



Daily Devotional Readings

Taken from the Works of
Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Booklet Three
May and June

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May First

Partakers of one grace

“He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together” John 4:36.

[“He that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.”] Christian friends are sweet to the Christian. Those that are sharers of our spiritual secrets, those who mingle prayer with us before the throne, those who never forget us when within the veil — oh, there is something cheering in the very light of their kindly eye! It is an intercourse of which the world knows nothing. We have them in our heart, inasmuch as they are partakers of one grace, washed in one fountain, filled with the same Spirit, having one heart, members one of another.

May Second

Satan keeps me from it

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me” John 15:26.

I ought to study the Comforter more — His Godhead, His love, His almightiness. I have found by experience that nothing sanctifies me so much as meditating on the Comforter, as John 14:16 “And I will pray the Father, and He shall give me another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever.” And yet how seldom I do this! Satan keeps me from it. I am often like those men who said, They knew not if there be any Holy Ghost ... I ought never to forget that my body is dwelt in by the Third Person of the Godhead. The very thought of this should make me tremble

to sin, 1 Corinthians 6:19 ... I ought never to forget that sin grieves the Holy Spirit — vexes and quenches Him ... If I would be filled with the Spirit, I feel I must read the Bible more, pray more, and watch more.

May Third

A Great Love

“Behold what manner of love the Father have bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” 1 John 3:1.

How often in the day is the love of Christ quite out of view! How often is it obscured to us! How often are we left without the real sense of the completeness of His offering and the perfectness of His righteousness. Is there any of you, then, brethren, desirous of being made new, of being delivered from the slavery of sinful habits and affections? We can point you to no other remedy than the love of Christ. Behold how He loved you! See what He bore for you — put your finger, as it were, into the prints of the nails, and thrust your hand into His side; and be no more faithless, but believing. Under a sense of your sins, flee to the Saviour of sinners. As the timorous dove flies to hide itself in the crevices of the rock, so do you flee to hide yourself in the wounds of your Saviour.

May Fourth

Use it right

“And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give ever man according as his work shall be” Revelation 22:12.

The whole Bible shows that Christians will be rewarded in eternity just in proportion to the way they have made use of their talents. Now, money is one talent. If you use it right you will in no wise lose your reward. Christ plainly shows that He will reckon with men in the judgment according as they have dealt by His poor Christians. They that have done much for Christ shall have an abundant entrance; they that have done little shall have little reward.

I thank God that there are some among you to whom Christ will say: “Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Go on, dear Christians — live still for Christ. Never forget, day nor night, that you are yourselves bought with a price. Lay yourselves and your property all in His hand, and say: “What wilt Thou have me to do? Here am I, send me;” and then I know you will feel, now and in eternity, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

May Fifth

The heart of Christ

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” Hebrews 2:9.

The four Gospels are a narrative of the heart of Christ. They show His compassion to sinners, and His glorious work in their stead. If you only knew that heart as it is, you would lay your weary head with John on His bosom. Do not take up your time so much with studying your own heart as with studying Christ’s heart. “For one look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.”

May Sixth

Heaven’s greatest wonder

“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father” John 10:17, 18.

The death of Christ is, my friends, the most wonderful event past, present, or future in the whole universe. It is so in the eye of God — “Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life.” There is nothing in the whole world so lovely as His Son. It is not only for His Godhead, but on account of His manhood, through which He laid down His life — “Therefore

doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life.” These words of Christ, “I lay down My life,” are dearer to God than a thousand worlds.

May Seventh

Hell’s greatest wonder

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it” Colossians 2:15.

The death of Christ is the greatest wonder in hell. This was one thing which Satan did not know the meaning of — the death of Christ. Ah! Satan thought when he got Judas to betray Him — that he had gained the victory; but ah! Satan hath found it out now, that Christ has triumphed over him in His cross. Ah! then, brethren, Calvary is a wonder in hell. Tell me then, brethren, who is it in all the universe that thinks little of Christ’s laying down His life. Shall we find them in heaven? No. Shall we find them in hell? No; “they believe and tremble.” Where, then, shall we find the man that thinks little of Christ? O Christless sinner! it is you. “We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and to the Greeks foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:23). “For the preaching of the cross is, to them that perish, foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:18). O Christless man! you little think of the death of Christ; even the devils do not think it foolishness. Sinner, do not you think there must be something wrong about the state of your mind, that sees no beauty in the death of Christ?

May Eighth

Preparation

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

Are you fitter for heaven every day? Ah! my dear Christians, I tremble for some of you who are on your way to glory, and yet are not turning fitter for glory. Oh! that you would forget the

things that are behind, and reaching forth to those that are before, press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Some of you are just beginning the journey to heaven. Dear little children, wax stronger and stronger; pray more, read more, hear more, love more, do more every day. Let your sense of sin grow, like the roots of trees, downwards, deeper and deeper. Let your faith grow, like the branch of the vine, stronger and stronger every year. Let your peace grow, like a river, broader and broader. “We are journeying.”

May Ninth

Live near to Christ

“They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment” Hebrews 1:11.

Rutherford says: “Build your nest upon no tree here; for you see God hath sold the forest to Death, and every tree whereon we would rest is ready to be cut down, to the end we may flee and mount up, and build upon the Rock, and dwell in the holes of the Rock.”

Set not your heart on the flowers of this world; for they have all a canker in them. Prize the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley more than all; for He changeth not. Live nearer to Christ than to the saints, so that when they are taken from you, you may have Him to lean on still.

May Tenth

Complete

“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power” Colossians 2:10.

Learn how complete a Saviour Christ is. God did not choose a man to this great work. He did not choose an angel. He passed by them all, and chose His Son. Why? Because He saw none other would be a sufficient Saviour. If Christ had not been enough, God never would have called Him to it. God knew well the weight of

His own wrath; and, therefore, He provided an almighty back to bear it. Trembling sinner, do not doubt the completeness of Christ. God knew all your sins and your wrath when He chose Christ — that they were both infinite; and therefore He chose an almighty, an infinite Saviour. Oh! hide in Him, and you are complete in Him.

May Eleventh

Likeness to Jesus

“Then said he unto Zebah and Zalmunna, What manner of men were they whom ye slew at Tabor? And they answered, As thou art, so were they; each one resembled the children of a king” Judges 8:18.

It is not so much great talents that God blesses, as a great likeness to Jesus.

May Twelfth

The true value of an action

“Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is the God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed” 1 Samuel 2:3.

In order to know the true value of an action, you must search the heart. Many a deed that is applauded by men, is abominable in the sight of God, who searches the heart. To give an alms to a poor man, may be an action either worthy of an eternal reward, or worthy of an eternal punishment. If it be done out of love to Christ, because the poor man is a disciple of Christ, it will in no wise lose its reward; Christ will say: “Inasmuch as ye did it to the least of these My brethren, ye did it unto Me.” If it be done out of pride or self-righteousness, Christ will cast it from Him; He will say, “Depart, ye cursed; ye did it not unto Me.”

May Thirteenth

Higher upon the rock

“From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is

overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I” Psalm 61:2.

Every wave of trouble for Christ’s sake lifts the soul higher upon the Rock. Every arrow of bitterness shot after the believer makes him hide farther back in the clefts of Jesus. Be content, dear friend, to bear these troubles, which make you cling closer to your Beloved.

May Fourteenth

Pure joy

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” 1 Timothy 6:17.

It is quite right for a believer to use the things of this world, and to rejoice in them. None has such a right as the believer has to rejoice and be happy. He has a right to use the bodily comforts of this world — to eat his meat “with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God.” He has a right to all the joys of home, and kindred, and friendship. It is highly proper that he should enjoy these things. He has a right to all the pure pleasures of mind, of intellect, and imagination; for God has given him all things richly to enjoy.

Still, he should “rejoice as though he rejoiced not, and use this world as not abusing it;” for “the time is short.” In a little while, you will be at your Father’s table above, drinking the new wine with Christ. You will meet with all your brothers and sisters in Christ — you will have pure joy in God through ceaseless ages.

May Fifteenth

Wide open

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up” John 3:14.

The whole Bible shows that Christ is quite willing and anxious that all sinners should come to Him. The city of refuge in the Old Testament was a type of Christ; and you remember that its gates

were open by night and by day. The arms of Christ were nailed wide open, when He hung upon the cross; and this was a figure of His wide willingness to save all, as He said: "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." But though His arms were firmly nailed, they are more firmly nailed wide open now, by His love and compassion for perishing sinners, than ever they were nailed to the tree.

May Sixteenth

Eternity

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"
Hebrews 10:31.

In the time of health and strength, it is common for men to boast against God. They are not in trouble as other men, neither are they plagued like other men: therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain. They can sin with a high hand. But when they are brought to the brink of the grave by fever or wasting consumption; when they need some one to turn them on their bed, or to hold up their fainting head, or to feed them with a spoon like a child; then we see that a sinner is nothing in the hands of an angry God.

And O what will it be in eternity, when he falls into the hands of the living God! Perhaps he doubted whether there was a God; but all of a sudden he sees there is a God. He thought there was no Christ — in a moment he meets His holy eye. He thought there was no hell, and laughed at those who believed it — in a moment he is tossing among its fiery waves; and now he feels it must be eternal. After a thousand years it is but beginning, and no nearer an end. The soul will sink into insupportable gloom; it will wish to die, and not be able. "What if God, willing to show His wrath, and to make His power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath, fitted to destruction?" O brethren, flee from the wrath to come! You cannot bear it. Can you bear a fever, or the stroke of palsy, or a stroke of lightning, or wasting consumption? and these are but the little finger of God's anger.

May Seventeenth

Sweet and easy

“Many therefore of his disciples, when they heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it” John 6:60.

A great many persons are much taken with Christ; they have some anxiety about their souls; they follow anxiously after the preaching of the Word; but when we show them that Christ is the bread of heaven, that they must have a personal closing with Christ, as much as if they were to eat His flesh and drink His blood, these souls say: “It is a hard saying, who can hear it?” By-and-by, they are offended, they believe not, they go back and walk no more with Jesus. Is any of you who are hearing me in this condition? Oh! think again, I beseech you, before you go back. Oh! seek the teaching of God, and He will show you that none of Christ’s sayings are hard sayings, but that they are all sweet and easy. When the heart of a poor Indian was brought under the teaching of God, he said: “Some people complain that the Bible is a hard book; but I have not read so far as to find it a hard book. To me it is all sweet and easy.”

May Eighteenth

Christ our righteousness

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” 1 Corinthians 15:22.

We have seen that in the fall and ruin of man, it pleased God to deal with man, not as a field of corn, each standing on his own root, but as a tree, in which all the branches stand or fall together. We were not made sinners, each by his individual sin, but all by the sin of one. In like manner it has pleased God to justify sinners, not each by his own obedience, by his own goodness and holiness, but, “by the obedience of one.” Just as Adam by his one sin brought death, the curse of God, and total spiritual death, not only upon himself, but upon all branches, even the most distant, even the minutest, even though unborn; so the second Adam, by His own obedience, brought pardon, righteousness, spiritual life, and eternal glory to all His branches, even the most distant, the smallest, even those unborn.

May Nineteenth

Learn to stoop low

“Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations” Romans 14:1.

“We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves” Romans 15:1.

There is much of an opposite spirit, I fear, amongst us. I fear that you love our Marys, and Pauls, and Johns, you highly esteem those that are evidently pillars; but can you condescend to men of low estate? Learn to stoop low, and to be gentle and kind to the feeble. Do not speak evil of them, do not make their blemishes the subject of your common talk. Cover their faults. Assist them by counsel, and pray for them.

May Twentieth

A golden saying

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” Revelation 14:13.

“Blessed are the dead.” Learn the value of this saying. It is a golden saying — there is gold in every syllable of it. It is sweeter than honey and the honeycomb, more precious than gold, yea, much fine gold. It is precious in the eyes of God. Write it deep in your hearts; it will solemnize your life, and will keep you from being led away by its vain show. It will make the syren songs of this world inconvenient and out of tune; it will sweetly soothe you in the hour of adversity; it will rob death of its sting, and the grave of its victory. Write, write deep on your heart, “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.”

May Twenty-first

Divine sympathy

“Jesus wept” John 11:35.

When He saw the cave, and the stone, and the weeping friends, “Jesus wept.” He wept because His heart was deeply touched. It was not feigned weeping, it was real. He knew that He was to raise him from the dead, and yet He wept because others wept. He wept as our example, to teach us to weep with one another. He wept to show what was in Him. “We have not a high-priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace; that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15, 16).

May Twenty-second

What a friend we have in Jesus

“Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died” John 11:21.

Learn that afflicting time is trying time. Affliction is like the furnace, it discovers the dross as well as the gold. Had all things gone on smoothly at Bethany, Martha and Mary had never known their sin and weakness; but now the furnace brought out the dross.

Learn to guard against unbelief. Guard against presumption, making a Bible-promise for yourself, and leaning upon a word God has never spoken. Guard against prescribing your way to Christ, and limiting Him in His dealings. Guard against unbelief, believing only part of God’s testimony. “O foolish, and slow of heart to believe all that God hath spoken.” Remember, whatever your darkness may be, to carry your complaint to Jesus Himself.

May Twenty-third

Open reward

“But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: that thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly” Matthew 6:3, 4.

If you give hoping for something again, you will get nothing. You must give as a Christian gives, — cheerfully, liberally, and

freely, hoping for nothing again; and then God will give you back good measure, pressed down. “Give, and it shall be given unto you.” He that giveth to the poor shall have no lack.

May Twenty-fourth

Experimental Knowledge

“... One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see”
John 9:25.

The first thing that the Holy Spirit does when He is converting a soul is to give light: “Ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord.” He pours a flood of light into the unconverted soul, so that it sees itself. The first thing that the Holy Spirit does, is to give knowledge to let us see things as they are — to let us see ourselves as we are — heaven as it is — hell as it is. This light, brethren, too, is sanctifying light. “Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, we are changed into the same image, from glory to glory.” And this is saving light: “For this is life eternal, to know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.” You remember when Paul was converted, there were scales that fell from his eyes, and he was enabled to see. Now this is just intended to show us what conversion is — it is as scales falling from the eyes — it is the giving of sight to the blind.

May Twenty-fifth

Christ for us

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man”
Hebrews 2:9.

Paul got such a view of the glory, brightness, and excellency of the way of salvation by Jesus, that it filled his whole heart. All other things sunk into littleness. Every mountain and hill was brought low, the crooked was made straight, the rough places smooth, and the glory of the Lord was revealed. As the rising sun makes all the stars disappear, so the rising of Christ upon his soul

made everything else disappear. Jesus, suffering for us, filled his eye — filled his heart. He saw, believed, and was happy. Christ for us, answered all his need. From the Cross of Christ a ray of heavenly light flamed to his soul, filling him with light and joy unspeakable. He felt that God was glorified, and he was saved; he cleaved to the Lord with full purpose of heart.

May Twenty-sixth

The better half of salvation

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification ...” 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

Christ’s work is not done with a soul when He has brought it to pardon; when He has washed it in His own blood. Oh, no! the better half of salvation remains — His great work of sanctification remains.

May Twenty-seventh

The anxious Christ

“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?” John 6:67.

When the crowd went away He did not cry after them — His soul was grieved, but He spoke not a word; but when His own believing disciples were in danger of being led away, He speaks to them: “Will ye also go away?” — ye whom I have chosen — ye whom I have washed — ye whom I have sanctified and filled with hopes of glory — “Will ye also go, away?” Oh! see, Christians, how anxiously Christ watches over you. He is walking in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, and His word is: “I know thy works.” He watches the first decaying of the first love. He speaks aloud: “Will ye also go away?”

May Twenty-eighth

Put out the fire

“And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but

the Spirit is life because of righteousness” Romans 8:10.

The only way to put out the fire, is to let in the water of the Spirit. Brethren, you think your planning will do it; but, no, there is nothing between you and deepest fall into sin, but the Spirit. Ah! many do not believe this; they say, my principles, my good name, my resolutions will keep me; but, ah! brethren, remember, there is no power but the Spirit dwelling in your soul that will keep you from sin.

There are many here may say, “I will never go back to sin, I will never go back to the world” — and, I believe, you are honest in saying so. But wait until your soul is far from Christ, when you do not have that sense of His presence that you now enjoy, and see what you will do.

Ah! brethren, we are but worms, and they are the happiest worms who do least. Then, brethren, we must be sanctified entirely through the Spirit. If there be not an Almighty hand behind me, I cannot go to the Lord Jesus, I cannot keep myself from any sin.

May Twenty-ninth

Shut in or shut out

“... And the door was shut” Matthew 25:10.

The door of Christ stands wide open for a long time, but shuts at last. When Christ comes, the door will be shut. Now the door is open, and we are sent to invite you to come in. Soon it will be shut, and then you cannot. So it was at the flood. One hundred and twenty years the door of the ark stood wide open. Noah went forth, and preached everywhere, inviting men to come in. The Spirit strove with men. But they only mocked at the coming flood. At last the day came. Noah entered, and God shut him in. The door was shut. The flood came and carried them all away. So it will be with many here. The door is wide open now. Jesus says: “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” Christ does not say, I was, or I will be, but, I am the door. At present any man may enter in.

Soon Christ will come — like a thief — like a snare — like travail on a woman with child and you shall not escape. Enter in at the strait gate.

May Thirtieth

Touched

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” Hebrews 4:15.

We have a merciful and faithful High Priest. He suffered, being tempted, just that He might succour them that are tempted. The high priest of old not only offered sacrifice at the altar, — his work was not done when the lamb was consumed. He was to be a father to Israel. He carried all their names graven over his heart, — he went in and prayed for them within the veil. He came out and blessed the people, saying, “The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

So it is with the Lord Jesus. His work was not all done on Calvary. He that died for our sins lives to pray for us, — to help in every time of need. He is still man on the right hand of God. He is still God, and therefore, by reason of His divinity, is present here this day as much as any of us. He knows your every sorrow, trial, difficulty; every half-breathed sigh He hears, and brings in notice thereof to His human heart at the right hand of God. His human heart is the same yesterday, today, and for ever; it pleads for you, thinks on you, plans deliverance for you.

Dear tempted brethren! Go boldly to the throne of grace, to obtain mercy and find grace to help you in your time of need.

May Thirty-first

Perfect Love

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in

love” 1 John 4:18.

Twice God spake from heaven, and said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God perfectly loves His own Son. He sees infinite beauty in His person. God sees Himself manifested. He is infinitely pleased with His finished work. The infinite heart of the infinite God flows out in love towards our Lord Jesus Christ. And there is no fear in the bosom of Christ. All His fears are past. Once He said, “While I suffer Thy terrors I am distressed;” but now He is in perfect love, and perfect love casteth out fear. Hearken, trembling souls! Here you may find rest to your souls. You do not need to live another hour under your tormenting fears. Jesus Christ has borne the wrath of which you are afraid. He now stands a refuge for the oppressed — a refuge in the time of trouble. Look to Christ, and your fear will be cast out. Come to the feet of Christ, and you will find rest. Call upon the name of the Lord, and you will be delivered.

June First

The breathing of the new creature

“O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes” Psalm 119:5.

Brethren, this is a simple verse, but it is the breathing of the new creature; never did an old creature breathe this from his inmost soul. Can you say that? Do you breathe an entire devotedness to Him? Have you given up every sin for Him? Some of you may say, “God forbid that I should part with every sin. It is but a little one; I cannot part with my money, I cannot part with my pleasures, I would come to the Lord’s table.” Well, you may come, but you come uninvited; nay, you come against the Master’s will. None are invited but those who want complete devotedness to Him. Is it so with you? Some soul may say, “O that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes.” I am vile, but Thou knowest it will be heaven to me to be like Thee. Is it so? Then the Master says, “Come.” He says to you what He said to the disciples, “Come and dine.” Amen.

June Second

Hide behind Him

“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved” Ephesians 1:6.

Jesus must be seen by the Father, instead of our guilty soul. You must leave self, and stand in your Elder Brother. Hide behind Him. Let the Father’s eye fall on Him, not on you. This is what Jesus wants. He died to be a shelter for such as you. This is what the Father wants. If you are seen by the Father you must die. There is no help for it. But if Jesus appears for you — if you hide in His wounds, like the dove in the clefts of the rock — then the Father Himself loveth you.

June Third

Rest

“... Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” Revelation 14:13.

We shall rest from our labours. Oh, it is this makes death in the Lord blessed! We shall not rest from all work; we shall be as the angels of God — we shall serve Him day and night in His temple. We shall not rest from our work, but from our labours. There will be no toil, no pain, in our work. We shall rest in our work. Oh, let this make you willing to depart, and make death look pleasant, and heaven a home. “We shall rest from our labours.” It is the world of holy love, where we shall give free, full, unfettered, unwearied expression to our love for ever.

June Fourth

Wisdom’s house

“Wisdom hath builded her house” Proverbs 9:1.

This house may mean two things.

1. The invisible Church which Christ is now building: “Even He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory,” “Upon this rock I will build My Church.” “Whose house are we.”

Just as it was Solomon, the prince of peace, who built the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem, so it is Christ, the great prince of peace, the king of glory, who builds up this house. His hands have laid the foundation — His hands shall also finish it. He chooses the stones, brings them out of the quarry of nature, lays them on the foundation: “I will lay thy foundations.” This is the house sinners are invited to enter. Come, and be part of “the spiritual house.” Come, and be one of the living stones. Come, before He brings out the head-stone with shoutings.

2. The many-mansioned house: “In My Father’s house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you.” “For we know, that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” “Here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.” This is the house into which Christ will bring all His redeemed at last. Here we live in crazy dwellings, that will soon be a heap of smouldering ruins. But Wisdom hath builded Her house, and invites poor helpless sinners to take refuge there. Come to Me, and I will provide you a home for eternity — “a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

June Fifth

Christ goes before

“And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice” John 10:4.

In the countries of the east, brethren, you know that the shepherd goes before the sheep, and they follow him. When he says, “Let us go to the well,” they follow him. When he says, “Let us go down into that dark valley,” they go after him. So it is with Christ. Christ never asked a sheep to go where He never went Himself. He has borne all that He calls His sheep to bear. Christ went into a lower level of sorrow than you will be called to bear. Do not be alarmed then when you are called to suffer, you will not be called to go where He has not gone. Do not be afraid to put down your tender feet where He put down His. And it is still true

that He goes before you. “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” Do not be afraid then when Christ is before you.

June Sixth

Secret prayer

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly” **Matthew 6:6.**

Christ loved secret prayer. Ah, you are no Christian, if you do not love secret prayer. O brethren! a prayerless man is an unconverted man. Disguise it as you may; defend it as you can; explain it as you like; but a prayerless man is a Christless man.

June Seventh

A family quarrel

“And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram’s cattle and the herdmen of Lot’s cattle. And the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said to Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren” **Genesis 13:7, 8.**

Domestic trials are not easy to bear. Most believers would like to go to heaven without a crook in their lot. I have no doubt that Jacob would have liked to have gone to heaven without the trial he had in the loss of Joseph; I have no doubt that David would have liked to have gone to heaven without the trial he had in the death of Absalom; and I have no doubt that Abraham would have liked to have gone to the better land without this strife breaking out between Lot and him. But it must not be.

The reason why domestic trials happen are — first, for the trial of our faith. Just as the jeweller puts the gold into the crucible, not

to destroy the gold, but to separate it from the dross, so trials are intended by God to separate us from all dross. Another reason is to make us long for the better country. When God permits strife to rise in a believing family, it is to show you that this is not our home.

June Eighth

Divine breathings

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost ...” Jude 20.

When a believer prays, he is not alone — there are three with him: the Father seeing in secret, His ear open; the Son blotting out sin, and offering up the prayer; the Holy Ghost quickening and giving desires. There can be no true prayer without these three. Some people pray like a parrot, repeating words when the heart is far from God. Some pray without the Father. They do not feel. They are speaking to the back of their chair, or to the world, or to the empty air. Some pray without the Son. They come in their own name — in their own righteousness. That is the sacrifice of fools. Some pray without the Holy Ghost. These are not filled with divine breathings. Dear friends, if you would live, you must pray; and if you would pray with acceptance, you must pray to the Father in the name of Jesus, and by His Spirit quickening.

June Ninth

For the elect’s sake

“Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory” 2 Timothy 2:10.

I sometimes feel brethren, that I would willingly lie down beneath the sod in the churchyard, and be forgotten and trampled on, if only you were friends of Christ.

June Tenth

Everlasting love

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” Hebrews 13:5.

“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” [You may take each of the persons of the Godhead, and apply these words to them]. You may take it as the word of Immanuel. You remember what Christ said to His disciples: “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” This is the same promise. Brethren, when the Lord Jesus comes to you, and covers you with His garment, and says, “Fear not,” He will never forsake that soul. A mother may forsake — “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget; yet will I not forget thee.” Observe, brethren, that when once the Lord Jesus comes to a sinner to be His righteousness, He will never leave him — “I am with you alway.” Oh! it is this that makes Him a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Why will He never leave us? The first reason is, His love is everlasting love. It is not like the love of a creature — it is unchangeable. Another reason is, He has died for that soul: He has borne all for that soul. Will He ever leave a soul that He has died for?

June Eleventh

The same love

“As the Father hath loved me, so I have loved you: continue ye in my love” John15:9.

The moment you become a child, the Father loves you. This is shown in what Christ said to Mary: “I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.” Christ here intimated, that we have the same love that He had. We have not got so much of the love of the Father as Christ, because He has got an infinite capacity; but it is the same love. The sun shines as much upon the daisy as it does upon the sunflower, though the sunflower is able to contain more. Christ plainly shows you that

in the seventeenth chapter of John, where He prays that the same love may be in us that was in Him. O how much better is it, then, to be under the love of God, than under the wrath of God!

June Twelfth

Ordained

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: That whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you” John 15:16.

This is a very humbling, and, at the same time, a very blessed word to the true disciple. It was very humbling to the disciples to be told that they had not chosen Christ. Your wants were so many, your hearts were so hard, that ye have not chosen Me. And yet it was exceedingly comforting to the disciples to be told that He had chosen them: “Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you.” This showed them that His love was first with them, — that He had a love for them when they were dead in sins. And then He showed them that it was love that would make them holy: “Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit; and that your fruit should remain.”

June Thirteenth

Conversion

“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.

The conversion of a soul is by far the most remarkable event in the history of the world, although many of you do not care about it. It is the object that attracts the eyes of the holy angels to the spot where it takes place. It is the object which the Father’s eye rests upon with tenderness and delight. This work in the soul is what brings greater glory to the Father, Son, and Spirit, than all

the other works of God. It is far more wonderful than all the works of art. There is nothing that can equal it. Ah! brethren, if you think little of it, or laugh at it, how little have you of the mind of God?

June Fourteenth

Christ's gift

“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” John 10:28.

You know that the shepherd leads the sheep to a living well or to some gushing stream that flows between two rocks. So is it with Christ. Observe, it is said, “I give unto them eternal life.” If you are one of Christ's flock you will never want. “I give unto them eternal life.” What does this imply?

It implies daily pardon. You know when the Queen sends a pardon to any condemned criminal, she is said to give the man his life. If you are Christ's you need daily pardon. If there is any sin separating between you and a loving God, you need it pardoned.

It implies spiritual life. The life that Christ gives flows through the heart. If the Holy Spirit were to leave the heart, you would lose spiritual life. Thus David says, “Take not Thy Holy Spirit away from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.” Brethren, are you daily drinking of this living water? Does it spring up within you? Ah! remember it is Christ's gift; “I give unto them eternal life.”

June Fifteenth

This was His love

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

“He hath made Him to be sin for us.” This is described in the Bible in a great many different ways. In the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah it is said, “All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (verse 6); and verse 10, “it

pleased the Lord to bruise Him,” etc. The same thing is described by Peter: “Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24). But in this passage you will observe it is described in a far more dreadful manner. God heaped upon His Son all our sins until there was nothing but sin to be seen. He appeared all sin; nothing of His own beauty appeared; God took Him as if He were entirely made up of sin. You know that unconverted men are all sin. You say you have many good things about you; you are sometimes light in your walk, and take a glass occasionally; “but I’m a good fellow after all.” Ah, you do not know that you are one mass of sin; your mind, your understanding, your affections, and your conscience. Brethren, look at the love of Christ, that He should be willing to be made sin for us, and this was His love.

June Sixteenth

God’s wounded spirit

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption” Ephesians 4:30.

Let me shew you the holy friendship that subsists between the Holy Spirit and a believer’s soul. It is implied in the words, “Grieve not the Holy Spirit,” it is only a friend we can grieve. If He was an enemy He would rejoice if we fell. And this shews that He is a true friend, because when we fall the Holy Spirit is grieved. It is quite true that the infinite God does not grieve in the same sense as we do, for that would imply that He was not infinitely happy; but it is quite as true that there is something analogous between His grief and ours.

June Seventeenth

The work of the Spirit in the believer

“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” Zechariah 4:6.

This is the great work of the Spirit in you, to make you holy.

“Thy Spirit is good, lead me to the land of uprightness.” God promises in Ezekiel 36:27, “I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments and do them.” Now, as long as you lean on the Spirit for holiness, you and He are friends, but the moment you cease to lean on Him, you grieve Him.

June Eighteenth

A sweet mystery

“As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things” 2 Corinthians 6:10.

The groans and triumphal song of a believer are not far separated, as you may see in Paul (Romans 7:24, 25): “O wretched man,” and “I thank God,” all in one breath! David [or Asaph] felt the same (see Psalm 73). At one verse he feels himself a fool and a beast in the sight of a holy God, and in the very next verses he is cleaving to Christ with a song of unspeakable joy (verses 22-24). Ah! there is a sweet mystery here — bitter herbs along with our passover Lamb. It is sweet to see ourselves infinitely vile, that we may look to Jehovah our Righteousness, as all our way to the Father.

June Nineteenth

A vale of tears

“Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more: that which I see not, teach thou me; if I have done iniquity, I will do no more” Job 34: 31, 32.

This world is a world of trouble: “Man that is born of a woman, is of few days and full of trouble.” “We dwell in cottages of clay, our foundation is in the dust, we are crushed before the moth,” (Job 4:19). This world has sometimes been called, “a vale of tears.” Trials come into all your dwellings; the children of God are not excepted; there is a “need be” that you be in many

temptations. “Count it not strange when you fall into divers temptations, as though some strange thing happened unto you.” If this be so, of how great importance is it, that you and I be prepared to meet it. The darkest thunder cloud only covers the heavens for a time. “Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement. I will not offend any more: that which I see not, teach Thou me; if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.”

June Twentieth

Christian oneness

“And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also” 1 John 4:21.

The soul in Christ has many sweet companions, brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. The soul that is united to the vine tree is united to all the branches: “We know that we are passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren” — “I am a companion of all them that fear Thee.”

June Twenty-first

Christ within the veil

“... and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna ...” Hebrews 9:4.

When God led Israel through the wilderness, “He fed them with the corn of heaven; man did eat angels’ food.” He rained down manna on them every morning for forty years. At that time God commanded them to preserve an omer of it (enough for one person) in a golden pot, “that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness” (Exodus 16:32). Paul here tells us it was kept in a golden pot, beside the ark within the veil. There can be no doubt that the manna was a type of Jesus — the nourishment of His people. The bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world. “I am the bread of life” (John 6:33). But the hidden manna represented Christ

within the veil; and, accordingly, the promise to him that overcometh in the Church of Smyrna runs thus: “To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna” (Revelation 2:17). Jesus is not to be our food only in the wilderness, but in eternity; we shall still feed on that hidden manna — that bread of God.

June Twenty-second

The first sip of the cup of eternal bliss

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”
Ephesians 4:32.

There is something very heavenly in these words. “Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee.” Those of you who have believed on Christ, you are forgiven. “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.” Your sins have been already forgiven, as many of you as have believed on Christ. If you really lay hold on Christ, sinner, tonight your sins will be forgiven thee. Oh, brethren, this is happiness — this is the first sip of the cup of eternal bliss — this is peace: “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.”

June Twenty-third

Christ gave His life

“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep”
John 10:11.

Jacob was a good shepherd to Laban. You remember his care of the sheep; he says, “That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night ...” (Genesis 31:39, 40). But he did not give his life for the sheep.

David was a good shepherd. You remember when a lion and a bear came and took away the sheep, that he went after it and

rescued it, and slew both the lion and the bear (1 Samuel 17:35). Yet David did not give his life for the sheep.

But Christ gave His life. The sentence was written against the sheep: “Thou shalt die;” — Christ came between and died for them.

June Twenty-fourth

A Gospel ministry

“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake” 2 Corinthians 4:5.

Many men preach themselves — they preach their own theories. Many before the days of the apostles did this — they taught their own fancies. But when the apostles came they took a very different manner. Witness John the Baptist — “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” So the apostles; they said, “We are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree.” And then you remember Philip, when he went down to Samaria, “preached Christ unto them.” And this is exactly what John says in his first epistle: “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you.” This is the very beginning, middle and end of a gospel ministry. And looking back on the five years we have been together, I think I can lay my hand upon my heart, and feebly think this is what I have done. And why should we do this? Because it is the most awakening truth in the world. One evening lately, I was passing by a building and I heard a man speaking, who seemed in earnest. I stopped and listened — he was preaching about laws and politics. I said that man may preach to the day of judgment, but he will never make the people holy. But we preach Christ Jesus the Lord, that you may be made holy.

June Twenty-fifth

The body of death

“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the

mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin” Romans 7:25.

In ancient times, some of the tyrants used to chain their prisoners to a dead body; so that, wherever the prisoner wandered, he had to drag a putrid carcass after him. It is believed that Paul here alludes to this inhuman practice. His old man he felt to be a noisome putrid carcass, which he was continually dragging about with him. His piercing desire is to be freed from it. Who shall deliver us? You remember once, when God allowed a thorn in the flesh to torment his servant, a messenger of Satan to buffet him, Paul was driven to his knees. “I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.” Oh this is the true mark of God’s children! They of the world have an old nature; they are all old men together. But it does not drive them to their knees. How is it with you, dear soul? Does corruption felt within drive you to the throne of grace? Does it make you call on the name of the Lord? Does it make you say, like the importunate widow, “Avenge me of mine adversary?” Does it make you, like the Canaanitish woman, cry after the Lord Jesus? Ah, remember, if lust can work in your heart, and you lie down contented with it, you are none of Christ’s!

June Twenty-sixth

Conquerors

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” Romans 8:37.

Truly, we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us; for we can give thanks before the fight is done. Yes, even in the thickest of the battle we can look up to Christ, and cry, Thanks to God. The moment a soul groaning under corruption rests the eye on the Lord Jesus, that moment his groans are changed into songs of praise. In Christ you discover a fountain to wash away the guilt of all your sins. In Christ you discover grace sufficient for you — grace to hold you up at the end — and a sure promise that sin shall soon be rooted out altogether. “Fear not, I have redeemed thee. I have called thee by My name; Thou art Mine.” Ah, this turns our

groans into songs of praise. How often a Psalm begins with groans, and ends with praise! This is the daily experience of all the Lord's people. Is it yours? Try yourselves by this. If you know not the believer's song of praise, you will never cast your crowns with them at the feet of the Lamb. Dear believer, be content to glory in your infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon you. Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb!

June Twenty-seventh

Lean hard

“Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved?” Song of Solomon 8:5.

It is very observable that there is none here but the bride and her beloved in a vast wilderness. She is not leaning upon Him with one arm, and upon somebody else with the other; but she is leaning upon Him alone. So is it with the soul taught of God; it feels alone with Christ in this world; it leans as entirely upon Christ as if there were no other being in the universe. She leans all her weight upon her husband. When a person has been saved from drowning, they lean all their weight upon their deliverer. When the lost sheep was found, He took it upon His shoulder. You must be content then to lean all your weight upon Christ. Cast the burden of temporal things upon Him. Cast the care of your soul upon Him. If God be for us, who can be against us? They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. The eagle soars so directly upward, that poets have fancied it was aiming at the sun. So does the soul that waits on Christ.

June Twenty-eighth

Be not weary in well doing

“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” Psalm 126:6.

Go to the field when the seed has been covered in. Do you see

any marks of growing? No, not a green speck. Still the work is going on. Turn up the clod, and you will see the seed sprouting, have patience; weary not in well-doing. Be instant in prayer. God will be faithful to His promise. He will not let one word fall to the ground.

June Twenty-ninth

What God will not give

“I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images” Isaiah 42:8.

If Christ has been made to rise on your soul, happy are you. You were sometime darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light. Now, see who did it, and give him the praise. It is the Lord. God gave Christ to be a light to thy soul. Give him, and him alone, the glory. “My glory I will not give to another.”

1. Do not give the praise to yourself; do not say, My own wisdom or my own prayers have gotten me this. It was all undeserved mercy to the chief of sinners. “My glory I will not give to another.”

2. Do not give the glory to ministers. They are often the instruments of bringing souls to Christ, but they cannot make Christ arise on the soul, any more than they can make the sun to rise on the earth. We can point to the sun, though we cannot make it rise; so, we can point you to Christ, but cannot make him rise on your soul. The work is God’s, and He will have the glory. I believe the, work is greatly hindered amongst us from the cause mentioned.

Plead with God to fulfil His word, that Christ may be a light to the nations. It is as easy with God to make Christ rise on many souls as upon one. Show Him that it is for His glory that a nation be born in a day. Give Him no rest till He pour down the Spirit on all our families, till there be a great looking unto Jesus, and rejoicing in Him. Take Thine own glory, O Lord, give it to no other; neither Thy praise to graven images.

June Thirtieth

Where is your faith?

“And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm” Matthew 8:26.

One evening Christ gave commandment on the Sea of Galilee to depart to “the other side;” and as they sailed He fell asleep. Here was a simple word of promise to hold by in the storm. But when the storm came down, and the waves covered the ship, they cried, “Master, save us; we perish.” And He said: “Where is your faith?” By that trial the faith of the disciples was greatly increased ever after.

So it is with all trials of faith. When God gives a promise, He always tries our faith. Just as the roots of trees take firmer hold when they are contending with the wind; so faith takes a firmer hold when it struggles with adverse appearances.

Third of six booklets.

