So we too cannot remain silent when Jesus commands us to speak to those who do not know Him.
- 5) Testimony is *rewarded*. "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32). It is wonderful to think of the Lord Jesus looking at His child, and saying to His Father, "Look, Father, he/she is speaking of Me." Surely your reward awaits you.
- 6) We must ever be *ready* to testify. In I Pet. 3:15 we read "and always be ready to give a defence...for the hope that is in you." We must not be caught off-guard. We must at all times, in all places, be able to tell of what the Lord Jesus has done in our hearts.
- 7) We must *not be ashamed* of our testimony. Paul advises Timothy, "Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord" (II Tim. 1:8). Remember Paul said to the Romans, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ" (1:16). This Gospel will save those who believe. Ashamed of it? Never! Proclaim it far and wide!
- 8) The disciples of the early church did not have to be told to testify. They said "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). They had to tell! Testimony is *spontaneous* when the soul is enriched and possessed by God. Let us ask Him to so fill us that we will not be able to keep silent. Then His words will easily flow through us, and others will be forced to say "The Lord has done great things for them."

Question 8

WHAT ABOUT WORLDLINESS ?

This is not strictly a doctrine of salvation, but it is necessary to be clear on this subject so that the convert is not taken up with that which would lead him into a shallow and superficial Christian experience. Today the line of demarcation between the Church and the world is barely visible. All too often when we look for the Church we find it in the world, and when we look for the world we find it in the Church. A friendly alliance has been forged. There are Scriptures, however, which cannot be argued away, and must be faced if we are to live by God's holy Word.

The word "world" has three meanings in Scripture. *Firstly* we have the physical world which God created and called "good." *Secondly*, the human world spoken of in John 3: 16, "For God so loved the world..." God still loves this world of humanity and Christians love it too, for His love is within them. *Thirdly*, there is also the moral world that has forsaken God and is devoted to this life and its enjoyments. It has false values, false standards and false gods. It is organized by wrong principles and characterised by base desires. This the Christian should avoid. What are its characteristics?

It is *Godless*, "the world has not known You" (John 17: 25).

It is *dark*, "the rulers of the darkness of this age" (Eph. 6: 12). Light is the symbol of purity, holiness, glory, but darkness symbolises sorrow, sin and despair.

It is *lustful* and has "worldly lusts" (Tit. 2: 12). Peter writes: "not conforming yourselves to the former lusts" (I Pet. 1: 14).

It is *deceitful*. We read of "the deceitfulness of riches" (Matt. 13: 22). "But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives" (I Tim. 5: 6.) We read also of "Satan, who deceives the whole world" (Rev. 12: 9).

It is *defiling*. "Israel is defiled" (Hosea 5: 3). "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this....to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1: 27). There are filthy sounds and sights everywhere and the Christian needs to keep himself unspotted and undefiled.

It is *unfruitful*. "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph. 5: 11). A worldly life yields neither the beauty of a fragrant life on earth, nor the benefit of an eternal life in heaven (Eph. 5: 5). It is unprofitable.

It is *evil*. "who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age" (Gal. 1: 4).

It is *incompatible*. "For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? Therefore 'Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,' says the Lord Almighty." (II Cor. 6: 14 - 18).

It is *transient*. "The world is passing away, and the lust of it" (I John 2: 17). The man of this world is doomed to disappointment. The very things upon which he builds his

life are victims of decay. It is the act of a fool to dedicate himself to that which is fading away.

It is *opposed to God*. "For all that is in the world...is not of the Father but is of the world." (I John 2: 15 - 16).

It is at *enmity with God*. "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with this world is enmity with God?" (James 4: 4). The world is here portrayed as another lover wooing us away from God. If we flirt with the world, God calls us spiritual adulterers. How can we give our love to that which is at enmity with God?

It *hates God*. "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." (John 15: 18, 19).

It is *condemned*. "When we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world." (I Cor. 11: 32). Why should we join ourselves to that which is condemned?

The Christian's attitude to the world is to maintain a separated and saintly character. "For the grace of God ... teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age" (Tit. 2: 12). "... That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life" (Phil. 2: 15, 16). "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (I John 2: 15). Christians "have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God" (I Cor. 2: 12). We need to follow the example of the Thessalonians, who "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God" (I Thes. 1: 9). Paul says "do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12: 2).

The Biblical principles of separation are seen not only in the warnings of Scripture but also in Scriptural tests to which we can put any questionable amusement, practice or lifestyle.

- i. Is it forbidden by God?
"Abstain from every form of evil" (I Thes. 5: 22).
- ii. Will it harm my body or mind, or the minds of others?
"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body" (I Cor. 6: 19 - 20).
- iii. Will it bring glory to God?
"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (I Cor. 10: 31).
- iv. Would you like to be found in that condition when Jesus comes?
"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." (I John 2: 28).

- v. Is it beneficial? Do I waste time, energy, money on it?
 "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful." (I Cor. 6: 12a).
 "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful; all things are lawful for me, but all things do not edify." (I Cor. 10: 23).
- vi. Does it bind me? Am I under its power?
 "All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." (I Cor. 6:12b).
- viii. Is it a stumbling-block?
 "It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak." (Rom. 14: 21).
 "But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak...Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble." (I Cor. 8: 9 - 13).
- viii. Will it help me to be more Christ-like?
 "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3: 1 - 3).
 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12: 2 & 3).
 "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Rom. 8: 29).
 "Till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4: 13).
- ix. Is it doubtful?
 "Whatever is not from faith is sin." (Rom. 14: 23).
 "I myself always strive to have a conscience without offence toward God and men." (Acts 24: 16).

The final solution for worldliness is to be found in the Cross: "But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Gal. 6: 14). The world which glitters and glows, which attracts and allures, which fascinates and fools, which draws and damns has been crucified with Christ. The cross sets me free from its entwining stranglehold. As by faith I identify with the Lord Jesus in His death I am released from the power of the world by the power of the Cross. The allurements of the world pale into insignificance. Its intrigues are gone, its crafty scheming is revealed, its subtle designs and cunning deceits are exposed for what they are. I die with Christ to this "present evil world" and turn from it to the One who has captured my heart.

Ah, the wondrous Prince of glory - who can compare with Him! He is the Altogether Lovely One, the Fairest among ten thousand, the bright and morning Star, the Lily of the valley. He has ravished my heart! How could I turn from Him to that which has rejected Him and has put Him to death? From all that is evil, from that which draws me away from Him, from that which takes His presence from me and makes my heart cold, I turn away by the mighty power of the Cross and in the glorious strength of the Holy Spirit. I have found Jesus to be all sufficient - I want nothing else. I am His by the expulsive power of a new affection. Worldliness is expelled by the love of Christ, and now I am set apart to serve Him and to enjoy Him forever.

Can I take part with those
 Who nailed Him to a tree?
 And where His name is never praised
 Is there the place for me?

Nay, world! I turn away,
 Though thou seem fair and good;
 That friendly outstretched hand of thine
 Is stained with Jesus blood.

If in thy least device
 I stoop to take a part,
 All unaware, thine influence steals
 God's presence from my heart.

Margaret Mauro

Rev. Dr. Colin Neil Peckham LTh Hons, BA(Theol.), BTh Hons, MTh, DTh. was born in South Africa where he had eight years of evangelistic ministry and two years of youth work before entering Bible College work in Cape Town where he ministered for twelve years. He was then called to be principal of the Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was there for seventeen years. Now living near Edinburgh as principal emeritus he has an extensive preaching ministry in Great Britain and abroad. He and his wife Mary have three adult children and two grand-children