1 Chronicles - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

Lorneville Conference: 1994, Lessons from King Hezekiah

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I'd like to turn first of all to three verses Jeremiah. Chapter 10, Jeremiah chapter 10 and verse 23. O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. And then another verse in the 119 Psalm, Psalm 119 and verse 9. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way by taking heed thereto, according to thy word? And then also in. Proverbs. Chapter 3. Proverbs, chapter 3. And verse five, trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge. Him and he shall direct thy paths. Well, the reason I've read these scriptures is because I believe they bring before us the fact that we need these two things for our guidance through this world. We need the Word of God. And God has given it to us in it all things that pertain unto life and godliness. And we also need dependence, which prayer is truly the expression of. It has been said that prayer is the expression of confidence and dependence upon God. And so I believe that we need those two things in our pathway here through this world, as it says there in Jeremiah. Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself. We can take the very. The wisest man that we could ever meet, and he's not going to know how to go through this world in a proper and wise way. Apart from this blessed book. God has given us a pathway through this world, marked it out in His precious book. And then too, there are situations that come in our lives where we need guidance. We don't have a definite Scripture. Perhaps, for instance, quite a few of us here came to the meetings in Lawrenceville, happy that we came. We didn't find direction in the word of God that we were to go to Lawrenceville this particular weekend. We prayed about it. We sought the Lord's guidance and He directed us, we trust, to come together in this way. So. But we have those two things. We find them often brought together in the Gospel of Luke, because the Gospel of Luke presents to us the Lord Jesus as the perfect dependent man here in this world. And so we find him always doing according to his Father's will. And when he met Satan in the temptation, he answered every temptation by just simply saying. It is written that decided what was the. Mind of his Father, for him it is written and then in his pathway and choosing the disciples and we have he spent the whole night in prayer to God before he chose his disciples. There wasn't any scripture that would be found in the Old Testament to tell who those disciples would be. And now he goes to his father and he earnestly seeks the will of his father, he said. I delight to do thy will. My God. And so I say again, brethren, whether young or old, because it mentions in that 119 Psalm the ninth verse, wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? But by taking heed thereto, according to Thy word, because most of the important decisions of our lives are made in use. When you really look back, you think of how. There are so many chains that you decide before you're perhaps, say, 25 years old. Old you've decided what kind of work you're going to take up, you've probably decided where you're going to live. And I trust if if you're really saved that you have made a decision to receive the Lord Jesus. You may have made a decision too, that you'd like to remember him and his death, and maybe you chose a partner for your life. All these things, great decisions, decisions that affect so much of our lives, and they're made usually by the time we're about 25 years old. So how important then, seeing we are going to make such important decisions that are going to affect our whole life and our destiny even that we should? Should have direction for them. And God hasn't left us without direction. He's given us his word. Again I say the the way of man is not in himself.

Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived and he acknowledged that all his wisdom didn't enable him to find God. God has to reveal himself and that he has done in his word. When Paul went to preach in Berea, it says that the Bereans were more noble than those in Thessalonica because they searched the scriptures. Daily to see if those things were solved. And I would be more than happy if someone here tonight said, well, I'd like to see what you have said from the Word of God because whatever I might say tonight is of no real value unless it's according to God's Word. But then, as I say, there are other decisions that you have to make. And if you are near the Lord and close to him. I was helped by the remark that Mister Darby made in connection with prayer. He said prayer is based on the privilege. Having common interests with God, that was very precious to me. Common interests with God. God has interests in this world, and we have the privilege of entering into and enjoying and walking in his interests in this world. What a privilege that is. Well, as I say, this is really so important in our lives. And I was just thinking of a case where I believe this is brought out in First Chronicles. And I just like to look tonight, with the Lord's help at what is brought before us in First Chronicles chapter 12, just before I start, because sometimes I think it helps to know what is before us. I believe what is bringing before us here was the matter of bringing up the ark, and that ark that God and that God told Moses to make when he gave him instructions about making it, he said. There I will meet with thee. And there I will commune with thee according to all things that he would have his people to do. And so the ark was a figure of God meeting with his people. And then the second thing was, in the next chapter, with the Lord's help, we'll see. How that? How that? King David had a decision to make and he didn't have a definite scripture. So he turned to the Lord, and when a second decision came up again, he turned to the Lord and sought his mind. And so after he had sought the Lord's mind and the Lord had shown him his direction for his pathway, then he acted on that of the Lord undertook for him, and then. We'll see how when he brought up the ark according to the revealed mind of God in his word, that God blessed him in it. And so as I say, I'd just like to look at a little bit of detail because. God has not only set forth doctrine in His Word, but as I was mentioning the other night in the meeting or the other day rather, that God has not only given us direction, but He has given us that truth worked out practically in the lives of people. And that means a lot to me as I read the Bible. I like to see the action of the word of God on people because. When Paul went to one of the cities where he preached. He said we also are men of like passions with yourselves. And so as we read of these people in the Bible, they were people like ourselves. They needed direction. They found direction in the word of God. They found answer as they turned to God in prayer. And we see how that sometimes they acted on their own wisdom just like we do and it it didn't work out when they did it according to their own wisdom, but when they did it according to. The directions that God has given in His Word, then God was free to bless them, because happiness and blessing is in the pathway of obedience. The way of man is not in himself. So God has given us this direction. Wherewithal shall the young man cleanse his way by taking heed thereto, according to thy word? And again I wish to say, the Bible never is. Outdated as our brother was bringing before us the word same God is is not different in 1994 than he was when the scripture was written. It's true he may be dealing with man in different ways, but God himself hasn't changed. He's light and he's love. Well, I just wanted to notice a few verses in First Corinthians

12 at first chronicles. Pardon me 12 just at the end of.

The chapter. The 38th verse. All these men of war that could keep rank came with a perfect heart to Hebron and make David king over all Israel. And all the rest also of Israel were of 1 heart to make David king. And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them. Moreover, they that were nigh them even unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali. Brought bread on ***** and on camels and on mules. And an oxen and meat meal, cakes and figs and bunches of raisins and wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly. And there was joy in Israel. I've just read these few verses because I think that's been our experience for two days. As we came together, our brethren prepared for us. We came together and we were seeking to give the Lord his rightful place, just as David was God's rightful king. And then so they were come together and they were seeking to give David his rightful place. The desire was very, very good. And they had one heart to give David his rightful place. Which was all very commendable, but we see that in their desire they did not search the word of God. They went by the opinion of a great many, shall I say the majority, but they didn't go by the Word of God. And that's so important for us because our hearts may be right, just as David's heart was right in seeking to give the Lord his rightful place along with all these. Years and yet he didn't search the word of God. How easy it is for us to really have a heart for the Lord and yet not seek the direction of His word. Let me quote the verse again. The way of man is not in himself, and it doesn't matter who you are or who I am. No matter how long we have known the Lord, if we take a step and we haven't sought the wisdom and direction of the word of God. We're quite likely. To go by the opinion of man instead of by the Word of God, that alone is our true source of direction in divine things. As I say, there are decisions that we have to make for which we don't have an actual verse of Scripture. But when the Word of God speaks, that's final. That's final. It's not a question then of my opinion. Says casting down imaginations or reasonings. I believe the margin is. And bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. So here we find that this was a very beautiful setting. A group of happy people together desiring to make David King. And now David has a plan and it says here I'm going to read this whole 13th chapter. David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seemed good unto you, and that it be of the Lord our God, let us under broad unto our brethren everywhere that are. Left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites, which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us. And let us bring again the ark of our God to us, for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul. And all the congregation said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. So David gathered all Israel together from Shihor of Egypt, even unto the entering of Hemath, to bring the Ark of God from Kurtis Jerome. And David went up and all Israel to Belah, that is to Curtis Jerem, which belongs to Judah. To bring up since the ark of God, the Lord that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it. And they carried the Ark of God in a new cart out of the House of Abinadab Anaza and Ahayah Dr. the cart. And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with symbols, and with trumpets. And when they came under the threshing floor of Chidon, Hazard put forth his hand to hold the ark. For the oxen stumbled in. The anger of the Lord was kindled against us.

And he smote him because he put his hand to the Ark, and there he died. Before God. David was displeased because the Lord had made a breach upon us. A wherefore that place is called Paras Azza to this day. And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? So David brought not the ark home to himself, to the city of David, but carried it aside into the House of Obed Edom the Gittite. And the ark of God remained with a family of Obed Edom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the House of Obed Edom and all that he had. Now, as we were saying, David here didn't search the Word of God. We're going to see in the 15th chapter that he did go to the Word of God, and then he got direction. But here, instead of going to the Word of God, he went and followed the opinion of a great many people. And you say, well, didn't these people really have a desire to give David his rightful place? They did. There was a good desire. But I'm sure all of us can say that there are times when maybe we have done something with a great deal of energy and really perhaps out of love for the Lord, but perhaps afterwards we have discovered that we didn't follow his word. We didn't follow his word. We were just doing it because we wanted the we were going by the opinions of the crowd. And so it doesn't tell us about him searching the word of God. It's just. That he went to the captains of thousands and hundreds, and it says the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. Oh, how needful it was, brethren, that we go to the Word of God there alone. We get instruction. There's a common expression in Christendom. Go to the Church of your choice. But is it the Church of our choice? The Lord said in the chapter we had before us in the Bible reading, He have not chosen me, but I have chosen you. It isn't what we choose, it's what God chose. He chose us. And if we're going to know his mind and His will, why we have to go by His word? He has marked out a way. He has given us instruction. So it's it says in the third verse and let us bring the ark of our God to us, for we inquired not at it. In the days of Saul, yes, there had been past failure in Israel and we look back on the churches history and we're all part of it. We say yes, there has been indeed a lot of failure and here was a revival. That God was granting. It was wonderful that David had this desire. But I say again, he didn't go to the word of God. He was going by what the others thought. And he said, let us bring it to us, bring it to us, but we have to go. Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the can. It doesn't bring it to us. It's going where He would have us to go. And so it tells us here all the congregation. Said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. Yes, public opinion was with them. And so they. They made a new cart. Where did this idea come from? Had God-given any instruction about how the ark was to be carried? Where did they get this idea of a new cart? Well, the Philistines had the Ark of God down in their country. They didn't have any priests. They didn't have any Levites. They didn't know the word of God like the children of Israel. God said to Israel, You only have I known. Of all the families of the earth, therefore, will I punish you? They were particularly responsible. And I am particularly responsible because I was brought up in a home where the word of God was honored and revered. And I want to say to every young person and everyone who's been brought up in a Christian home, you are more responsible. I am more responsible because I have had such a privilege of having the word of God.

Not that others are not responsible, but God does measure responsibility. He says to whom much is given of the same shall much be required. And David wasn't like the Philistines. Maybe the Philistines were doing and they were doing a right act in sending the ark back, but they didn't have instructions. So they made this new card on God graciously came in. And the Ark. It's very interesting to see what it says. They weren't even sure whether they were doing the right thing, so they said, well, what we'll do, and they took Millstown. Cows that were had just had their young and they tied up the young at home and they put these cattle on the cart pulling the ark and they said if this is of God, those animals will carry that ark back to God's land, even though they're. They're tied up at home. In other words, he said they'll, they'll go against nature. Well, God did come in and those kind, they drew the cart back and drew it back to the land of Israel. God honored their efforts because, shall I say, they were walking up to the light they had. And so God honored their efforts. But Israel, they should have known there was instruction. And so this new cart was. The plan that they decided. Instead of going by the word of God. And there was much that was commendable. And David and all Israel played before God with all their might. Wasn't there all a great deal of energy put forth in this? Yes, there was a great deal of energy and it was very wonderful that they wanted to have the ark back there. But again, we see God wasn't

pleased because they had the light of His word and they hadn't sought the light of His word. And so the oxen stumbled. I just have this little thought though, too, that as this ark was driven by Azza and Ahayah, why, there was a certain honor given to men, because this ark was a very important thing, as we were saying, it was that that God had commanded, it was to be made. And there I will meet with thee, because the blood was sprinkled there on the mercy seat, which was on top of the ark. It was a very. Very precious thing for Israel that ark really meant a great deal. And so. They were giving honor to man. There were Azan Ahayah, and they were the ones that drove the ark. We're going to see as we go on in a couple of chapters further, that when they did it God's way. We're not told who carried the ark. There's a whole lot of names mentioned, but God doesn't give honor to man. He gives honor to His own blessed Son. I've often said you can make a very simple test of any doctrine that is presented to you by asking one question. Does this line of teaching give honor to man, or does it give honor to Christ? You can make a simple test. All man's ideas, even of his religion, is something that gives a place to man. But God always gives full honor to His own beloved Son. He's the center. It says in John chapter 16, When he, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth. He shall glorify me. For he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you. You know, for instance, let's take one doctrine that's quite prevalent, people who teach that a Christian can be saved and lost. You may say, well, there's a lot of verses that they can bring forward that are a little difficult to answer. Yes, I acknowledge there are some verses that are a little bit difficult to answer. But. If I can be saved and lost, then I'm going to have some honor for myself when I get to heaven. The Lord saved me, but I'm going to be able to say he saved me. But I kept saved. Another man, John Smith, he got saved the same night as I did, but he didn't hold on. He let go. So I'm going to have some honor to myself. But God says, no, all honor is going to my beloved Son. He says God will not give his honor to another. And so he saved me by His grace. He keeps me by His grace. And when I reach the end of the journey, I'm going to have to give him all the praise not only for saving me, but also for keeping me. The truth of God always gives all the honor to God's beloved Son.

And it says. The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. Well, the oxen stumbled, and Aza put out his hand to steady the ark. That is, he put his hand to it as though the hand of man was necessary. And nothing that you or I can do is going to change the truth of God. There's a verse in in Corinthians that says. We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth, Everything that man says in all his arguments will never, never change the truth of God. It, it remains, it's like a rock. It's steadfast forever. O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. He didn't need to. I don't need to defend the Bible anymore. If I had a lion here, I wouldn't need to defend it. I wouldn't need to defend it. It's strong enough to look after itself. And so we don't have to defend the Bible. We have to set forth its worth, but we don't have to defend it. God will, and that's a good thing. If you ever speaking to anybody, don't try and prove to them the Bible is true. Use it. Use it, and God by his Spirit will apply it to the conscience. Always remember that the Word of God is living and operative, sharper than A2 edged sword. Remember one time in a place where I worked, there was a little discussion going on about spiritual things and I had the grace to quote a couple of scriptures and one of the men spake up. He said well just leave the Bible out of it. Let's talk about this, just leave the Bible out of it. Another time brother was traveling in the train and pulled out his Bible and he was starting his reading the Bible and the man beside him says I don't, I don't believe that book. And he said, but you'd feel a lot better if I put it in my pocket, wouldn't you? Why do people say those kind of things? Because the Word of God is living and operative. It speaks to the conscience. We don't have to depend it, use it, use it. Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, for we will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Well, David was displeased. Oh brethren, are we displeased? Sometimes when the Lord doesn't like some of the plans that we have made, when he steps in and is not, not pleased with what we're doing, David was displeased. Sometimes we're just like that. We don't, we don't like it somehow when God shows his displeasure with some plan that we have made. David was displeased, but he asked a good question here it says. How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? He didn't say, shall I bring it? That was a very good desire to bring the ark of God to the city of Zion. But how, how? And that was the important thing. And the Word of God had given full instructions about that. And so it's nice to see in the end of this chapter. In the 13th verse. So David brought not the ark of God home to himself, to the city of David, but carried it aside into the House of Obed Edom the Gittite. And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed Edom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the household at Edom and all that he had. I just want to say, brethren, never allow any troubles that come in among the people of God to spoil your family, giving the Lord His rightful place. I think this is very lovely. This family could have been very upset and said, oh, everything's gone to pieces, but I think this is so beautiful. Here was a family that was going to give the Lord his rightful place, even though things were wrong. And so we find that same thing in the third epistle of John. Things were wrong in the assembly that John wrote to. There was a man there that loved to have the preeminence called Diotrephes. Was Gaius and. Demetrius, were they going to allow the condition in the assembly to spoil their home life? Oh no. They saw to it that their home was for the Lord and that he had his rightful place in their home, a home that should be for the Lord. Never, never allow anything that happens to spoil giving the Lord his rightful place in your home. They could have easily said, well, everything's gone wrong, the ark has, the oxen have stumbled and the Lord has dealt with Isaac, and they could have allowed their home to be ruined by that. But instead of that.

As the Lord blessed the House of Obed Edom, so how lovely to see Holmes. I think of the home of of the appearance of the appearance of Moses, Aaron and Miriam. Things were in a very sad condition there. Israel were in captivity in the land of Egypt, but here was a home that stands out in all the darkness of what was going on. And it says that the mother really had faith. When the child was born, she put him in that arc of bulrushes down in the river because the Bible says she saw that that child was fair to God, Fair to God. And she wasn't going to allow the conditions that existed in Egypt. They were throwing babies from Israelites into the river. But here was a family that had faith in God, didn't allow the condition of things to ruin their home. And we see three lovely children who stand out in the divine history brought up in the midst of all those conditions, Moses. Aaron and Miriam. And so I just wish to drop that little note. I think it's beautiful the way it's brought in in the end of this chapter to show that even though failure had come in, that it says the Lord blessed the House of Oved Edom and all that he had. Well, now just going to this next chapter, the 14th chapter. I'd like to look at this chapter more in connection with prayer in the other in the 1St chapter. We'll see that. In the 14th chapter we see that he didn't. The 13th chapter, he didn't go to the word of God, he just went by the opinion of people, people who really wanted to give the Lord his rightful place, but they didn't do it according to God's order. But now we see here says in the eighth verse of First Chronicles 14. And when the Philistines heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David, and David heard of it and went out against them. And the Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. And David inquired of God, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines, and wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the Lord said unto him, Go up, for I will deliver them into thine hand. So they came up to Baal praisein David smote them there. And David's then David said, God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand, like the breaking forth of waters. Therefore they call the name of that place Baal Perezin. And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire. And the Philistines yet again spread themselves abroad in the valley. Therefore David inquired again of God. And God said unto him, Go not up after them, Turn away from them, and come upon them over against the Mulberry trees. And it shall be when thou shalt hear the sound of going in the tops of the Mulberry trees. Then thou shalt go up to battle, for God has gone forth before thee to smite the host of the Philistines. Therefore David

therefore did as God commanded him, and they smote the host of the Philistines, and the from Gibeon even to Gazer. And the fame of David went out into all lands, and the Lord brought the fear of him upon all nations. Well, here we find situation arises when they saw that David was made king over all Israel, Then it says the Philistines and the Philistines were people who dwelled in the land, but they had never crossed the Jordan. They were not a redeemed people. They were people who, if I can use the expression, like to live in the benefits of being among the people of God, but really were their enemies. They were opposed to them. And so we see these Philistines, they were against David. They didn't like to see David made king, and they came up to fight against them and David inquired of God. He didn't have some definite scripture how to handle a situation. And maybe there's something common to your life and you say, I don't know what to do. I, I can't find any verse in the Bible to direct me or pray. Ask the Lord to show you what to do. Ask the Lord to show you and he'll give you direction if you look to him humbly.

And so when David inquired of the Lord, the Lord said, Go up against them, I have delivered them into thy. Hand and so David got this answer to prayer and he went up and I'm sure that we have all felt these situations come in our lives and we look to the Lord and it's wonderful and beautiful how the Lord does come in and help us in a lot of these perplexing decisions that we have to make. Life is full of decisions. We're in the valley of decision. And so David did, and the Lord granted the victory. Now the. Next time the Philistines came, David might have easily said, I don't need to pray about it this time because I know the way to do it. Because last time the Lord gave me this answer and I went up and the Lord granted a victory. But brethren, let's remember this. There are no two sets of circumstances that are exactly alike. No2 situations in your life or in the assembly, they're never exactly alike, and we have to always be freshly cast upon the Lord for all the new situations that arise. And when we don't have divine direction, that is a scripture that we can act on. There's many, many things that come up in our lives that we just have to ask the Lord. And the Lord directed him in this second occasion to go about it. In a different way, it's true that he had to go against the Philistines, but the way he did it in one case was different from the other. And so the Lord says now you just have to wait, Wait for the sound and the Mulberry trees. Sometimes we're quick to jump and do something quickly. As the Lord said, no, you're going to have to wait. Just wait. And when you hear the sound of the wind in the Mulberry trees, then then go. I think there's a soul. Instructive for us, and perhaps many of us can. As I look at my own life, I can apply. Sometimes you might say, well, I know what to do because I did this last time and it worked. But that isn't the way. We need fresh direction each day. In all thy ways acknowledge him, not in some of thy ways. Sometimes we have a big decision to make in our lives and we are really diligent in prayer. But we should be seeking the Lord's mind in all what we might call little things, because little things often have big results in our lives. And so tells us here that David waited on the Lord, waited for the sound of the Mulberry trees, and then God came in and under tipped for him in this occasion. Perhaps I could say again, I believe in the first instance he neglected the word of God, but in this instance he learned the value of prayer and he turns to the Lord for direction in both these different occasions that arose in his life. Now I'd like to go on to the 15th chapter. And at the first verse. And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites, For them hath the Lord chosen to gather to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him forever. David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem. To bring up the ark of God unto his place, which he had prepared for it. And in the. 11TH Verse And David called for Zadok and Abiath of the priests, and for the Levites, and for Uriel Assiah, and Joel Shemaiah, and Eliel Haminadab, and said unto them, He are the chief of the fathers of the Levites. Sanctify yourselves, both you ye and your brethren, that ye may carry up the ark of the Lord God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. For because he did it not at the first, the Lord our God wrought A breach upon us. For that we sought him not after the due order. So David, So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves. To bring up the ark of the God of the Lord God of Israel.

And then passing on. 25th verse. So David and the elders of Israel and the captains over thousands went to bring up the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord out of the House of Obed Edom with joy. And it came to pass when God helped the Levites that bear the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, that they offered seven bullocks and seven Rams. I'm sure you have noticed quite a difference here. In the 13th chapter he consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds and every leader. But here we don't read of him consulting with anybody. But what does the word of God say? Has God-given any instructions about how the ark was to be carried? Did he have to follow the idea of these Philistines or did he need to seek public opinion? Isn't it beautiful? Here he says, the word of God has said how this is to be done. He said that settles the whole thing. The word of God said that it was to be carried upon the shoulders of the priests. I like to think of it that way, that it was lifted high above their heads. If you had seen the procession going, you wouldn't have seen two prominent men driving a cart, sitting there getting quite a bit of public notice. There's a whole lot of different names mentioned here and we're not told. Who were the ones that carried the ark? And if you had seen the ark going, it would have been up above. You wouldn't have noticed the men, you would have seen the ark. It's beautiful to see how that when the disciples were on the Mount of Transfiguration, they saw no man anymore save Jesus, only our brethren. The truth of God always gives honor to the Lord Jesus. And isn't this beautiful simplicity? If it's any of us that are puzzled about something in our pathway, isn't it good to turn to the Word of God? And if the Word of God gives us? Instruction and direction, then that settles it for us, doesn't it? It settles it for us. As I mentioned before, when Paul went and preached in Berea, they might have said, well, those men are great men. They know the Mosaic Law. They're I'll, I'll just go by what they say. No, it says they searched the Scriptures daily to see if those things were sold. And nothing would make me more happy than someone said, well, I want to find what the word of God says. I've listened to what you said, Brother Gordon, but I want to know. The word of God says and ask the divine directive for us in the pathway, in all things, in all thy ways, acknowledge him. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? David was cleansing his way at this time. He was a comparatively young man, but he was cleansing his way. He could have been said, well, I don't want to admit that I was wrong in the first case, but here we see that he is quite willing to be directed. By the word of God, moreover, there's another little point here that in 23rd verse it says and Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark. And again in the 24th verse, at the end of the verse, Obed, Edom and Jahiah were doorkeepers of the ark. What does it mention this doorkeepers? Well, Paul, David said in the I think it's the 70. I've forgotten. I think it's a 73rd, but I'm not sure. It says I'd rather be a doorkeeper in the House of my God and to dwell in the tents of wickedness. No, it's not very easy to be a doorkeeper. But these people were sent in that position because the assembly is to be the pillar and ground of the truth. We're to stand for the whole truth of God. And when we do, that's that's important, that's pleasing to God because that's what the assembly is, the assembly. Doesn't teach, The assembly is taught. The assembly has the word of God as our instruction. And what we are to do is to keep the deposit of truth. As Paul said to Timothy, old Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust. God has revealed something in his word, then we're to keep that. And so there were doorkeepers for the ark and the oxen didn't stumble. There were no oxen. And did they say, well, those men that carried the ark, they did a good job. No, isn't that nice? What it says in the 26th verse? And it came to pass when God helped the Levites that bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord that they offered. 7 bullocks and seven Rams. In other words, they didn't say, well we did a good job of carrying it up. It just simply says that they gave the Lord all the glory. Those sacrifices were acknowledging that it was God who helped them. And brethren, if you and I haven't any measure tried to stand for the truth of God, I don't think there's anybody who would say, well I

did. No, we just say the Lord help me, haven't we faced?

So many situations in our personal lives and our assembly life and all we can say is the Lord help me. The Lord help me because we we have no strength of our own. The Lord Jesus said without me he can do nothing. Well what a blessed thing when we make the word of God our God. I think this chapter is so lovient. I I enjoy reading all those names because I don't know who carried the ark. We all have a place. God has sat in the body has a death, please. A sister as well as a brother can be very faithful in holding fast to the precious truth that has been committed to us. And how often somebody that we'll say doesn't occupy so great a place of prominence can just say a little word that can be such a help to you. I've often thought about Jonathan when he went out in the battle against the Philistines. It says. That there was a sharp rock as they went to climb up to the Philistine Garrison. And I think when they when Jonathan saw those sharp rocks on either side, I think he turned around and said, oh this is too much for me. And it says his armor bearer said. His armor, Red said. I'm with thee. Go ahead. And I'm not. Isn't that lovely? It may be somebody. That maybe it doesn't occupy any kind of a position of prominence. It just gives you that little word. There are ones who are encouraged, encouraging. I don't know who the name of that armor Rivero is. I'm going to find out in heaven who it was. But that turned the whole course. And perhaps some of us can look back in our lives and say it was some brother or sister that made a little remark to me that turned the whole course of my life. Oh, how lovely. How different God's order of things from man. Man would give man glory. But God's plan is always as it says, that in all things He might have the preeminence. Well, and it says in the end of the chapter, the 29th verse, and it came to pass as the Ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the city of David, that Michael, the daughter of Saul, looking out at a window, saw King David dancing and playing and she despised him in her heart. The only person who didn't seal team to enter into this was this daughter of King Saul. I don't believe she was a true believer at all. And as the world looks on, they say, why are you fussing about doctrine? And that brethren, it is important to give the Lord Jesus His rightful place. She couldn't see anything in it. A lot of people don't see anything in trying to give the Lord His rightful place. But God is going to see to it that His blessed Son has the place that in that coming day that all heaven and all earth are going to. Gathered together with Him in the preeminence, it says that in the dispensation of the fullness of times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. Even in Him there's a day coming when every knee is going to bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Are we giving Him His rightful place? Now I say again, and I speak to myself as well as to you. Are we making His word our God? Many questions. Are we in decisions that we have to make, saying, Lord, what will thou have me to do? He's willing to guide us. Every situation is different. As I say, sometimes we have to wait, sometimes we have to go forward. God said in when they were going to cross the Red Sea, He said, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. But then a verse or two down, it says, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward. There are times to stand still, there are times to go forward. We have to wait upon the Lord, but never go contrary to His word. Now we see the happy sequel to this. I'd just like to read this 3 verses in the 16th chapter. So they brought the ark of God and said it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it. And they offered burned offering, burnt sacrifices, and peace offerings before God. And when David had made an end of offering, the burnt offering and the peace offering, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord, and he dealt to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone.

A loaf of bread, a good piece of flesh. And a flagon of wine. Perhaps these three things bring before us. Says a good loaf of bread for the Lord Jesus is the bread of life. Says he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. We need to feed upon him. Then it says a piece of flesh. It says a good piece of flesh. Well, you know the Bible says strong meat belongs to them that are of full age. Even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. It's a nice thing to see babes in the family of God. It's a nice thing to see young men. But God delights just as we do. We're, many of us are parents. We love to have our children just when they're babies, but we wouldn't like them to be babies forever. We're glad to see them grow up. And I think this is so lovely here. When they followed the word of God, there was something we might say for the babes. There was something for those. Who are strong, Strong meat belongs to them. Who are full aged. And then there was joy for all, a flagon of wine. That because wine is a figure in the Bible of joy. I just like to also mention just one thing. Burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God? No brethren, I think it's nice for us to. Understand a little bit about the offerings. I don't intend to go into it in detail tonight, but perhaps you know that there were five different offerings There was the. The burnt offering was the first one, and then there was the meat offering, there was the peace offering, and there was the sin offering and the trespass offering. And every one of them bring before us a different aspect of the work of Christ. The burnt offering brings before us, it's the first one in the instruction in Leviticus 1, and it brings before us the value of the work of Christ to the heart of God. The peace offering could be called a communion offering. So we see these two offerings, the burnt offering and trespass offering and and the peace offering rather, and maybe I'll just mention this because. I can remember as a young person hearing some of the brothers say we worship in the burnt offering character and I didn't know what they meant and it didn't mean anything to me. But. I'd like to use a little illustration so that perhaps you could have a little better appreciation of the burnt offering. At least it meant much to me understand it in this way. Supposedly I have a great depth and I'm not able to pay it. And a friend comes along and says, Gordon, give me your bills and I'll pay. I'll pay them for you. He goes to my creditor. He pays the bills, and he comes back and he puts the receipt in my hand. I say, oh, I'm so thankful to be out of debt that was such a burden over my hand. Well, that's good, isn't it? But I haven't learned to know anything about my creditor. All I know is that he got a satisfactory payment. Does he like me or does he not? I don't know. All I know is he got a satisfactory payment. But God wants us to know what's in His heart. God wants us to know what's in his heart. I owed my great debt to him. Let us suppose another thing. I have this great debt and my creditor sees this great debt on his books and he says to his son, see this great debt on our books here. I love Gordon Hayhoe. Would you be willing to sell your house so that we can raise the money? And if you do. I'll write this off our books and I'll send a receipt to Gordon Hayward and I'll mark on it paid in full. Through the kindness of my son. That one day here I am worrying about the debt, and I not only get a receipt, but when I read what's written on it, paid in full to the kindness of my son. Oh, I said, what a wonderful creditor I've got. What a son he must have. And perhaps you can understand, you will never truly appreciate the work of Christ until you see that it was the very God that we had sinned against who said to his Son. Who will go for us? And he said that, he said. Send me. And he came in love. He paid the debt in full, and God wants us to know that it was His Son that paid the debt.

What a wonderful thing you could be. Understand then why we have the burnt offering and the peace offering. God wants us to know the love that's in His heart toward us. He wants us to know that it was his Son that came in love and obedience and paid the debt. And he wants us to enjoy fellowship or common thoughts with him as the peace offering. Many Christians rejoice that at Calvary their debt was paid. But God says, oh, I want you to know the love that's in my heart. I can't tell you how much. I can't tell you what a wonderful son I have who came and said I'd delight to do thy will, Oh my God. And he was going to welcome us to the Father's house where we're going to enjoy for eternity not only the fact that our debt is paid, but knowing the God who sent His Son to pay it for all eternity, it'll fill our hearts with praise. And this is what they entered into on this occasion. And so you can see what a happy sequel there was. To this little story that God has been pleased to

record in His word, well, may the Lord make it good to each one of our hearts, that we may appreciate more what the Lord has done for us, that we may value His Word. And we might also know, brethren, that He's interested in all those decisions that come in life. Life is the valley of decision for constantly having to make them. But we have one who has all the answers and who cares, who loves us. Wants to be our guide. Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself. It's not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Vancouver BC Conference: 1989, God's Holiness Required

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Just like to read a few verses, first in the 12TH chapter beginning at the 38th verse and then this 13th chapter. All these men of war that could keep rank came with a perfect heart to Hebron to make David king over all Israel. And all the rest also of Israel were of 1 heart to make David king. And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them. For over they that were nigh them, even unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on ***** and on camels. And on mules, and on oxen and meat meal cakes of figs and bunches of raisins and wine and oil, and oxen and sheep abundantly. For there was joy in Israel. And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said Unto all the congregation of Israel, if it seemed good unto you, and let it be of the Lord our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren everywhere that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites that are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto the unto us. And let us bring again the ark of our God to us, for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul. And all the congregation said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. So David gathered all Israel together from Shihor of Egypt, even unto the entering of Hemath, to bring the Ark of God from Kirjashjaram. And David went up, and all Israel to Bailah, which is to purchase Jiram, which belongeth to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the Lord that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it. And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the House of Abinadab, and Ahiah grave the cart. David and all Israel played before God with all their might. And was singing, and with harps, and with soul trees, and with timbrels, and with symbols, and with trumpets. And when they came into the threshing floor of Chidon, ASA put forth his hand to hold the ark. For the oxen stumbled. The anger of the Lord was kindled against us, and he smote him because he put his hand to the ark, and there he died before God. David was displeased because the Lord had made a breach upon Azah, therefore that wherefore that place is called Peraz Azza to this day. And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? So David brought not the Ark home to himself, to the City of David. That carried it aside into the House of Obed Edom The Gittite. The ark of God remained with the family of Obed Edom in his house three months, and the Lord blessed the House of Obed Edom and all that he had. What I had on my heart, brethren, to talk about was the way the Lord guides us and I believe we could say with the Lord's help. We look at the next couple of chapters that He guides us through His Word and He also guides us in answer to prayer. We find that we need both in our Christian life. Very often we find the two brought together and that is praying and reading His Word. And so here we find that the desire in the heart of David that He would bring. Back the ark of God. But it's important when we have a good desire to be directed by the Word of God, and then if we don't have a definite scripture, to turn to the Lord in prayer. For there are some things in life where we don't have a definite scripture, but the Lord is interested in every step of our journey. He cares and says, of all thy ways, acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. When we see where we began here in this 12TH chapter, that it was a very, very happy occasion, it tells us here that in this 38th verse of the 12TH chapter, all these men of war that could keep rank came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to David king over all Israel, and all the rest also of Israel were to 1 heart to make David king. We can see that these people, these ones of the nation of. Israel, they had the right desire, they wanted to make David king, and he was indeed God's king. And we see them coming with one heart. And we're thankful every time we meet anyone who has a heart for the Lord, who loves the Lord, who wants to give him a place of honor in his or her life. And we see this here a very, very happy occasion indeed it was.

But we are going to see that the important thing. Is not just that we say, well, we can all go along together without consulting the Word of God. We have to be directed by the Word of God if we're going to walk in the path that is pleasing to Him. So we see this brought before us here, and as we look at this occasion, it says there were three days eating and drinking. Their brethren had prepared for them, fewer. I had been there. We would have enjoyed that time of fellowship very much. Many of us know such occasions when we have come together and had very happy times of fellowship with the people of God. But Christian fellowship is not a substitute for the guidance of the Word of God. By his spirit. We remember how when the Lord Jesus was here upon earth. His parents took him as a child up to Jerusalem, and there they no doubt had a very happy time of fellowship at God's center in Jerusalem. And it tells us that they remained there. And then when they wanted to return home, they started home, and it says with their kinsfolk and acquaintances. And I can just imagine. How they had a very happy time as they walked along on their way back home. But there was one thing they hadn't noticed, the Lord wasn't there. And it's very easy for us to get so taken up with Christian fellowship and that we forget the importance of the Lord Himself and the light of his word. And so tells us that when they had gone a day's journey, perhaps no doubt talking about the happy time that they had had, they were in the right place there too, at Jerusalem. They were doing what God had desired for them. But at the end of the first day, they realized that the Lord was not there. And it says they went back to Jerusalem seeking for him. And I say again, this is really an important lesson for all of us, for myself as well As for each one here, that we should realize the importance of following the light of God's Word. And in the light of God's Word we will have the company of the Lord Jesus. Because he values obedience. He says if he loved me, keep my commandments. At the end of the Gospel of Matthew we see that. The Lord Jesus appointed the place where he would meet with his disciple and the only way they could meet with their risen Lord was to listen to his directions and to go where he had asked them to go. And then when they got there, it says when they saw him, they worshiped him. Wasn't the perfect group and never looked for a perfect group because we're all failures at very best, but look for the person. And you'll find that in the path of obedience. We can enjoy his company. Well, after these three days of eating and drinking and joy for Christian fellowship is indeed a real joy. Then it says here in the 13th chapter in the first verse, and David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds and with every leader. Well, you might say they were all of one mind. They were all agreed because you read on. It says the thing was right in the eyes of all Israel, and it was right that they. Should bring up the ark. That was a very good and proper desire. But there was a way that God wanted it to be done, and he had given very specific instructions about that in his words. He had said that if the ark was to be carried, it was to be carried upon the shoulders of the priest. But we find here that. If we can put it in this way that David went by popular opinion, you know, it's easy for U.S. President to just go by popular opinion instead of seeking the light of the word of God. So it tells us here. That he tells them, but seem good unto you, and that it be of the Lord our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren everywhere. And so they've made an announcement to them that they were going to bring up the ark of God. But notice what it says here.

That they in the end of the second verse, that they may gather themselves unto us, and let us bring again the ark of God to us. You notice here that it doesn't seem that they were so much exercised about the Lord Himself, because you know when the instructions were given about the ark.

Way back in the 25th chapter of Exodus, it says that that ark was to be constructed and God said that see that thou make it according to the pattern that I showed to thee on the mount. Nothing was left to the discretion or wisdom of Moses or any of the others who were there in connection with that work. God gave a pattern and they were to follow that pattern. And then he said, There I will meet with thee. And there I will commune with thee. So I believe that we could think of the ark as it brought before us in the Scripture as the symbol of God's presence among his people. How wonderful it is to have that blessed privilege and joy of meeting with the Lord. Now, I say again, it's very nice to have one another, and I've enjoyed many, many happy times with other Christians. But I believe it's good for us to realize that. God has given these kind of instructions in His Word. And so they were going to bring the ark of God to us. In other words, you can see that the setting here is that they were thinking of something that was their own plan. Although it was right that they should bring the ark, they thought of bringing it to us. But isn't it wonderful? It's the Lord that we want to meet. It says in Hebrews 13. Let us go forth therefore unto him. Without the camp bearing his reproach. It's a person, and so we find when the Lord Jesus was here. How those who really sought Him got the blessing over and over again when they sought him. Remember in the 1St chapter of John, the Lord said to the disciples, What are those two disciples? He said, what seek ye? And their answer was, Master, where dwellest thou? You know, if somebody asked where they would find me, I might give a street address in a certain city, but they said, Master, where dwellest thou? Oh, how important it is, brethren, that Christ should be everything. He's everything for salvation. He's everything for our pathway. He's the he's the gathering center. And we might even know a great deal about the truth of his coming, but we could know that and not have our thoughts upon the person. It's the person the coming of. One who loved us and gave himself for us. But here we can see that there was something that was missing here. And in the fourth verse it says, and all the congregation said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. And I'm sure that if we were to follow the consensus of thousands of real Christians, why we'd have all kinds of varying ideas about. Our pathway and the way of gathering and so on. But isn't it wonderful that we have the word of God and the Bible says His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. God has given us the direction we need. And if I can speak for myself, as I grow older, this book becomes more and more wonderful to me as I see in this wonderful book that God has given to us. All that we need for salvation, even for the common everyday relationships of life, all is unfolded to us from the One who knows everything. He's the One, as the Bible says. He's perfect in knowledge and He has given us. And when man goes against the plan of God, whether it's in the way they live or whether it's in the way they gather, it's the way they carry on their everyday life. Why they only find that they're missing? That which God intended for our good and blessing on a sometimes said it can make a simple test of any doctrine that is presented by just asking that one question. Does this line of teaching exalt man or exalt Christ? Because it says in John chapter 16 that when he, the spirit of truth is come. He will guide you into all truth. Then it goes on to say, He shall. Glorify me, for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. And if you are puzzled sometime by a doctrine that's presented, just ask that question. Does this line of teaching that I'm hearing, does that exalt the Lord Jesus? Or does it give a certain amount of glory to man for what he has done, even as a Christian, even as a believer, because these people love the Lord.

I'm not questioning that it says they were of 1 heart to make David King. There was a great deal of affection for David. Well, he gathered them all together and it says. On the 6th verse, and David went up, and all Israel to Belah that belonged, that is, to purchase Jiram, which belongs to Judah, to bring up plants, the ark of God the Lord that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called upon it. Know the cherry of them. Perhaps you remember they are first brought before us. When man sinned in the Garden of Eden. When man sinned in the Garden of Eden, and they were driven out. It says God placed at the entrance of the Garden of Eden cherubim and it says they were there to keep the way of the tree of life and a flaming sword that turned every way. And that, as it were, was saying there's no re entrance to Eden. We're never going to get back to what was in Eden. We're going to get to something better through the work of Christ. But that sword has fallen upon the Lord Jesus and it tells us in Zechariah. Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts. Smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered, and I will turn mine hand over the little ones. And so that sword fell down upon the Lord Jesus, and God has opened a way. And on the top of the ark was the mercy seat and the cherubim representing God's government. Looked down, and there the Moses was told that the blood was to be. Sprinkled and saw they looked down upon the blood and God made a way of access into his presence and so this was what the ark spoke of that God in wondrous grace had provided a way of access into his presence through the blood. We read in Hebrews chapter 10. Having therefore brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. It's because the precious blood of Christ has been shed and in. Sense the blood is on the mercy seat and we have a way of approach into His presence. Well, they decided to bring up the ark now, and it had the name of the Lord upon it, you notice, and it says in the seventh verse. And they carried the ark of God on an in a new cart out of the House of Vinadab and Aza, and ahayah drave the cart. Now you know this idea, if I can put it that way, this idea didn't come from the Word of God. Where did they get the idea of carrying the ark upon a new cart? Well, if you read back, we don't take time, but I'll just mention it. You can search it out for yourself. The children of Israel had failed. God had allowed the ark to be taken down to the country of the Philistines. And God had plagued the Philistines for having put that ark in the House of their God. And so he decided to send the ark back. And of course they didn't have the word of God. They didn't have the divine instruction. So they made a new part and they put the ark on top of the new cart, they put two milskine, they tied up their calves at home and they said now if this ark. For those two oxen driving it without anyone to drive it, just carrying that ark, if it goes back to the land of Israel, then this is the hand of God. Because they knew that no oxen with their calves tied up at home would go without anyone to drive them and carry the ark back. Well, that was all that they knew. They didn't have the word of God. They didn't have the divine instruction. And so we find here that God overruled and that ark. I find in the other occasion I meant to say that God overruled and he allowed the ark to be brought back in that way. But now? The mistake, if we can speak in this way that David and all these people of Israel made, was that they followed the ideas of the Philistines instead of searching the word of God. The Word of God had made it very plain that the ark was to be carried upon the shoulders of the priest. It was not to be made upon some man made cart, it was to be carried upon their shoulders, and I believe the reason it was to. Carried upon their shoulders was that. As they carried that ark by, it was lifted up above their heads. That is, if anybody saw that going by, they would see that ark covered with a blue cloth going along, but they wouldn't see first of all the men that were carrying it. The men that were carrying it were sort of hidden by the ark being lifted up. And you know, man's plan always brings in something that exalts man we're going to notice in the.

15th chapter When we come to it, that when they did follow God's plan and they carried the ark in God's way. There was a great number of Levites that are mentioned, but we're not told precisely who it was that carried the ark. God doesn't attract attention to the first man. It's true and wondrous grace. He has saved us and He has given us the privilege of serving him. But we can't serving him acceptably unless we realize.

The end of the first man we know. That's sad to say. Much of Christendom is occupied with setting man forward, I heard a brother say. Christendom has become a vast arena where men strive for honors for themselves. And it's hard to pick up a book that doesn't give a great deal of, shall I say, blow to the person who wrote the book and all his wonderful record and the letters after his name and everything. And what God wants is to honor and exalt his beloved son. Do you know who God called the greatest among those born of women? The man who said, I'm only a boy. They came to John the Baptist. That's the person whom the Lord said was the greatest among those born of women. And they said, John, the people want to know who you are. Are you the Christ? And he said, no, Are you that prophet? He said, no. Well, who are you then, John? He said, I'm the voice of one crying in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. He totally hid himself. And he sought to honor the Lord. And so we see that in man's plan, we know who drove the cart, and I'm sure that those men felt greatly honored that they were selected to drive this new cart. I can just see how they would sit there feeling how important they were in that job. And so while they were driving along, the oxen stumbled. God wasn't pleased. Where did the pattern come from? Not from the Word of God. It came from popular opinion. But if they had only consulted the Word of God, they would have found God's plan. And so I, I want to say, and not only as to the way we gather to worship, but I believe for everything in our lives. It's most important for us. To have that childlike prayer of Saul of Tarsus. When the Lord saved him, he said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? You remember when the Lord asked the disciples to prepare for the Passover, they might have said, well, we know a lot of good places, but they didn't. They said, Lord, where wilt thou that we prepare? And he gave them the most careful instructions so that they couldn't mistake the directions that he gave. And so here the Lord was displeased. The oxen stumbled and other put forth his hand to steady the ark. And the Lord was displeased that this whole plan scheme. You know, in Speaking of the ark being above their heads and lifted up, I believe there's something for us to learn in this. I just like to turn to one verse in Matthew Chapter 11. Matthew, Chapter 11. In verse 27. All things are delivered unto me of my Father, and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father. Neither knoweth any man the Father save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. Now we're told here that the sun reveals the Father. So in the Lord Jesus was here, he could say, He that hath seen me hath seen the Father. But it says no man knoweth the Son, but the Father. And I believe, brethren, it's important for us to always remember this, that the person of the Lord Jesus Christ is beyond our natural minds. How could the one who upholds all things by the word of His power be there as a babe in Bethlehem's Manger? I can't explain it to you, but I believe it. It's above my mind, but it's not above my faith. I believe it because God said it. When the Lord Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, he said no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man, which is.

In heaven. I remember I was talking to some children one time and I said, you know, I can just be in one place at one time. What did the Lord Jesus mean when he was standing there talking to Nicodemus? And he said, No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven. Even the Son of man which is in heaven, how could he be in two places in heaven and also on earth at the same time? And I thought there's this simplicity of a child. He said because he's God, because he's God. And friends, let's always remember this. There have been people who have been tried over and over again to explain the mystery of the glory of the person of Christ, but it's above our minds. No man knoweth the Son but the Father. And so I don't understand it, but I believe it because that blessed person was God and man in one person and those who try. To explain and try to figure some way that they can explain away the person of Christ. They always stumble. They always stumble. The oxen stumbled here and he put forth his hand because it wasn't the mind of God that man should be in prominence here. God's. I thought God's plan was the ark was to be the prominent place because the ark spoke of Christ. And the one who is in the midst of his people. Well now there's a little thing we notice here in the 12TH verse. It says, and David was afraid of God that day, saying, how shall I bring the ark of God home to me? That was a very good question, wasn't it? He didn't at this time consult everybody else and say, well, let's talk this over, where do we make our mistake? He says, how shall I bring the ark of God home to me? And we're going to see when we come to the 15th. Chapter that he found the answer, not in all the opinions of men, but he found it in the word of God. There was a how there was a way that God had ordered that this ark was to be carried. But now I wanted to also notice this little touching point at the end of the chapter. So David brought not home the ark, brought not the ark home to himself, to the city of David, but carried it aside into the House of Obed Edom the Gittite. And the Ark of God remained with the family of Obed Edom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the House of Obed Edom and all that he had. I just like to say a little thought about this. You know, sometimes things come up, troubles come among the people of God. As long as we value the person and the work of the Lord Jesus, as long as we value the truth of His word, why? Let's go on. Let's go on and value this. We have seen many of us in our lifetime. Things have happened even among the people of God. But I think it's very lovely here to see that when this had happened that there was one household that sought to remain faithful to the Lord and the Lord. Custom, you know, you have a little pictures of that if you were to turn over, it won't take time, but if you read some time, the 3rd chapter of John, there were things that were happening in the assembly there. And Gaius the apostle writes to Gaius and encourages him to go on faithfully in spite of difficulties that arose among the people of God. You know, brethren, it's very easy to get discouraged when things go wrong, when people do things that upset. Us and trouble us. It's very easy to get discouraged and say I give up, but isn't it lovely to see that the Lord blesses the household that seeks to go on. Sometimes the path gets very narrow. Sometimes we find ourselves the Lord reduced it in his word to two or three or two or three are gathered together in my name. There am I in the house, there am I in the midst of them and I think it's very lovely to see that here's a household that didn't get so discouraged that. They gave up. They valued the ark of God, and it was reduced to just one household. But the ark was there, and the Lord blessed them because they had done that. And so I say again, when discouragements come, and they do come among the people of God, things happen that cause a lot of sorrow and trouble. Let's seek to Guam, even if it's only a few, because I believe God foresaw what would happen when He brought the numbers down to just two or three.

Sometimes we have seen that when troubles have come, the numbers that seek to be faithful may be very few, but seek to go on, brethren, seek to walk in obedience to His Word, and He will bless. Now I just like to read a little bit in this 14th chapter. And I just like to read from the eighth verse. And when the Philistines curve it heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David, and David heard of it and went out against them. The Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Raytheon, and David inquired of God, saying, John, there were things that were happening in the assembly there and gave us. The apostle writes to Gaius and encourages him to go on faithfully in spite of difficulties that arose among the people of God. You know, brother, it's very easy to get discouraged when things go wrong, when people do things that. Upset us and trouble us. It's very easy to get discouraged and say I give up. But isn't it lovely to see that the Lord blesses the household that seeks to go on? Sometimes the path gets very narrow. Sometimes we find ourselves. The Lord reduced it in his words, two or three, but two or three are gathered together in my name. There am I in the house, there am I in the midst of them. And I think it's very lovely to see that here's a household that didn't get so discouraged. But they gave up. They valued the ark of God, and it was reduced to just one household. But the ark was there, and the Lord blessed them because they had done that. Until I say again, when discouragements come, and they do come among the people of God, things happen that cause a lot of sorrow and trouble. Let's seek to go on, even if it's only a few, because I believe God foresaw what would happen when He brought the numbers down to just two or three.

Sometimes we have seen that when troubles have come, the numbers that seek to be faithful may be very few, but seek to go on, brethren, seek to walk in obedience to His Word, and He will bless. Now I just like to read a little bit in this 14th chapter. And I just like to read from the eighth verse. And when the Philistines curve, it heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, All the Philistines went up to seek David, And David heard of it and went out against them. The Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Raytheon. And David inquired of God, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines, and wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the Lord said unto him. Then go up and I will deliver them into thine hand. So they came up to bail Paraisin, and David smote them there. Then David said, God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand, like the breaking forth of waters. Therefore they called the name of that place veiled to Raisin. When they had left their gods there, David gave commandments, and they burned them with fire. Here we find the situation arising and there was no definite Scripture that he could find that told him that at that particular time he was to go out and fight against the Philistines. He didn't know just exactly what to do. And we have situations like that that arise in our lives. We have situations that arise where we have direct guidance of Scripture. God has told us many things. He says be not an equally yoked together with unbelievers. Tells us to be upright. He tells us to be honest and kind, tells us how we should gather in his word. But there are situations that come, maybe somebody here might be seeking a new job and you can't find a verse in the Bible that tells you to go and work for a certain company. You have to pray about something like that. And so. When these situations arise and we don't have a direct scripture for them. Why God is always approachable, it says in Hebrews chapter 4. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in in time of need. For Mr. Darby's translation says timely help, timely help. I think that's very lovely because sometimes we get help, but it's not timely. It isn't just at the right moment we need it, but God always.

Timely help. And so when these Philistines came up, David didn't venture to go out against them until he had first inquired of God. I really believe that David was learning something. He'd inquired from all the others how he should bring up the ark, and he had found that their ideas were not in accord with the word of God. And so in this situation arises. He just simply goes himself to the Lord as though he were saying. Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Another verse says. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. That's this coming weekend that the Lord will there are to be meetings in Calgary and I, I can't find any verse in the Bible that tells me whether I should go to Calgary or not, but I can pray about it. And I believe when we are simple and asking the Lord that he's able to direct us in these things. And so we find here that David asked the Lord, the Lord gave him direction for his pathway. And tells us that he went up, and the Lord undertook for him and. He granted a great victory for him. I must say that when we pray and ask these things, it's good for us to be humble. The Bible says, hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God. And I don't think anybody here who might have it in their hearts to go to Calgary would say, the Lord told me to go to Calgary. They would perhaps tell you that the Lord told them about some particular matter where we have a definite scripture. And then I could say I know this is right. Because I can show you the verse that tells me be not an equally yoked together with unbelievers or some other verse that gives us direction for certain facets of our life. But I don't know any verse that says to go to Calgary. And so when you pray about it, it's a secret between yourself and the Lord. And David didn't go and boast and tell everybody the Lord sent me there. He just went out in a personal, quiet confidence in God. Now I've heard people boast the Lord told me to do this, but you know, when you do that and you don't have an ethnic scripture, you're really telling people, well, I'm so near the Lord, I couldn't miss his mind. And you know, we do sometimes we do make mistakes as we know, and so we need to be very humble. But I say he does here, He does answer prayer and He delights to direct us and show us the way wherein we should go. Now notice the 13th verse. And the Philistines yet again spread themselves abroad in the valley. Therefore David inquired again of God, And God said unto him. Going on up after them, turn away from them, and come upon them over against the Mulberry trees. And it shall be when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the Mulberry trees, that then thou shalt go up to battle, for the Lord has gone forth before thee. Dismissed the host of the Philistines. David therefore did as God commanded him, and they smote the host of the Philistines from Gibeon even to Gath. I think it's important we notice this too. We might say, well, when next year comes around, if the Lord leaves us here, well, the Lord sent me last year, so I'm going again. But he didn't. Here he, when he asked the Lord, the Lord said no, there's a different plan this time. It's a little different plan this time. Don't go out against them, but you make a little different course and the Lord will direct you. Isn't it wonderful that we have all these things in the word of God? Sometimes we hear people talk that way. Well, that's a precedent and so I'm going to do it that way again. But you know we need. Fresh guidance every day, the Bible says. Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. The thought is that. A lamp to my feet is that he just gives us guidance for one step at a time, and if we take that step, he gives us light to the next one. I think of the lights in my car. I think I have pretty good headlights, and I suppose they might shine perhaps 200 feet ahead, but you know, I'll never have light for more than 200 feet. Unless I move forward and as I move forward I get fresh light for each 200 feet and I can travel for miles all night, but if I stop, I'll only have light for 200 feet. And sometimes we wish the Lord would show us what's going to happen in the next year. He says, I'll give you light for one step. He picked up step and when the next step.

Comes why ask me again, isn't it wonderful that God delights to direct us in the pathway of life in all these little things this in this chapter. It wasn't carrying the ark. It was a matter where there was no particular scripture that he could rely upon, but he had one that he could turn to and rather than we have one, the one that died for us, live for us and he's there with timely help for every occasion of need. Now we come to this 15th chapter and I won't read all the chapter but I just like to pick out parts of it. 15th chapter First Verse. And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and picked for it a tent. Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites, For them hath the Lord chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him forever. And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord unto his place, which he had prepared for it. And David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites. Family passing on to the 12TH verse. And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites. Sanctify yourselves, both he and your brethren, if he may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. And or because he did it not at the first, the Lord our God made a breach upon us for that we sought him not after the Jew order. So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of God, of the Lord God of Israel. And the children of the Levites bear the ark of God upon their shoulders. With the stage thereof, as Moses commanded, according to the word of the Lord, David spake to the chief of the Levites, to appoint their brethren to be. The singer is with instruments of music, sultries and harps and symbols sounding by lifting up the voice with joy. And just passing on to the 23rd verse. And Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the Ark. And then if you go again in the end of the. 24th verse And Obed Edom and Jahiah were doorkeepers for the ark. So David and the elders of Israel and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the House of Obed Edom with joy. And the last verse. And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the city of David, that Michael the daughter of Saul, looking out at a window, saw David dancing and playing, and she despised him in her heart. Well, here we see. David has this desire, the same desire he had in the 13th chapter to bring up the ark, but he doesn't go to the captains of thousands and hundreds and every leader. He himself has been searching the word of God, and he has found that it's not public opinion that he was to go by. It was what God had said in His Word. And so he comes to these people. All these of Israel that he had

gathered together. And he speaks with assurance, He speaks with confidence because he had the word of the Lord. And it is not lovely that when you and I have the word of God, then we have confidence even in the matter of salvation. How do I know I'm saved? Because I feel saved? No, because God says so. How do I know the work of Christ is sufficient? Because God says so. And you know we have the word of God in these important matters. So I think it's very lovely to see David here. Previous time he gathered all the captains and passed their opinion, but now he gathers them together and tells them why. This is what God has said, this is what we have to do. It's not a question of everybody's opinion, the question of the way God has said the ark was to be carried. There's a great number of names mentioned here, and as I said. I don't know who it was that carried the ark, probably different ones took part in it because we're not told God is not attracting attention to the people who are carrying the ark, but to the ark itself.

Showing us that the path of obedience is what was pleasing to Him. And so we don't have any oxen stumbling, we don't have the pram failing because it's God's plan. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away. Some people say, Oh well that was a custom away back 2000 years ago, but things are changing. We're in 1988 or 9 and we're not. To be governed by those old fashioned ideas. God's word doesn't change. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall pass, shall not pass away. People say, well, we can go back 100 years, We didn't go back far enough. If we want to know the mind of God in connection with the church, we've got to go back to how God set it up. Just like marriage. If you want to know the mind of God about marriage, you've got to go back to what God planned in the very beginning, because he doesn't change his mind. He may allow certain things, He's very gracious in spite of our failures, but his mind doesn't change. Oh, how wonderful, His Grace. Well, how wonderful to have His word. And we see David here, his true humility of heart with him. But there's firmness because he knows that God had a plan and he was going to follow the plan that God had ordained. And I read those verses where it says. In the 24th verse, I'll just read this whole verse. In Chennai and Jehoshaphat and Nathaniel and. And Amaziah and Zechariah and Benny I and Eliezer the priest had blow with the trumpets before the Ark of God. And over Edom and Jehuah were doorkeepers for the Ark. I just wanted to call attention to this blowing of the trumpet. If you were to read in the 10th chapter of Numbers, you would see that God planned for the making of these trumpets. It says they were to be made of one piece of silver, and silver in the Bible is a picture to us of redemption. I say that because God's plan was that when the people were numbered, everyone was to give 1/2 shekel of silver according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and that was called the redemption money, I'm saying. Because it isn't just from our own minds that we get these things. The silver is a picture of redemption. And when those trumpets were made, it says it was to be made from a whole piece of silver, in other words. It's a whole heart belonging to the Lord Jesus. That says ye are not your own, ye are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God. And God told them in the 10th chapter of Numbers that they were to blow with those trumpets over their peace offerings and over their offerings that they made. And so God would never have us to forget that we're a redeemed people and communion with him, which is pictured in the burned. Offering and a peace offering can only be through against them. And so here they were blowing with a trumpet. And what about these doorkeepers? Well, you know, God has told us in his precious words, holiness, become a fine house. Oh God, forever. No, the enemy tries to break up Christian homes and he tries to break up God's assembly. And we need to be careful. That we follow the directions of the Word of God. That's the only. Directions that we have that are reliable and they're the truth. They're the word of God. And so there were doorkeepers. And so we do have to be careful that there is no compromising or giving up of the truth of God. I think this is so lovely to see that David seems to have grown a great deal in his soul in this little time. He had followed the plan of a whole group of people, but now it's changed. He's searching. He's searching. Of God. He's seeking to follow the divine pattern and God is coming in and he's blessing them. And so the ark is brought up, David so happy that it says he's dancing with all his might. And the only leader, one person that despised him, and that was the daughter of Saul, who looked out of the window and despised him in her heart. And you know the Bible tells us, let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp bearing his reproach. And I'm sure everyone of us who are in this room know very well that if you can talk about belongings of some popular and recognized group, you will be in a measure.

Police accepted that if you say, well, we're gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we speak to meet together in obedience to his word, you may get some reproach too, but it's the reproach of Christ. It's the reproach of Christ. And so David for carrying out God's plan. Michael didn't look out and despise him when he was following the human plan. And the world will accept to a large extent what? Itself, but to meet together in simplicity according to the word of God does bring retrulged, but all David was full of joy. David was doing the will of God. He had the sense in his own soul. That he was following the Word of God. And that's what gives peace. It's not public a claim, but it's knowing that we are seeking to follow the light and wisdom of God's Word. And now just a few verses before we close in this 16th chapter. So they brought the ark of God and set it in the midst of the tent that David had picked for it, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. I mentioned this before and these burnt offerings and peace offerings, and I think most of us know that there were five different offerings brought before us in Leviticus. There was first the burnt offering to them, the meat or meal offering, then the peace offering, then the sin and trespass offering, and those offerings bring before us various aspects of the work of Christ. The sin and trespass offering bring before us the cross of Calverty needing our need as sinners, and the putting away of sin before God through the work the Lord Jesus accomplished. The meal offering brings before us the perfect humanity of the Lord Jesus, because he became a man that says he was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death. And so then we have the burnt offering and the peace offering. I'd just like to say a few words about them because I believe it's very precious to see them brought in here. The burnt offering brings before us the picture of the Lord Jesus offering himself without spot to God in obedience to the will of His Father. It really is what the work of God, what the work of the Lord Jesus, is to the heart of God. And I just like to give a little illustration, so perhaps you can catch the thought by an illustration. Supposing that. I owed a great debt and I'm not able to pay the debt. And a friend comes along and says, Gordon, just give me the bills and I'll settle them for you. And he takes the bills and he goes to my creditor. He pays the bills in full and he comes back and I put the receipt in my hand, paid in full, paid in full. Now I'm I'm out of debt. I'm very happy because. I know that my debt is paid but. I don't know anything about whether my creditor likes me or not. All I know is that he's satisfied with the payments. Well, let us suppose something else. Let's suppose I have a great depth where that creditor that I'm not able to pay. And this creditor loves me and he looks on his book and he sees that great debt there. And he says to his son, would you be willing to sell your house so he could raise the money and take this debt off our books? If you'll do that, I'll send a receipt to Gordon Hale and I'll mark on it paid in full through the kindness of my son. And one day to my grace of life, I get this receipt in the mail. Well, I know I'm out of debt, but I know, I know a lot. More I know, a lot more I've learned, and all the heart of my creditor. He loved me, and not only that, he has a wonderful son. Who would be willing to do that. Brethren, that's the bundle. And that's why it comes first. And I'm sure that if I went over to thank my creditor, he would like me to hear, like to hear me say, oh, I want to say how much I think of your son. You must think he's a wonderful person. And so do I. And brethren, the work of Calvary lets us know the heart of God. And that's what it means. The Lord Jesus offered himself without spot to God. Before I was afraid to meet. My chariot made me uneasy. Even after I had the receipt, there wasn't any special friend of mine. But how do I feel now? I'm walking down the street and I see him on the other side and I want to go over and talk to him.

Wonderful person he is. That's the peace offering. Peace offering or the communion offering, And you and I can have communion with God. Brethren, our depth not only paid, but the one who paid it is God's own beloved Son, sent by him in love. The heart of God fully told us Christ, the perfect obedient one, offering himself, as Ephesians says, without thought to God. And so here you find, when the ark is brought up to its place, they offered burnt offerings and peace. That's why rather than when we come together on Lord's Day morning, we come in the realization of this, and what a joy it is to think that that my creditor himself is the one who sent his son to pay my debt and who assures me of his love to me. Well, here we find them offering these sacrifices. And in the third verse and it says, And he dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone. A loaf of bread and a good piece of flesh and a flag and a wine. Well, they had to go to their homes again, and we have to go to our homes again too. We can't always be sitting under the sound of the word. We have to go to our employment. We have to go home to the duties of home and all this. But as they went, they went away rejoicing in their hearts. They received something that they were able to carry home. And I hope as we think of the Lord Jesus and what He has done for us and what He means to us. And all this instruction that's given to us in his word that we'll go home in the same way with something in our hearts, something that really brings Christ before us, a loaf of bread. You know, the Lord Jesus said he was the true bread that came down from heaven. And then it says a good piece of flesh. I think of the Lord Jesus who came down here in this world and walked through this world in perfect obedience. A man offered himself for the spot to God. And then the flagging of wine brings before us the joy that all this brings, the joy that we have. And as we meditate upon our precious Savior and what He's done for us, provision He's made for us through His Word, the access that He's given into His presence does not fill our hearts with joy too. Doesn't make us want to thank Him more and more as we think of all He means to us and all He's done for us. Well, may the Lord grant this may be so. And that these precious lessons brought before us in type and shadow, made a hold of our hearts. As God has given us instruction and his word, but he's also given us many wonderful pictures in his Word too. Somehow pictures make things more vivid to me. I can read instructions, but a picture seems to make it vivid. God's given both. He's given the instruction and He's given the picture. He wants these. He wants these things to be real, to be vivid, to be actual facts that we know and enjoy as receding them from Him. Because he loves us. He loved us in the Lord Jesus, as Paul could say, the Son of God who loved me, gave himself for me.

Buena Park Conference: 1969, Bringing up the Ark

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Could we turn tonight to First Chronicles chapter 12? First Chronicles chapter 12? And verse 38. Then I'd like to read the 13th chapter and. Also parts of the 15th chapter. First Chronicles 12, verse 38. All these men of war that could keep rank came with a perfect heart to Hebron to make David king over all Israel, and all the rest, and also of Israel were of one heart to make David king. And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them. Moreover, they that were nigh them even unto Isakar and Zebulun and Napoli. Brought bread on answers, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen and meat meal cakes of pigs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil and oxen, and cheap abundantly. For there was joy in Israel. And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, if it seemed good unto you, and that it be of the Lord our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren everywhere. That are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites, which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us, and let us bring again the ark of our God to us. For we inquired not at it in the days of Saul, and all the congregations said that they would do so. But the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. So David gathered all Israel together, from shy ***** of Egypt even unto the entering of hemisphere. Ark of God from courageous theorem David went up, and all Israel to Bala, that is, encourage us Urim which belongs to Judah, to bring up France, the ark of God the Lord that dwelleth between the cherubims whose name is called on it. And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the House of Abinadab and Aza and Ohio Dre the cart, and David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with salt trees, and with. Rosen and with symbols, and with trumpets. And when they came under the threshing floor of China, other put forth his hand to pull the ark, for the oxen stumbled, and the angle of anger of the Lord was kindled against us, And he smiled him, because he put his hand to the ark, and there he died before God. And David was displeased because the Lord had made a breach upon us. A wherefore that place is called. Perez Aza to this day. And David was afraid of God that day, saying how shall I bring the ark of God home to me? So David brought not the ark home to himself, to the city of David, but carried it aside into the House of Obed Edom the Gittite. And the Ark of God remained with the family of Obed Edom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the House of Obed Edom and all that he had. Now the 15th chapter. And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it attempt. Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites, for them hath the Lord chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him forever. And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the Lord unto his place, which he had prepared for it. And David assembled the children of Aaron. And the Levites. And. The 12Th verse. And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites. Sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel, under the place that I have prepared for it, or because you did it not. At the 1St, the Lord our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order. So the priest and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel. And the thief of the Levite bear the ark of God upon their shoulders, with the staves thereon. As Moses commanded, according to the word of the Lord, and David spake to the chief of the Levites, to appoint their brethren to be singers with instruments of music, Saul trees and harps, and symbols sounding by lifting up the voice with joy. And the. 23rd verse in Barakaya and Elkanah where doorkeepers for the Ark, and Jebaniah and Jehoshaphat and Nathaniel, and Amosia, and Zechariah and Benny Ayah and Eliezer. The priest did blow with the trumpets before the Ark of God and Obed Eden and Jehaiya were doorkeepers for the ark, though David and the elders of Israel, the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the House of.

Freedom of joy. And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, that they sacrificed 7 bullets and seven Rams. And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen. And all the Levites that bear the ark, and the stringers and the and Shin and I are the master of the song with the singers. David also had upon him an effort of linen. Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting. And with the sound of the corner, and with trumpets, and with cymbals making a noise, with salt trees and harp. And it came to pass as the ark of the Lord came to the city of David, that Michael the daughter of Saul, looking out at a window, talking, David dancing and playing, and she despised him in her heart. So they brought the ark of God and set it in the midst of the 10th, and David had pitched for it, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. And when David had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord, and he dealt to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone, a loaf of bread and a good piece of flesh and a flag and of wine. Well, I thought of this little portion, brethren, because in the end of

the 12Th chapter here it reminds us of what has taken place in the last three days. Here it tells us that all the different tribes of Israel had come together to make David king over all Israel, and that they were one heart to make David king. And it even tells us that they there they were with David three days, eating and drinking. Or their brethren had prepared for them. Well, I believe this has been the experience of many of us who are here tonight. That is, we have enjoyed these happy 3 days, and we have thought to give the Lord Jesus His rightful place, the true David, the Lord Himself. And as we have been gathered together, we have been occupied with him, and we have been fed too, just as these people were fed abundantly, and the Lord used their brethren for this purpose too. Well, what a very, very happy occasion it is. But I believe the lesson that perhaps we can learn is. That there is often a great danger after such very happy occasion and that we sort of dwell on an experience and that we're not really before the Lord for his guidance in our pathways. So it was when the when the Lord took Peter, James and John up on the Mount of Transfiguration. That was a very wonderful experience, I suppose perhaps one of the most wonderful experiences. In the lives of those three men. But when they came down from the mountain, it tells us that they were not able to cast the evil spirit out of that boy. And when they found out how very weak they are were, they asked the Lord. And he said, this kind goeth not out, but by prayer and fasting. And so let us bear this in mind, that we can have very, very happy occasions in our lives. Where we're occupied with the Lord Jesus, where we're seeking to give him his rightful place. We are enjoying what our brethren have prepared for us both temporally and what He ministers to us spiritually. But this will never, never be a substitute for communion with God and with the importance of making His Word. The guide for our pathway and I believe we learned this a great lesson here and I trust it will be a lesson to each one of our hearts. For just like Israel in another instance, they had a great victory, a jury call, such a great victory that they thought they were well prepared to meet the next conflict. And when they went against that little city of AI, they were defeated before the men of AI and they found out that the real reason was that they. I have not been back to Gilda. Now what did this place Gilda represent? Well, and perhaps, to make it most simple, it was a place of circumcision. But shall I put it this way? It was the place where they lifted the knife upon self before they started the conflict of the land, And it pictures to us self judgment. That is, we need to be constantly before God, for even the joy of Christian fellowship will never, never be a substitute, I say, for communion with the Lord.

And after each victory, we need to get back to the place of self judgment and recognize that self can never be trusted in the best circumstances any more than in the world, because self has been utterly condemned before God. And it must always be kept in the place of death so that the Lord can lead us in victory by Himself being the leader, and by His word being our. Well, I believe we see this lesson brought before us. Don't notice the way this 13th chapter begins. And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds and with every leader. Surely this was a very broad minded thing to do. He wasn't just going to follow his own ideas. And so he gets the advice of the captains of thousands and hundreds and every leader. He didn't miss one. He had plenty of advice because these men were famous men, leaders of the people. But what was a mistake? Was it that he went to these people? No, I wouldn't say that. But the important thing was that he did not go to the word of God. And you know, brethren, we might go to the opinions of men, we might go to the opinions of godly men. We might go to the opinions of great leaders in Christendom and say, what do you think should be done in this or that? And we might get. An opinion from men. That was not according to the mind of God. And David must learn that it was not by going and consulting all these men that he was going to get the mind of God. It was to go to the Word of God. It was to make the Word of God the guide for His pathway. And so each one of us can ask. Have we just gone around and asked the opinions of others in certain things? Are we satisfied because of the meaning? Have listened to that ministry which has shown us the exercises of heart of our brethren. Well, the Scripture says prove all things. Hold fast that which is good. And how can we prove all things? Do we have a sure measuring stick that we can go by? Yes, the Word of God lives and abides forever through the lawn to the testimony. If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. Preached at Berea, he was very pleased that the people didn't accept his word. It says they were more noble than the others because they searched the scriptures daily. To see if those things were sold and nothing would make me more happy than if you should say, well, brother Hayhoe, I'd like to get it from the word of God. I'd like to have it from him. The Lord Jesus when he was here said, and they shall be all part of God. They shall be all part of God. In reality, we never have truth for our own souls until we have received it in communion with God. Now I don't say. May not use others. I'm indebted to others for things that I have learned, but I can say this, that the only things that have really been made my own have been the things that although I've learned them through others, they have pointed me to the scripture and I have received it from the scripture. Hello God may use an instrument, just like when those disciples were sent to find the place where the Lord wanted that last Passover and His supper to be prepared. Now they were to find a man bearing a pitcher of water for her burnt man would represent to us the Holy Spirit of God. The water would represent to us the the word of God. But what about the picture? Well, where are some pictures? Gideon told his man they were to put a light in an earthen picture. And Paul said, We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power may be of God and not of. And so God may use an instrument, but they didn't follow a man with an empty picture. They followed a man bearing a pitcher of water, the man that had that picture of water. And tonight I trust that God will speak to your heart and to mine too, through His precious words. And if this is so fine, just the earthen vessel to bear the pitcher of water and the Spirit of God must apply it to make it your very own. So I quote that scripture again. It's been impressed on my mind a good deals late. They shall be all part of God in these days. It is so important that we should get the truth of God from God himself through his word by the Spirit.

Well, it tells us here that David said unto all the congregation of Israel, as it seemed good unto you. And that it be of the Lord our God, let us send abroad unto our bread, and everywhere that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites. Which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us, and let us. Bring again the ark of our God for us, For we inquired not at it in the days of Saul. Here was an excellent desire. It was a desire that was produced in their hearts by the Lord. We must say that it was a desire that was very pleasing to God. But it's possible to have a good desire and yet not to do it in the way that God wants it to be done. God not only wants work to be done, but He has a way that He wants it to be done. He not only wants us to gather in His presence as worshippers. But He also wants us to gather in a way that is according to his word. And so it was almost wonderful and noble desire to bring up the ark of God that had been forgotten for all those years. Since the time that the ark had been carried down to the country of the Philistines, it had been forgotten. This was a great desire, a good desire, but they hadn't gone to the Word of God. David had not thought the mind of God through His Word. And you know there are many, many Christians in this day, and they desire to worship the Lord. They desire to serve the Lord. But they say I think this. I've asked the advice of a good number of people. I've asked them real leaders in Christendom, and I read a lot of good books and I think that we should do this or that. Oh, dear friend, have you searched the word of God? Have you turned in simple place on your knees to learn what God has to say about the subject? It's not enough to have a good desire. It's not enough to do a good thing. But to be pleasing to the Lord, it must be done in a way. That is pleasing to him. It tells us in Second Timothy, Chapter 2. If a man also strives for the masteries, yet is he not crowned except he strives lawfully, What does it mean to strive lawfully? Well, perhaps some of you have run in the race. You've taken part in some race. Didn't you acquaint yourself with the rules? Didn't you watch carefully where the starting place was and what the sound was? That you were to listen for when you started, and weren't there certain rules that you had to abide by? And even if you

came in first, if you'd broken one of the rules, the judge would say disqualified, disqualified. Great disappointment. You put a lot of effort into it, but it wasn't according to the rules and you were not crowned. You didn't receive the reward. And is it possible for a Christian to put a great deal of effort? Life to spend a lot of time in what he might call the work of the Lord and yet not have the instruction from the word of God that would show what is pleasing to him. Oh, I believe it's so important in these days as as David said, when in the 15th chapter he brought up the ark according to the mind of God, he said. Before we thought brought the Lord after the due order. God had a way, He had a way that he wanted of that art to be carried, and only his way was acceptable and pleasing to him. And so I would say to each young person and to each one who is older, read the Word of God. Acquaintance yourself well with the mind of God, as it says. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. That is only as we are before the Lord, humbly seeking His mind and will, can He direct us through His word. So I say again, this was a good desire. Perhaps we could say the desire was specially produced in their hearts by those happy 3 days. And I believe as I look on the company here tonight, that there are some, perhaps some young people.

And there has been such a desire produced in your heart. And just say, well, I have felt a little different in these last three days and I do want to please the Lord. I can remember as a young person when I went to a conference, the effect that it had on me, occupied with my work and other things. It was a special treat to come together for three days. My husband returned home, as I hope each one here has felt after the days. And he said, I want to please the Lord more. I want to live for him more. And this was what? Happened here. David had forgotten about the Ark of God, The people had forgotten about it, the captains had forgotten about it. But now this lovely desire was produced into the in their heart by those three days together. But that was not enough. There needed to be a turning to the Word of God to discover his mind, and there was no substitute for this. And so on the fourth verse and all, the congregation said that they would do so, for the thing was right. In the eyes of all the people, you know, we hear a common expression in the world. Well, you can be pretty sure that the majority is right when when there's a great number of people that love the Lord, that want to do a thing in a certain way, How could it be that a few would be right? And that majority who love the Lord and want to please the Lord could be wrong. This this crowd wanted to do what was right. They wanted to please the Lord, but they had made this one omission. They have not served the mind of God through His Word. They had not sought the mind of God through His words. And so it was right in the eyes of all the people, but it was not right according to the word of God. It was not right according to the Word of God, but in the eye of all the people it was. So they had a great assembly. It says David gathered all Israel together from shy ***** of Egypt, even unto the enduring of he must to bring the ark of God. Some courageous Jerome so tells us that they went down. And they went through quite a bit of work. I can just imagine that the people that made this cart to carry the ark of the Lord. Really. Did it very conscientiously, and I expect if we could have seen that card, it was a masterpiece of workmanship. I'm quite sure that these people having a heart for the Lord like this didn't do it in our slipshod way. I'm quite sure they did it according to the very best of their ability. But where did they get the idea? Where did the idea of making a cart come from? Had this ever been taught in the Word of God? Had God ever told his people that he wanted them to prepare a cart to carry the ark of the Lord? Oh no, that somebody else had done it before and it had seemed to prosper. So surely that was a good precedent. The Philistines, when they sent back the ark of the Lord, had made a new cart. And so wonderfully had God intervened that after they had made this new cart and decided to send the ark back to Israel. That they tied up the calves at home and put oxen to the cart. And they said now. If the oxen carried that ark back to the land of Israel with their calves tied up at home, we'll know that this is of God. Well, this must have been a God, because certainly oxen would never go in the opposite direction with their calves tied at home, with no one to guide the cart unless God did it. This was contrary to nature. Yes, God did it, but we have to remember something. These were the Philistines. These were not the people that had the word of God. These were not the people that had in their possession the oracles of God. And you know, let us bear this in mind, brethren, God may prosper things in the in the pathway of people who are not acquainted with the word of God. And who are not taught like some of us have been taught, but. For us, we have a special responsibility, if we profess to go by the Word of God, to follow its instruction. We're not to copy the philosophy. We're not to copy what God may allow to prosper in the world, and what God may allow to prosper in those who are perhaps only babes in Christ. He will not allow to prosper with those who have His Word within their possession.

Don't use it all. There's a difference. We see something of this principle. In connection with the early days of the church, you know that when God. Save the people from Israel. They were slow to give up. Those old habits that they had had as Jews. And God was patient. God was patient. They had gone on with a God-given religion. They had carried on the temple and all its ritual and sacrifices according to the mind of God. But now the Lord Jesus had been crucified. He had died, He had risen again, He had gone back on high. The Spirit had come down. But that nation was slow to learn the things of God, and God was patient. He waited almost 40 years. From the Day of Pentecost until the destruction of the temple in the year 8070 was almost 40 years. 40 years is a period of testing in the Scripture, and God waited that long for those people to be delivered from that thing. And you know, God is very patient. And so James, when when Paul came up to Jerusalem. James said to Paul, Dicus, brother, how many thousands of Jews there either believe and they are all zealous of the law. So he said like this, Paul, you should go along with them because God has saved them and they're still going on with the law and there are thousands of them and now you should just go along with them. Well, God was patient with those Jewish believers just recently saved out of Judaism. But God had made known much more. To his servant Paul, and he was more responsible. And you and I who have the word of God, I say in our hands, many of us professively gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't need to copy what's about us when we have the living instructions of the Word of God. God may allow certain things to prosper in those who have not yet been instructed in the truth of God. Maybe their hearts are more loyal to Christ than some of ours. But that wouldn't do for us. We have the word of God-given to us, we have His instruction, and many of us have heard these things. And so the idea of making this new card came from the Philistine. God had prospered when they did it because they didn't have the oracles. They weren't instructed. They were walking up to the light they had. But it was different when those who had the scriptures should turn. And copy the Philistine. That was not the mind of God for Israel and David, their leader ought to have known better. Well, it tells us here in the eighth verse. And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and was singing him with hearts and with salties, and with timbles and with symbols and with trumpets. Yes, there was great joy, and often till there's great joy and great rejoicing. And yet perhaps. We haven't been sufficiently before God about his word. We can see them. Those happy 3 days was not sufficient. It was not a substitute. Should I say her communion with God and for the guidance of His Word, following the philosophy was not to be a president. The great joy that was present there was not sufficient to show that they had the mind of the law. Again I say to the law and to the testimony, If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. All that is present, be earnest to seek the mind of God through His Word. And even though it may seem there are only a few, to have the word of God for our pathway is of all importance, and to be in the presence of the Lord in that day, and to have him tell us that He was pleased with obedience above everything else. Has it ever struck you how often in the New Testament it speaks about doing the will of God? During the will of God. Why? Because that is the most important thing that we should do. The will of God. It's not how much we accomplish, it's not whether we can say there are thousands of beliefs. To do the will of God, leave the others with the Lord. They may be walking up to the light they have, but we're responsible when God has given us His word

and made known His truth to us to walk in it. The Lord Jesus said if you know these things, happy are ye if ye do them, happy are ye if you do them well. Everything was going fine up to this point.

And then in the ninth verse, and when they came under the threshing floor of Chidam. Either put forth his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. Well, was this just an accident? Oh no, it was not an accident. And God allowed this to take place to show that this was not according to his mind. It was not according to His word. The oxen stumbled. It wasn't the oxen that were supposed to be the ones who were to carry the ark. No, it wasn't supposed to be two men as A and a higher. These men certainly were given quite a place of prominence, weren't they? And in men's plans, it's always. In the plans of men, it's always prominent for men. You know, I've asked and said you can make a simple test of any doctrine presented by asking this question. Does it exalt man? How does it exalt Christ? If it's the truth of God? It exalts Christ because the Scripture says that when the Spirit has come, he shall glorify me. And these two men must have felt very important. Driving the car and that they were necessary to study. The ark but that that arc which was a symbol of God's presence among his people that aren't as it tells us that the name of the Lord was called upon it. Did it need the hand of other to study it? Oh no. Oh no, I didn't need the hand. If we walk in the truth, God will maintain his own glory. God will maintain his own glory. And it's our responsibility to walk in the truth. And when we do and why, God will see to it that His glory is. Maintained Well, there was an interruption in all this fine things. What happened? Well, the oxen stumbled as it put forth his hand to study the Arkansas. There has been an instance where a man in trying to defend the person of Christ, he actually fell into that doctrine and trying to do it. You know, we don't need to take the position of being defenders of the truth. We're told to contend for the truth that we're never told to be defenders. We're told to give it out, to to speak the truth in love. But God will take care of that. Our part is to faithfully and earnestly minister it by leave the truth of God where God has set it before us in His Word. Shall I put it this way? Which things also we speak not in the words which man's wisdom teach us, but which the Holy Ghost teach us. It's a grand thing to stand by the word of God. Too often when we introduce our own thoughts, it's just like putting our hand out to study it. But when we take the very word of God, we're sure we have the truth of God, and especially when it has to do with the person of Christ. I I just like discussions about the person of Christ. I like to hear clear, plain statements of what the Scripture says about the person of Christ. There's always a danger when we start to and shall I say dissect or. By our own attempt to study the person of Christ. All it is study, it's the truth of God. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The fame was in the beginning with God. Well, tells us here that David was displeased. You know, we always get displeased on our own plans are upset. This is a something that often discovers that it is our plan. You know, I feel this, brethren, that when we're seeking to please the Lord in obedience to His Word, the Lord gives a quiet peace in the heart. And even when difficulties arise, God gives a certain peace in the heart that maintains us. But I find for myself that when I have a plan and I'm anxious to carry it out and the plan is disrupted. I usually get upset. I I feel like David, I get displeased and poor David, he actually was displeased with the Lord. And sometimes we can be displeased with the Lord because he interrupted our plan, but if we're doing His plan, then whatever He allows to take place, He will sustain us. He is faithful. When Paul was cast into prison for preaching the gospel, he could sing within the prison. He wasn't displeased in the prison.

At the last, when he went up to Jerusalem without the mind of God. He was quite displeased when he had to stand before the high priest and he called him a whited wall. You know, whenever we do something in our own will, even in spiritual things, we get displeased when God allows an interruption. This ought to exercise us. David was displeased and so the ark was taken aside, and it says in the 12 first. And David was afraid of God that day. Saying, How shall I bring the ark of God? Harmed me. He was afraid. And brethren, it says, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. We ought to be anxious to serve the Lord, to worship him in a way that's according to his mind that is pleasing to him. But is there something else that came out of this that was very good? He said, How shall I bring the ark of God home? How shall I do it? Following the advice of the captains and leaders and all Israel, following the example of the Philistine having two men prominently out there driving the cart, This had all broken down. It all failed. How was he to do it? Well, he had a book that told him how he had a book. Notice the 15th chapter. In the 15th chapter in the first verse, David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared an ark for the a place for the ark of God, and pitch for his attempt. And David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levite, For them hath the Lord chosen to carry the ark of God, and a minister unto him forever. And again in the end of the 15th verse. As Moses commanded according to the word of the Lord. I guess he said, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? Was he going to get the answers in the Philistines? Is he going to get the answer from the captains, the leaders? No, He turned to the right source this time. He went to the word of God. He went to the commandment of the Lord. Had the Lord made known his mind about how the ark was to be carried? Yes, he had. He had said that the ark was to be carried upon the shoulders of the Levites. And when God said that no other way was acceptable, oh, isn't it blessed that God has given? Instruction in his word about such important things as these. And David didn't go and ask their advice. He went and boldly, and yet, shall I say, humbly told them why? He said, I know now how it's to be done. And he told him what the Lord has said. Oh, how blessed it is to be able to say, well, I learned that from the word of God. The scripture says this, the scripture says that, and I have his word giving me instructions. In this matter, and this is so important for us in days like this, we're living in days like the end of the judges. Every man did what was right in his own eyes. People say, well, our church does it this way. Others say our church does it that way. How does your group do it all? What does the word of God say? What does the word of God say? All? May the Lord give us the same thing, the same spirit that we see with David. David said none ought to carry the ark of the Lord but the Levite, and so now he disposes of that cart that had been made. We don't read any more about these two prominent men. Can't you picture the occasion this new car? And these two men up there driving it, everybody knew all about who they were. They were, they were the prominent ones. I would say they were probably more noticed than the ark itself out there and driving it while the ark was being pulled behind, they were in the place of prominence. But now when he gets together, the priest were not even told who the men were that carried it. We're just told of a group of men. And it says here.

It says here. About the ones in the 24th verse and the ones that blew with the trumpets told about who the ones were, who were the doorkeepers and all it says in the 15th verse is, and the children of the Levites bear the ark of God upon their shoulders. You say, well, who was it that did it? God hasn't told us. That was not the important thing. The important thing was the Ark. The important thing was the Ark. And your friends and the important thing is the glory of Christ. The important thing is not who does the fear of us. The important thing is not who gave out to him. The important thing is not who it was that went forward to break the bread. The important thing is that the Lord should get the glory that He should be the one were there to be occupied with him, were there to give honor and glory to that blessed One who alone is worthy and so. When they assemble the children of Arum and the Levites and the place. Was prepared for. It doesn't tell us that the place was prepared before, but now? When they have thought, the mind of the Lord is a place prepared for it. And when you and I seek the mind of God through His Word, we find that He has a way and He has a place. He has a way and He has a place. And you and I can learn these precious things in His blessed book. Well, it tells us here in the 13th verse. That David turns and he owns his mistakes. He tells these Levites to that they were to carry up the ark and it says. In the 13th verse for because ye did it not at the 1St the Lord our God made a breach upon us or

that we sought him not after the due order. Yes, he he recognizes that God had had to speak because they hadn't done it in the way that he had said. They acknowledge that and it's a good thing when we humbly acknowledge before the Lord when we've been walking himself well. There are two things that we should do. We should speak his mind. But we should also be humble. So perhaps they should notice the 12Th verse. And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites. Sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel under the place that I have prepared for it. Sanctify yourself. Yes, there's practical sanctification. There's that walking in a way that apart. For the Lord. So they were to sanctify themselves. We don't read the other sanctified themselves. We're not even told that they were Levites. I doubt if they were. It was all a human plan. But not here. And every believer is a priest. Yes, we had it in our meetings so sweetly it says that we're a holy priesthood to OfferUp spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. But we need to sanctify ourselves. That is to. Judge those things that are not pleasing to him. To do. This server according to his precious words, and so it tells us in that end of that fifteenth verse, as Moses commanded according to the word of the Lord. Well, what a happy change has taken place here. They have sought the mind of God. They are doing it according to His will. And perhaps I could put it like this when the ark was upon their shoulders. By the man we saw to speak heaven and the ark was in full view. That's what God wants. He wants the glory of His Son. If you had been walking down the street that day, you might not have even noticed the men who were carrying it, because with the ark on their shoulders, there it was lifted up above their heads. And brethren, the person of Christ, the glory of Christ is above our heads. It says in Matthew Chapter 11 no man nor the son. Not the Father. Never try to understand the mystery of the person of Christ. That's beyond us. Never try to plan our own way of approaching to his presence. It's given to us in the word and even if it's beyond their understanding why he should have planned it in a certain way, let us follow his plan. What a happy occasion this was. I say again, I don't know who carried the ark. I just know they were Levi and as priests we have the privilege of exhausting the Lord Jesus that the true words of this.

And we present Christ to God. The loveliness of his person and his work. And so there were these singers, and then it tells us something else that they didn't have before. And the 23rd version and Berekaya and Alcana were doorkeepers of the ark. Why does it tell us this all? Because the enemy is always opposed when things are done in God's way. People say, oh, well, you go here, you don't have nearly as much trouble as with those that are gathered to the Lord's name. You escape a lot of trouble when you when you go to a place where. They're not gathered as brethren to the name of the Lord Jesus. That's much trouble among those guided to the Lord's name. Yes, they didn't have doorkeepers till they tried to do it according to the mind of God. And there needs to be doorkeepers. There were doorkeepers as well as singers. And if we're going to go on in a way that's pleasing to God, we'll find that the enemy will always oppose whatever is of God. But God in his goodness has not only told us how to gather, He's given us instructions. Holiness, become us. Thine house Ohio God forever. So there were doorkeepers for the ark. Well, then it goes on, and it tells us. In the 26th verse, and it came to pass when God helped the Levites that bear the ark of the coming of the Lord, that they offered seven bullets and seven Rams. In this lovely God helps the Levite, they didn't stumble, they didn't stumble. Why all the Lord's able to keep us from stumbling? The Lord Jesus is rightful place, but if we're trying to do things in our own way. I'm very liable to stumble, and the plans that we try to workout are very liable to fail too. But isn't this lovely? The Lord helped the Levites and all. We're a poor feeble folk, a little company gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. And what is it that keeps us going on whilst only the Lord's keeping grace? It's only His keeping grace. And isn't encouragement. It's an encouragement to my heart, brethren, to know that He has said to that people company in Philadelphia. He said, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it. He has told us that he's going to give us the privilege of remembering him until he comes. What is it that's keeping us? Certainly not because we're such wonderful people. It's because the Lord is faithful. And did these people at the end give any credit to themselves? Did they go and shake their hands? The ones that carried the heart and said, oh, you did a good job, this is wonderful. Now when they got there, it says they sacrificed 7 bullets and seven rounds. Through the Law we gave Him all the glory, and if He has kept us until this day, it's all glory to Him. No credit to ourselves. We would have stumbled if it wasn't for His keeping grace. And so how blessed to speak in our simple and feeble way, to follow His word, to go on in that path that He has marked out for His confidence that He is faithful. He's the captain of our salvation. Bringing many sons to glory and these 7/7 is the perfect number. They offered the seven bullocks that is the highest. Form of the burnt offering and the seven rounds at the ram of consecration and so they gave the Lord the glory and it tells us here that there was great rejoicing and David was dancing before the Lord Oh yes it's his heart rejoice. He didn't he didn't get upset here he didn't get troubled and even when. Michael, a daughter of Saul, looked out at the window and despised him in her heart. He didn't get angry about it. Why? Well, he had the confidence that he was doing God's will. He he had the confidence. And it says, let us go forth therefore unto him, without the camp bearing his reproach. Paul's daughter didn't despise David when they had the new car. I don't know that was quite all right with her, that that scheme came from the Philistines. And that was quite acceptable to her. But she did despise David when the ark was brought up in God's way. And there's a reproach and we speak to simply follow his words. You know that everyone here knows it. There may be some who are not gathered to the Lords name.

You know that there's a reproach in saying, well, and just gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Well, what's the name of your organization? Well, we don't have a name. We just gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. Well, who's your leader? Well, we don't have any leader except the Lord. Well, Michael looks out at the window and she despised David in her heart. How can you rejoice over this? And you say, well, what joy do you have in meeting in that simplicity? The joy. Of the Lord's approval, the joy of doing his will, the joy of giving him the place that due to him, what a privilege may be, value it, may be walk in it. Well, there's a happy ending to this that I'd like to call attention. These first three verses of the 16th chapter. So they brought the ark of God and set it in the midst of the 10th of David had picked for it and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. Burnt offering is we've often noticed, is what the work of Christ is to God. The peace offering could be called the communion or fellowship offering. They have this sense now in their souls that they were had fellowship with God. Now it tells us about the Lord's Supper, that the bread which we break, is it not the communion or fellowship of the body of Christ? The cup is the communion of the blood of Christ, and so he can have fellowship with God in connection with the way we gather, according to His Word and according to his mind. Though they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. And then David came down after this and he blessed the people in the name of the Lord. And then it says in the third verse, And he dealt to everyone of Israel, both men and women. To everyone, a loaf of bread and a good piece of flesh and a flag and of wine. This didn't take place at the end of the three days of eating and drinking. This didn't take place when the Lord had smitten other. But it did take place when the Lord had made known his mind and they had sought to carry it out. Well, I just suggest this little thought in connection with it. That they had something that sustained them when they left. In the first instance they had the memory of three happy days, but in this instance they had something that they carried away. Something that they carried with them when they went to their homes. And I hope each one of us, as we perhaps leave some to go to home, even far away, that we'll have this experience that we'll carry away a loaf of bread. That is the food that the Lord supplies. The bread perhaps would speak to us of the Lord Jesus. And his blessed pathway here and then that good piece of flesh. Well, that we have learned more of himself, it says, you know, that strong meat belongs to them that are a filet even to those who by reason of use have their sentence exercise to discern both good and evil. So that the strong meat speaks to us of having learned more of the mind of God through His word, and discerning His

mind. Then we walk in the good of it. We walk in the truth, in other words, and then the last a flag in the wine. What's this? Oh, that's a joy the Lord gives and all. There is a joy and peace in walking according to His Word and communion with the Lord. And I trust that each one of us will carry away something that will answer to this in our soul. It's nice. It's not often that we read this to every man, to everyone of Israel, both man and woman. It seems to me there's something very personal about this little added touch that's given here. That there was something for both the men and the women. You know, I trust that each one of us, as we leave, that we'll carry away something that has made the Lord Jesus more precious to us, that has made His mind more clear to us, and that has given us that joy that only comes in communion with Him and in walking in obedience to His Word. Again, I would repeat that verse if you know these things. Happy are ye? If you do them.

Conference: 1976, Understanding the Times

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Like to turn to First Chronicles 12TH chapter, First Chronicles chapter 12. I'd like to read a few verses in this chapter from the first verse. How these are they which came to David to zip lag while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish. And they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war. They were armed with bulls, and could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow. Even of Saul's brethren of Benjamin. And passing on to this 16th verse. And there came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the hold unto David. David went out to meet them, and answered, and said unto them. If ye become peaceably unto me to help me, thine heart shall be knit unto you. But if ye become to betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers, look thereon and rebuke it. And the Spirit came upon Amasii, who was chief of the captains, And he said, When are we David? And on thy side did thou, son of Jesse peace. Peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine. For thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band and the 32nd verse, and of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do. The heads of them were 200, and all their brethren were at their command. Perhaps they could just look back also. In the eighth verse. And the Gadites, they're separated themselves unto David, into the hold to the wilderness. Men of might and men of war are fit for the battle that could handle Shield and Butler, whose faces were like the faces of lands, and were as swift as the Rose upon the mount. Well, there were two particular verses that I had upon my heart tonight, one in this chapter and one in Acts. The one here is particularly this 32nd verse, and that is. The man of Issachar were men that had understanding of the times. The verse in Acts was the passage. We'll turn to it later. In connection with serving our own generation by the will of God. I believe in the meetings that have been held here. It's been much set in connection with the family and the importance of going on for the Lord in our family life. And I thought these two verses were especially important for us. Having understanding of the times and serving our own generation by the will of God. And the reason I read these other verses in this chapter is because to me, it's very interesting to see here that David was rejected. He was haunted by Saul. He was God's king, but he was in the place of rejection. And that is our place as we seek to go on in these days. The one whom we acknowledge is Lord, the one whom we recognize. King of kings and Lord of Lords is rejected, it tells us in Hebrews 2. We see not yet all things put under him, but we see Jesus, who has made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor. We look up and recognize Him as the rightful King. We recognize Him as our Lord. And so here we see that these ones who came out to David to be helpers first of all. Who were ones that were, it says of Saul's brethren of Benjamin. Don't cost these people something to take a stand of this kind. Saul was the king at this time, and yet here were the ones who were Saul's dragon, and they separated themselves because they recognized that David was God's rightful king. This must have been very difficult for them. It's always hard to go against flesh and blood. Others that perhaps are very near and dear to us as those who are related to us by ties of nature, might possibly be a hindrance to us in following the Lord devotedly. And here we find these, these men. To me it's very blessed and very interesting to think that these who are spoken of as Psalms, brethren of Benjamin, they come out to be helpers of David. And you know, if we're going to. The Lord, He must be first, it tells us, Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. And so we see that to put the Lord 1St may often cause us to have to take a stand, where perhaps even those who are nearest to us may not understand, in order that we give the Lord Jesus.

His rightful place, first of all. And then also, when we read about these Gadites in the eighth verse, perhaps you'll recall that when the children of Israel crossed over to Jordan, 2 1/2 tribes decided to remain on the wilderness side of the Jordan. And it tells us distinctly the reason they did that was because of their flocks and herds, because they wouldn't have to be in as much conflict. So if they settle down there, it was a place that was very. Pleasant they could leave their lives and their children their cavalier, and while they were content in some measure to fight the Lord's battles, they didn't want to be thoroughly and completely engaged in this. And Gareth was one of these tribes. There was the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gab, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and these had settled on the wilderness side of the Jordan. Now they hadn't decided, as I remarked, to cross over and to give. And to give the Lord his rightful place. But I think it's very lovely here to see, first of all, those of the children of Benjamin, those who are near to King Saul, who recognized that David was God's rightful king and separated themselves to follow David and to be his helpers. And then we found these, and they had. They could have said well. We're part of the group that has settled down on the wilderness side of the Jordan, and we can't come and in a special way declare our devotedness to God's king across the Jordan because we've settled for something a little less than that. But here we find how this tribe come, those who decide that they're going to give David the rightful place. And so here, perhaps in the first case, it is going against what we might say, those who are. Near and dear by ties of nature. And in the second instance it seems to me that it was setting aside that which was ease and comfort, because that was the reason they settled on that side of the Jordan, and giving this up in order to be devoted to David and to go to him in the hold. Or in other words, in The Cave where it was no easy path. For it's often been remarked that the flesh likes an easy path. Evil path, and if we're going to follow the Lord, it's going to cost something. One of these came all David wondered if they really knew what they were doing, because he thought perhaps that they had come to betray him. Was it possible that these men who had such ties in other directions would be willing to come out? And so he asks them. He said, Have you come out? With true heart to me. And I think the answer here of a Maasai in this 18 verse is so lovely. He said, one, are we, David, and on our side, as thou son of Jesse, you know there's no such thing as taking sides among the people of God, but there is such a thing as taking our side on the lower side, that is to give him his rightful place. And so as they were on the side, as they say of David and they said. Thine are we? We like to sing that little hymn, don't we? I am lying, O Lord, I have heard thy voice. And it told thy love to me, but I longed to rise in the arms of faith. And be closer drawn to thee. And so here they come and say, Thine we are on thy side, thou son of David, peace, Peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers, for thy God helpeth thee. Here we see the path of faith, here is the path of blessing. And these had decided to come out and choose to follow David, to give him his rightful place. Now

among these different ones, who came from all the various. Tribes. The Spirit of God has been pleased to tell us how many there were from the different tribes that came in every case but those of the men of Issachar. And this is quite interesting to me. And that is if you read over carefully, beginning from the 24th verse, it tells you the number from the tribe of Judah, the 26th verse the number from the tribe of Levi.

The 29th verse, the number from the tribe of Benjamin. But when it comes to the men of Issachar, we're not told how many there were that come that came. It simply says, And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do, the heads of them were 200 and all their brethren were at their command. The Spirit of God, as I say, doesn't tell us how many came from the tribe of Issachar, but it does tell us that they had leaders who had understanding of the times. And you know how often we realize how important this is, whatever time we're living in, in the history of God's people, whether it was Israel in their time, whether it's ourselves in our time, how important it is that we should have. Understanding of the times that we should know the proper conduct that is suited to us at any given time in the history of God's people upon the earth. And God has given us instruction in his word for this. He hasn't left us to our own thoughts. The Lord doesn't change, but times do change and we do need that wisdom which he alone can give us. And if we have understanding of the times and it says. They knew what Israel ought to do. There was a time, for instance, when Israel didn't have a king at all. Then there was a time when they had a king. And we found that when they first wanted a king, Samuel was very grieved. He said they rejected the Lord from being their king, and they want to have a king to be like the nations. Well, the Lord said give them a king, and then Samuel thought it was necessary. For him to recognize that this one was in the place of the king and he sought to be faithful and to bring before Saul away he should walk. And so there was a wisdom that was needed for Samuel before they had a king. There was also a wisdom that was needed for them when they had a king and the Lord gave him that wisdom how to act and I'm sure that if we. Take the Word of God and read it carefully. We'll find that there is something in God's Word for any time in which we live, whether it's back in the days of the apostles or today. God has described the way things were at the beginning. He has even told us the way things would be at the end. He tells us in Laodicea that there was lukewarmness, he said. As they were rich and increased with goods and felt they had need of nothing. But there was a path of faith in every generation. Those who desired to walk to please the Lord would find if they were walking near to Him. And there were three particular things that I would like to speak of in connection with having understanding of the times just in a general way. And first of all, that I'd like to bring before you is the heavenly calling of the believer that we turn to first Peter chapter one, first Peter chapter 1, and verse 3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Which, according to His abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. Now, if we look also at John. 16 John chapter 16 and the 32nd verse. Behold, the hour cometh. He has now come, that ye shall be scattered every man to his own, and shall leave me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me might have peace in the world. Ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer I have. Come the world. One more passage and 1St Thessalonians, First Thessalonians chapter one, First Thessalonians chapter 1, and verse 9. For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how He turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead.

Even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. Far as the new translation reads our deliverer from the coming wrath. Well, the reason I brought these three particular scriptures is because in thinking of having understanding of the times. Now these three scriptures bring before us three different things. First of all, in Peter it shows us that we have a heavenly calling, we have an inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, and that fate is not away reserved in heaven for us, and a son can be. Is that as far as this world is concerned? We can expect tribulation. And then that our proper hope, what we really look for is the coming of the Lord Jesus. And I'd just like to speak a little bit about those three different things. I remember my father making a comment one time. He said no Christian home and no training of a family is proper, no matter what is said, unless we realize that we're a heavenly people. Now those are things that are. Important because there are many, many things in God's Word in connection with children being obedient, the proper place of husbands and wives. All these things are very precious and very important. But if we lose sight of the fact that we are a heavenly people, we have really lost our true and proper calling here in this world. The church in this world is not part of it, but we are a people who are separated from. In a general sense, we're just like ambassadors in this world, and wouldn't you expect that? If they will say India sent over someone here to be their ambassador, I thought their whole family life would be patterned after India, Indias family life. You wouldn't expect them to adopt all the ideas of Canadian planning and home life and so on because they're here as representatives of their country. And I believe that it's very, very important for us. In our whole outlook in life, whether it's in regards our home, our children, our relationship with one another, to remember that we are not part of this world. We are really representatives of heaven here in this world and this will have a character that will be felt. The world may change, Canada may change, but still those who come from India. Have a certain character to maintain. Regardless of what changes may take place in Canada, because they represent another country, and you and I represent a heavenly lamb. It tells us there in that passage in first Peter. I just look at it again when it says here, which according to his abundant mercy, that's first Peter, one verse 3 hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection. Of Jesus Christ from the dead. The reason it uses the word again is because this epistle is addressed to the leading Jews. And these Jews had an earthly hope. It was natural for them to look for blessing in their storehouse and in their barn, Was natural for them to expect that prosperity on the earth would be a sign of God's blessing. All this was proper and right to them as godly Jews. But now he says. You have been begotten and. Not to the hope of Canaan and all the blessing that you could look forward to in Canaan, but to a hope that is heavenly. Here now, it was very difficult for the Jews to get hold of this after the Lord Jesus had died and risen again. When the Lord was with them before he ascended to heaven, you remember one of the last questions they asked him was wilt thou at this time restore the Kingdom again to Israel? It was very difficult for them to give up the shall I say, the earthly calling and the earthly hope, but our. Calling, as Peter brings before us, is a heavenly calling, as it says in Hebrews chapter 3. Wherefore holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling? And so in our home life, in the relationship between husband and wife, when Paul brings it before us in Ephesians chapter 5, what is the pattern that He gives us? Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it. He uses the pattern.

Of that which is, shall I say, the most blessed thing in connection with our heavenly calling, that we're part of the Bride of Christ to be displayed with him another day, and that as he takes such great delight in his church, failing though it is. And that this is the pattern then for us in connection with the relationship that we're in. If it's children, why then we're brought into the place as children of God. This was a relationship that was not known in the Old Testament. Now, that is, they weren't taught to say have a father. Now, this is characteristic of Christianity, to be able to look up and call God our Father. And then too, as I say, and that our hopes are entirely heavenly so that we don't look to remain here in this world. But we know that our true inheritance is up there. So much so. That the Spirit of God in Speaking of blessings in Christianity always associates them with spiritual blessings. That is, we're blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in

Christ. Whenever it talks about material things, it uses the word mercies, because our proper place is heavenly and so. When our children are brought up home. Important it is. You think that when this ambassador from India is in Canada that he's going to tell his children to copy the Canadians and to be like them? No, he probably constantly said. And don't forget, now we belong to India, we have a image to present here and that image is to be like our own homeland. And so now there's an image that we are. Present to this world and it is a heavenly 1 and we belong to heaven. I particularly enjoyed what our brother Edmund Beecham was telling one time and give us a little incident, perhaps some who were to water liking the foam. I'd remember we were talking a bit along the lines of our heavenly calling and and spoke about one time and he was going to buy a used car. And. He looked up the hats and the paper and he found one that was advertised. He went and looked at it and he decided to buy this car and this particular car was owned by a man who was over here on behalf of the Swiss government and this part was what he wanted. It was very pleasing to him. When he decided to buy it, this man said I'm going up to Ottawa to represent. Switzerland. And he said, I want you to be perfectly satisfied with his car, he said. Because he said if there's anything that goes wrong with it at all, I want you to get in touch with me. I want you to call me in Ottawa if there's any problem, because he said that the Swiss government must maintain a good image in Canada. Isn't that a is not a little practical lesson of what it means that we are heavenly people and that we have a particular image in connection with the relationship of husband and wife, in connection with the assembly, in connection with our children, in connection with our business, everything we must ever remember that we are heavenly people. He's called us to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled in the faith in the Fadeth. Away reserved in heaven for you. And then too, as we notice the passage. Then we turn to in John chapter 16, the Lord is about to leave them. Does He tell them that during His absence that everything is going to be very prosperous and easy for them? No. And do you think that when the government, I speak again of India to follow my illustration, when they send a representative to a country that is not too friendly toward India, that they assure. The ambassador that he's going to have an easy. Time that there'll never be any stones thrown through his window, then you'll never have any problems at all. No, they probably tell him that there may be instances that will rise up that will show the hostility of the country, where he is going toward his country. But how is he to treat them? He is to receive them patiently. Now the Lord Jesus was going away. Did he tell his followers that they could expect an easy path, that everything.

Everything is going to be rosy for them of sometimes thought when it says in John that Mary Magdalene thought the Lord Jesus was the gardener, that there's a little spiritual thought for us in that, that sometimes we think the Lord is the gardener to make everything beautiful for us. But the Lord said no, He said, as it were to Mary, No, I'm not the gardener, Mary. I'm going up there and he said I ascend them. My Father and your Father, and to my God and your God. So before the Lord Jesus went away, he told them, he said you're going to be scattered everyone to his own. But he said, uh. In the 33rd verse, these things I have spoken unto you, that in me he might have peace. Are we to expect an easy path in this world? When Paul preached in the book of the Acts, did he ever tell the ones who were saved that they were to expect an easy path? No, he said, We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God, He said to the Philippians And to you it is given on the behalf of Christ, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for his sake. And over and over again the questions are reminded that their portion in this world was not going to be an easy one, but rather 1 of tribulation, one of being rejected. The Lord Jesus said on another occasion and not to be upset if the world hated them because it had already hated him. And he said that the disciple is not above his master. That verse is really spoken to my heart. Disciple is not above his master. In other words, if I expect better treatment in this world and from this world, and my Savior had, I must think I'm a little bit above him, that they should treat me better than they treated my Savior. So he said the disciple is not above his master. If they persecuted me, they'll also persecute you. And so I believe if the Lord leaves us here a little longer. That we can expect that we may have more. Persecution. That it's going to cost more to follow Christ and that the pressures that will be brought to bear upon us if we seek to be loyal to Christ are not going to lessen, they're going to increase. For the godly remnant, after the church is gone, they will be so great that one of the scriptures in Daniel speaks of how the enemy would seek to wear out the Saints. Just the pressures get so great that it just seemed like to wear you out. And the Lord Jesus said that the deception would be so great that they would deceive if it were possible, even the very elect. So we are heavenly people. We are to represent heaven. What kind? Treatment are we to expect from this world? We're not to expect it to be easy. We're not to expect them to treat us better than they treated our Savior In the world ye shall have tribulation. But he gave them something wonderful, something the world doesn't have. And he said in me He shall have that. In me He might have peace. He assured them that he had overcome the world. And you know, I believe that some of those who were thrown. To the lions in the in the Colosseum at Rome and years gone by had more peace than some of us with all our prosperity. I believe that some of those who went to the state for Christ had more peace than some of us. Some of us know what it is to be in just in turmoil and be upset and have problems and it almost seems insurmountable. And I believe from what I have read of those men and women to that when they face the the persecution and perhaps being burned at the stake or thrown to lions, they have more peace in their hearts than we do. That's just. Lord Jesus assured here, He said, I spoken these things, I warned you, but he said in me, you'll have peace. The world ought to look upon us and say that lo, we do go through tribulation, that there is a peace inside that which sustains us through all the constant changes of this world and the increasing pressures that may be brought to bear upon us.

And then the third thing that he meant. Is in First Thessalonians chapter one, First Thessalonians chapter 1, the ninth verse. But they themselves show us what manner of engine him we had unto you, that is, they lived Christ. And then it says to Sir, he turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and they served him. And then the third thing, they waited for God's Son from heaven. Well, we have a very blessed hope. And that's the third thing that I was thinking of bringing before us. First of all, as I said, that we are heavenly people. Second, that we can expect persecution from the world. And thirdly, that we have a. Hope, I have a hope and is not defined a better government. It's not that the things will improve for us. We have a wonderful hope the Lord is coming. The Lord is coming at any moment we may hear that glorious shout, that shout of our precious Savior, the bridegroom of the church to call us to be with himself. And this is the hope we need to have before us. This is a hope in family life. This is a hope in assembly life. This is a hope in business. Many who are working know that pressures are increasing constantly. As I this recent trip that I made, I was surprised how how many. Men of perhaps you might say a middle. Wage are even afraid of their jobs because everything is so uncertain. They thought their jobs were secure. Now things are becoming uncertain and they wonder but isn't it lovely? We have a hope. There are difficulties in the assembly. I remember hearing about some brothers who were walking out one time from brothers meeting and one said to the other, oh where is this all going to end? And the brothers that at the coming of the Lord. That's our hope. The Lord is coming. What a glorious hope it is. And so here, this is another thing of having understanding of the times. Surely we'd find these things that we have to go through unbearable if we didn't have this hope that isn't nice to get up in any morning, even if we know we're going to have to face problems through the day and say this may be the day. Perhaps the Lord is going to come today and call us to be with Himself. Well, I thought of these three things in connection with having understanding of the times that we really have a proper perspective of our position. And I believe when we do, this helps us to adjust to whatever changes the world may make if the world is going through a period of change, and it most definitely is why for us, we know the one who said I am the Lord.

I change not. And having a sense of our real position here in this world. That we that we belong to heaven, that we expect tribulation in this world and we're looking for the Lord to come at any moment because this gives us understanding about how to meet other situations of everyday life as we go on waiting for the Lord Jesus to come. Now let's turn to Acts, the 13th chapter, next chapter 13 and a 36th verse. For David, after he had served his own generation, by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption. Hello. As we have been placed in a particular generation, we could have been placed at the time of the Apostles. Things were rather different at those times, but nevertheless what sustained them, what gave them understanding of the times, was, I believe, the things that we have just spoken of. But then it tells us here that we are to serve our own generation. We live in 1976. Is it possible for us in this very generation in which we live, to be able to meet all the changes and to serve God wisely and intelligently? The Scripture says not to be unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. So David was a king at a certain time, we were. About those ones who came out and owned him and David knew how in his particular time to serve his generation and the Lord used him. He wasn't perfect, but nonetheless in his generation he did seek to be faithful to the Lord and God used him to accomplish some great victories and the first times who were oppressing the people of God, he was able to.

Conquer them. So much so that when Solomon came to the throne, it was a rain of. Peace, the results of his conquest extended on to the reign of Solomon. And so if you and I know how to serve our own generation, by the will of God, we leave a wonderful heritage, a help to those behind. I always think of poor King Hezekiah. When Hezekiah. Was warned about the failure in his life. The Prophet told him that there would be peace in his day. And he said, oh, that's good, that was good. But he didn't take any care in connection with the generation that was to follow. And so the generation that followed, poor Manasseh was one of the most ungodly and wicked kings that reigned in Judah. Are we just satisfied to have peace in our days or are we acting in such a way that we are living in our generation so that those who follow will share in the blessing and that we, shall I say, leave because we have sought to walk to please God? Sometimes we're satisfied just to have everything peaceful in our day, but isn't it important that we should live in such a way? That we would be faithful to the Lord in our generation. And those who follow will help to share and reap the blessing. Well, David served his own generation by the will of God. I would like to speak of a few things in connection with serving our generation. First of all, in Two Timothy, Second Timothy chapter 3 and verse 4, verse 13. But evil man and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But continue thou on the things which thou hast learned, and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them, and that from a child. Thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect. Perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Well, first of all, in connection with serving our own generation, the most important thing perhaps is to make the Word of God our God. Here we find that that was what is brought before Timothy. We might say that in two Timothy we have the Church of God, or the House of God. In its ruined state it had become a great house. There were vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and of earth, and with those to honor, those to dishonor. How was the man of God to conduct himself in a day when things were in a state of ruin? Was there a path for faith? Could he really go on for God when everything was in the state of ruin? What was the resource? Isn't this lovely? There is a resource and that is we still have the Word of God. And as I was saying to the young people down in Montreal a week ago, what a marvelous thing it is that if there was ever a time when we needed the word of God, it's now and we have it. In the days of the apostles there was no such thing as having a Bible reading like this, with everybody having the whole Bible sitting on his knee. No such thing. They might have perhaps had a small portion of it. Many of them couldn't read, and if they could procure perhaps one book or two books of God's precious word, they would consider themselves greatly favored. But if the enemy has come in as a flood in these last days. God has also preserved to us. His Word, He's made it available to us. He has given us not part of it, but his whole revealed mind. For it was given to Paul to complete the word of God, and we have his whole revealed man. And so he says, you've received these things, you've been assured of them. And he said you'll find in the Holy Scriptures what's necessary to make you wise unto salvation. That you may know that ye have eternally life. If there's any doubts that we have, and Christians sometimes do have doubts, it's because we're looking inward for feelings or experience or the amount of our faith or something like this. But never when we rest on God's Word and this precious book, God's Word, then he is suitable for us so that we can serve our own generation. And if someone says, why are you doing that?

To have Gods revealed mind for our tasks way. And if someone says, do you think that's according to the word of God? Can we say, yes, I, I looked into the Scripture and I believe it is the will of God for my pathway. So isn't this lovely that we have a resource so that we can serve our own generation? Not according to the will of a certain group, but according to the word of God. We meet friends who are perhaps associated with other groups of Christians. What do we tell them? Do we say, well, our group teaches this? Does your group teach? Now we say the important thing is what the word God says, what the word of God teaches us. And so here was Timothy in a day of ruin. What was his resource? What did he have? How could he serve his own generation? By the will of God, He had the word of God. And it was able to make him wise unto salvation. It was profitable for reproof, for correction, for instruction and righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect or full grown, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Nothing that we need to know is left out, nothing needed for our pathway is omitted. God has given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. What a resource. Then we have to be able to serve our own generation by the will of God. To be able to say, I know the path because God has worked it out and I have his word to show me. Well, then there's another thing. Perhaps we could speak of that in connection with the family, because Timothy was brought up in that kind of a home. And so I've no doubt that the word of God was read constantly for it says from a child, I was not known the Holy Scriptures. And I just like to say to those who are parents, what a a privilege, what an important thing to bring before our children, the word of God, to read it to them, to cause them to see that this is a revelation from God. The message that he has given to us. So Timothy was brought up in this way. Thing I just mentioned. Today it's been quite interesting and that is the kind of a home that Timothy was brought up in. Perhaps she'd never stop to think about it. Timothy had a very godly mother and a very godly grandmother, but Timothy's father was a Greek, and we're not told that he was even saved. There's no mention whatever of the faith of Timothy's father, But perhaps you could say, well, that must have been difficult when the home was sort of divided. The father was a Greek and perhaps an unbeliever, and the mother was a woman of faith. Isn't it nice to see that? Hello. Timothy was brought up in that home where perhaps there wasn't just oneness of purpose. Nevertheless, God honored the fact that the word of God was brought before Timothy and at home. And Timothy grew up to be a faithful person. And not because everything was just the way it should be in the home, but because the word of God was given its right and proper place. Now let's turn to. Another. Message in connection with it and that is in. Romans chapter 12, Romans 12 in the first verse. I beseech you therefore gladden by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Or the new translation reads your intelligence service. And be not confirmed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. That ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect. Full of God. I've always spoken about the importance of the Word of God, and especially in the home. I thought of this passage is to deal with the our attitude in connection with the world. The world has certain ideas. The world has certain things that are constantly set

before us as being the thing to do. As they say, it is now a generation and that we are to go along with the generation in which we live. Well, it's true that we use this world. The scripture says those that use the world is not abusing it for the fashion of this world. Passeth away. But the important thing for us is that in our lives our pattern of thought, our thinking about things, should be formed by the Word of God as He has revealed His mind to us.

So Hewitt tells us to present our bodies a living sacrifice. Totally acceptable unto God. Now that is when we are saved. To just say, like Saul of Tarsus did, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do now? The world has a lot of patterns. The world has a lot of ideas. We can get books on almost every subject that will set before us the world's outlook in connection with so many things, whether it's in home or dress or whatever. We can get many things that set before us the world's way of doing things. And we have to check all these things. By the word of God. I don't say that always the way the world does things is wrong, but I do say that we have to check it by the word of God. And so it says, be not conformed to this world, that our pattern of thought is not formed by the world, but rather that it's taught to us by the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. And how often when we have read something of the world, when we have followed some of their ideas, then we come to the Word of God and we see that God has something different to say about it. His the plan for us isn't just according to the world's plan. And we're faced with a very trying decision. And that is why we're going to just say, well, I'm going to go along with the world. That's the way they do it. After all, we have to follow the world. Or are we going to say, no, I have to check this by God's word? And it says be not conformed to this world that be transformed by the renewing of your mind. There are some things, as I say, that we can use the world. We're thankful. We have automobiles, we have chairs to sit on and we have lights in this room. There are many things that we use, but there are also many things in the pattern of this world's way of doing things and the pattern of this world's thinking that when we check it by the word of God, we see. That God's will is different. God's plan is different. The world's idea of morals, the world's idea of so many things is not according to the Word of God. And so we've come to the Word of God and we bow our minds to God's revelation and we say, well, it doesn't matter what the world says or what their pattern is, This is what God says. And So what do we find? Well, we not only discover the will of God, but isn't this lovely? We prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God Now that is, we have a joy and a peace in walking in the will of God. And I don't believe there ever has been a Christian who has sought to do what he does in his life just to do the will of God. And has looked back on his life with regret and said, well I wish I had followed the pattern of the. World instead of following what the word of God said. Maybe at times it may be difficult, maybe at times it costs something and that it's good, acceptable and perfect. And many a Christian, when he has come to the end of his life, as he looks back over it, he only wishes that he had followed the word of God and walked in conformity to the revealed will of God instead of some of the slips that we make. In following the pattern of this world. How many times it's been so and so we can speak of these things. Just like I could tell you, well, if you're going to a certain place, I, I might say, well take such and such a highway. I've been over that road. I know it's a good one. Well, you don't know it until you've been over it, but after you've been over it then you can say, well, I tried it and I do think it was the best way. Someone told me about a certain way to go and I I tried it. I found it was a great deal longer than the way I planned to go on a certain trip. And when I thought it over, I thought, well, I almost wish I had gone the other way because the road wasn't as good as I had hoped. And so sometimes when. Try things we find out. Well, they're not quite as good as what we had expected, but no one has ever sought to follow the light and wisdom and path that God has marked out in his Word and looked back and said, I wish I'd done differently.

I wish I'd followed my own way. I wish I'd followed the world instead of the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Our own generation, we have something that we can go by. We have the word of God and may I say to you brethren here that it is important for us because the world is gradually setting aside the Bible. I don't need to tell you that you know it. You know very well that the whole outlook of things in connection with almost every. Moral and spiritual subject is to follow their own ideas. 1 Preacher. Said recently, it's not for us to be governed by a set of laws that was given over 3000 years ago. We live in this now a generation. And what was he doing but setting aside the word of God and saying, well, we just have to make our own plans about life. But that isn't the way for the Christian. When we hear it's ideas, when we hear the plans of this world, let's not forget we have a standard, we have God's will revealed to us. So whether it's in home life and bringing up our children, let us bring them up under the sound of the word. But we're making decisions about which course we're going to follow. Are we going to follow the course of this world? Are we going to say, well, I have to change my thinking a little bit to follow the word of God and I prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Then there's one other passage I would like to turn to in 3rd Epistle of John. Your Epistle of John and the second verse belonged. I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper, and be in health, even as thy soul prosper. For I rejoice greatly when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. The ninth verse I wrote unto the Church. But the atrophies, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Now one verse, beloved, Fennel map that which is evil, but that which is good he to do as good as of God. He that doeth evil hath not seen God. The reason why this passage is here was an assembly and there was a man who was exalting himself. There was a man who wanted to be in the place of leadership and everyone had to go out of his will. Was it possible in an assembly like this to really go on to the Lord? Was it possible to really walk to please the Lord when conditions were like this? Isn't it lovely to see that in this assembly where? There was a state of things that must have been very, very oppressing to. Gaius and Demetrius, who was mentioned in the 12TH verse. Here were two men who really wanted to please the Lord in this assembly, one to bring up their families for the Lord. And could they go on in such a thing as this? Could they serve their own generation by the will of God, when there was such a thing as this that made it so difficult? Yes. Isn't it lovely to see that even in this, this literally state of things that existed, here was the mention of Gaius and the mansion of Demetrius who sought to go on for the Lord. Even in this state of things and So what I thought in bringing these. Passages before you in connection with serving our own generation by the will of God, we see how we can serve Him in the home by having the Word before us and getting that constantly before our children. And then too, in connection with the world about us, we have our minds and thoughts renewed by the Word of God, so that we can live in this generation according to the will of God. And then if it's in the assembly, when there are difficulties and problems, there are situations that make it very trying. Isn't this lovely that even in such a thing as this, there is such a possibility of going on? And as it tells us here, these to this family were walking in the truth here was Gaius going on. You might have said, well, how do you get along with things like this?

Well, Gaius went on, He sought to walk in the truth himself. Demetrius had a good report of all men. So we can see that we can in this generation. If the world is in disorder, if the home is in disorder, if the assembly seems to have problems, there is a path for faith and you and I can serve our own generation by the will of God. So God has brought before us this lovely thing. We can have understanding of the times. And I comment again. In connection with what it says about his, a car doesn't tell how many came out to follow David. It simply says all their brethren were at their command. In other words, the influence of a life that is lived, having understanding of the days in which we live, and seeking to serve our own generation by the will of God will have far reaching effects. It will be a great blessing to others. And so, as another

has said, whether it's a ruined word. Or whether it's a ruined church as to its testimony, or whether it's ruined as to what we see in family life today, so many broken homes. What is the answer? Christ is the answer.

Detroit Conference: 1961, Dependence

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to turn to First Chronicles. First Chronicles chapter 12, verse 22. For at that time, day by day, there came to David to help him, until it was a great host, like the host of God. A little farther down in the chapter. And the. 38 verse. All these men of war that could keep rank came with a perfect heart to Hebron to make David king over all Israel. And all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king. And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them. Moreover, they that were nigh them, even unto Isakar and Zebulun and Nabtalei, brought bread on ***** and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen and meat meal, cakes of figs and bunches of raisins and wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly. Or there was joy in Israel. And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. David said unto all the congregation of Israel. If it seemed good unto you, and that it be of the Lord our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren everywhere that are left in all the land of Israel. And with them also to the priests and Levites, which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us, and let us bring again the ark of our God to us. For we inquired not at it in the days of Saul, nor the congregation said that they would do so. But the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. So David gathered all Israel together, from shy ***** of Egypt, even unto the entering of Hema. To bring the ark of God from courageous Jerome, David went up, and all Israel to Bala, that is to, that is, to Kerja Durham, which belongs to Judah. To bring up fence the ark of God, the Lord that dwelleth between the cherry bems, whose name is called on it. They carried the ark of God and a new card out of the House of Abinadab, and Ozan Ohio drayed the cart, and David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with sultries, and with timbrels, and with symbols and with trumpets. When they were come to the threshing floor of Chaidun, Aza put forth his hand to hold the ark. For the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against us, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark, and there he died before God. And David was displeased because the Lord had made a breach upon us. Therefore that place is called Perez Aza to this day. David was afraid of God that day, saying. How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? So David brought not the ark home to himself, to the city of David, but carried it aside into the House of Obed Edom the Gittite. The Ark of God remained with the family of Obed Edom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the House of Obed Edom and all he had. On the 14th chapter. Eighth Verse. When the Philistines heard heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David, and David heard of it and went out against them. The Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Refium. David inquired of God, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines, and wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? The Lord said unto him, Go up, for I will deliver them into thine hand. So they came up to bail Perazim, and David smoked them there. Then David said, God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand, like the breaking forth of waters. Therefore they call the name of that place Bail Parasm. And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire. And the Philistines yet again spread themselves abroad in the valley. Therefore David inquired again of God, and God said unto him, going on up after them. Turn away from them and come upon them over against the Mulberry trees, and it shall be when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the Mulberry trees. But then thou shalt go up to battle, for God has gone forth before thee to smite the host of the Philistines.

The 15th chapter. And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared an ark for a place for the ark of God, and pitched for the tent. Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites, For them hath the Lord chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him forever. David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem to bring up the Ark of the Lord. Unto his place which he had prepared for it. The 12Th verse And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites, Sanctify yourselves, both he and your brethren, that she may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel into the place that I have prepared for it for because you did it not. At the 1St the Lord our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the Jew order so David, and the so the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of. Israel and the children of the Levites bear the ark of God upon their shoulders, with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded. According to the word of the Lord, David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be singers, with instruments of music, sultries and harps, and symbols, sounding by lifting up the voice with joy and. The 24th verse in Shepherd and Jehoshaphat and Nathaniel and a Messiah. And Zechariah and Benny, Ayah and Eliezer the priest did blow the trumpets before the Ark of God. And all that Edom and Jay, Ayah, Jehiah, or doorkeepers for the ark. So David and the elders of Israel and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the Covenant of the Lord out of the House of Obed. Edom with joy came to pass when God helped the Levites that bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, that they offered seven bullets and seven Rams. David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bear the ark and the singers. And Chenanaya, the master of the song, with the singers David. I also had upon him an affidavit of linen. Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Was shouting him with the sound of the coronet and with trumpets and with cymbals, making a noise with sultries and harps. And it came to pass as the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord came to the city of David. And Michael, the daughter of Saul, looking out at a window, saw King David dancing and playing, and she despised him in her heart. Well, I thought to in reading this portion tonight. Is that. We cannot, we must always bear in mind that no time of happiness, or no time of triumph or special blessing in our lives has any assurance that thereafter we will have the mind of the Lord, our guidance for our pathway, or His blessing upon us. Unless there is continual dependence upon the Lord and looking to Him, Oh, how easy it is for us, especially after some time when God has used us in any particular way or blessed us in any particular way, to rejoice in the blessing, to rest in the blessing, and to get our eyes off the Lord, to forget the need of. Constant dependence upon him. We remember how the Lord took the disciples up onto that mount of Transfiguration. And there they saw the Lord transfigured before them. There they saw perhaps what we might say. Was one of the most wonderful scenes in their whole experience in the Lord's pathway here. But when they came down from the mountain and a child was brought there, possessed with an evil spirit, they were not able to cast out the unclean spirit. And they asked the Lord, why could not we cast him out? And the Lorde answer was this kind goeth not out, but by prayer and fasting. Oh surely if they had been up in the mountaintop they would now be full of power to be able to meet this difficult situation. But no, they needed to be.

Independence upon the Lord. The thought of fasting brings in the thought of self judgment. And on the in that state could they overcome this attack of the enemy? So we find it over and over again on the day of Pentecost. What rejoicing. There was 3000 souls saved saved. But it wasn't long until we find Ananias and Sapphira. They lied about the price of their land and God had to deal. Oh, how important I say it is.

Brethren, that we should go on continually in the path of dependence upon the Lord, and in obedience to His word. It says in the 16th Psalm the first verse, Preserve me, O God, for in Thee do I put my trust. And we need this every step of the way. Well, this portion that we have before us in First Corinthians 12 is a very happy occasion. For a long time David had been haunted by Saul. Those who had followed David had been in a place of rejection. They had been down there in The Cave of Dalam. They had been identified with a despised leader. But now God's time had come when David should be exalted. When He should be given the place of headship over the whole Kingdom. And so we find the great numbers here come out to make David king. And isn't it true that it's very easy for us when there are large crowds, when there is happy ministry, when Christ is brought before us in power, that is very easy for us. To all come and enjoy such occasions, and just like these who came there was great joy in Israel. Their hearts were lifted up. This wasn't any pretense or sham either. And one doesn't say or even think of that when great numbers of the Lords people come together for happy occasions over His word that is the sham or anything of that nature. The heart does respond to the precious ministry of Christ. The heart of the Christian, no matter how cold it may be, does respond to that precious name. In fact, that's the proof that one is a Christian, for it says in first Peter 2. Unto you therefore, which believe he is. Precious, I've often said that that's the verse God gives us for ourselves. To show us how that we have believed in the right way. I can remember when I was a a boy hearing the preacher say, have you believed in your head or in your heart? And I must confess it perplexed me quite a bit. Did I believe in my head or had it really got down into my heart? Well this verse was a great help to me. You therefore which believe He is precious, and when you believe in your heart, your heart goes out to the person. When it's only in the head, there's no affection for the person. But if you believed in your heart, you love that precious Savior. We love Him because He first loved us. If you were walking down the street here in Detroit, someone comes up to you and speaks well of the Lord Jesus. Doesn't your heart respond to the mention of that precious name? Oh, I'm sure that that is so in every Christian I know. Christians that are filled with doubts, doubt their salvation, but the mention of the precious name of the Lord Jesus fills their hearts with rejoicing. All the enemy has succeeded in making them very unhappy by filling them with doubts, and yet God has given to them that precious assurance. That the thought that their heart responds to that name shows they have believed in their hearts. So I quote the verse again unto you, therefore, which believe He is precious. And I have no doubt that when all these people came together with a perfect hearts, as they were not of double heart, they came there. They rejoice to see David in his place of authority. They delighted to see him in the. Belong to him. But they hadn't had the courage to identify themselves with him and his rejection. And David rejoiced to see them come too. And David welcomed them. If we had read the whole chapter, we would have seen that. And he welcomed them all. But there was a special place given to those who had shared his rejection.

When he chronicles his mighty man. He talks of those who were faithful to him in his rejection, and dear fellow Christian, the Lord. Values every little bit of desire in your heart and mind to please him. But I do believe that, believe that it gives special joy to his heart, and when we seek to follow Him in the path of rejection. And so when we come together to the meetings, and there are only a few there, just a feeble few, and the ministry perhaps is not bright and happy as at other occasions. When is our brother brought before us in the conference? There might be a famine in the land. There might be a famine in the assembly when we still sodgern in that land, when we still seek to go on with the people of God. That gives special joy to the heart of the Lord. It gives special joy to Him. Oh, may we have the privilege of giving joy to the heart of the one to whom we once caused such sorrow. It was our sins that caused in that untold sorrow and suffering. That he endured upon Calvary's cross, and now we have the privilege of doing something. That will give him joy, that will cause his heart to rejoice, for he delights to have his own with him, just like Davidde men down there when one when they heard him say that he longed for a drink of the water by the well of Bethlehem. Oh, how he appreciated the devotedness of those men who broke through the host of the Philistines and went out and drew water for him. He valued them. Well to return to this chapter tells us that in the 39th verse and they were with David three days eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them. The next verse tells us of the different tribes of Israel and how they all helped in this and there was joy in Israel. Well, it came to me because of the three days that we had had together. And how the Lord had granted us such a happy time and fellowship one with another over His word, And how our brethren had prepared for us, and the oneness of heart that was displayed. And so, as we come to the end of this 12Th chapter, we would say, what a happy occasion, what joy. There was in Israel, but when we open the next chapter, we find them acting on the joy. Instead of turning to the Lord, we find them turning to one another. And acting in their own wisdom instead of turning to the law that isn't that very natural to our hearts. When there's a time of great joy, we look at one another, we rejoice to look into one anothers faces, we speak of these things and we forget. The need of dependence upon the Lord we forget the need of looking into His word for guidance. Every step of our pathway and also what we find in this 13th chapter was a right thing done in a wrong way. Wasn't it a very fine desire to bring up the ark of God? All that was a very fine desire. God was pleased with that desire. He was pleased that David should desire to bring up the ark of God for. Neglected in the days of Saul and now, David valued that place. That was the meeting place between God and his people. God said there I will meet with thee, and there I will commune with thee. It was above the ark upon the mercy seat where God said He would meet with His people. And David valued that. David valued it. Do you And I value the fact that we have the privilege of meeting with the Lord, that we have the privilege of coming around him in the place that he has marked out in His word and they're meeting with. Him while David valued that, but it says in the first verse, David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds and with every leader that he turned to the word of God. Did he ask the Lord what he should do? No, He consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds and every leader. Weren't there men of understanding there? Yes.

Us that there were says in the 32nd verse of the 12Th chapter. In the and the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do, the heads of them were 200 and all their brethren were at their commandment. The next verse of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, so on. Well, surely they could depend on these men of understanding. They had the understanding. They knew what Israel ought to do. But no matter how much understanding we have, no matter how much God may have used this in the past, no matter how much we have been blessed by Him in the past. We need Him for each day, we need His wisdom, His guidance, His strength, and we need His precious word. For man shall not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God shall man live so. Because the fact that these were here, such men of understanding and some that were expert in war, and they were not of a double heart, surely. Could depend on them, and there was such a happy state among them. So he turns to the captains. He asks them. He says it's in my heart to bring up the ark of the Lord. And notice what he says here, the 12Th verse at the third verse of the 13th chapter. And let us bring again the ark of our God to us. For he inquired, not added in the days of Saul. He didn't say to bring it into his place. He didn't say to bring it into the place that the Lord had appointed, nor did he say that they would seek the Lord's mind as to how this should be done. No, there was there was an occupation with. This joy and with all of the was going on among them. There wasn't a turning to the law. Well, it says in the fourth verse, and all the congregations said that they would do so. For the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. Yes, they they were all agreed about this. And not one of them said, let us turn to God's word and let us ask the Lord about this matter. No, they were all agreed, so surely they must be right if they were all agreed. Well, I say what they wish to do was right, but the manner in which. Doing it was not right. It wasn't according to the Word of God. It wasn't according to that which He had marked out in His

Word. And where did they get this idea at all of using a cart and having oxen drive it? All this idea had come from the Philistines. Well, they might have said that, but God put His blessing upon it. When the Philistines sent back the ark and it was placed in that cart. Why the oxen went ahead and brought it right back to the land of Israel. God manifestly put His blessing on it when the Philistines did it. But the Philistines didn't have this book. The Philistines didn't have the word of God and Israel did. They were more responsible and brethren, we may look around and christen them and say, well, isn't God putting His blessing on them there? And isn't he putting his blessing on them there? Well, they're not as responsible as you and I are, God said to his people. You only have I known of all the families of the earth, therefore will I punish you. Another verse said, Unto whom much is given, of the same shall be much required. And so Israel were much more responsible, because they had the oracles of God they knew. And God did bless the Philistines for the measure in which they acknowledge the true God of Israel.

And I say this, that wherever in Christendom we find a measure in which people acknowledge the Lord, God blesses according to that measure, but where you and I have the word of God and the truth of God when we're gathered out to the precious name of the Lord Jesus. In separation from all its of man to give the Lord Jesus his place of honor and obedience to His Word, we are more responsible. And things that may seem to pass among those who are outside will not pass among those who are gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And it didn't pass here at all. Well they all came together. What a wonderful gathering this was fifth verse. So David gathered all Israel together from shy ***** of Egypt, even unto the entering of Hema to bring the ark of God from Kurja Durham. Wasn't this a wonderful gathering all Israel come together and. All the instruments of music all the same, all this wonderful. This wonderful display, and yet it was not according to the mind of God. Oh, brethren, surely we can see that there may be that which puts on quite a nice exterior which looks quite impressive. But all God is jealous for the glory of His Son. God wants to have his blessed Son exalted. He wants to have him honored and. The way it strikes me is this that when this. CART was built and Aza and Ohio were driving the car. Why the the Ark was down behind them and here they were out in front and they were getting the honors. The ark was more, shall I say, down little lower, and these men were in a place of honor, driving the cart along. And I believe that that's the tendency of our natural heart to want to get honors for ourselves. I've often thought of a remark by our brother Brown. He said Christendom has become a vast arena where men strive for honors for themselves. And you and I are not in communion with the mind of God. Unless we're honoring Christ. You remember how, as you were said, what shall be done unto the man whom the King delighteth to honor. And great honors were to be brought to such a one, And those honors were given to the despised Jew more to chaos. And God delights to honor his Son. O brethren, are you and I in our lives? Seeking the honor and the glory of Christ. If we are, then we'll be turning to His word, and we'll be in conscious dependence before Him. But if we're seeking honors for ourselves, we'll seize every opportunity to be out in front, to be noticed, to put forward our opinions, to be, to be, to have everyone look up to us, the body for seeking the honor and the glory of Christ. Will be will be willing to be hidden. The Lord Jesus might be exalted. I often think of the story that was told of dear. Mr. Darby one time when he was visiting Auburn in France and. Someone came and was saying some things that were very unkind and untrue to that dear servant of God. And another brother was standing by and heard these insults given to Mr. Darby. And Mr. Darby remained silent. He didn't answer. He didn't say a word. A law. He was really being insulted. And this brother said to him, he said, Mr. Darby, why don't you speak up and defend yourself? What he's saying is not true. And the answer of that dear servant of God was. He hasn't said anything against my Savior yet. Oh, what a sweet answer. Well, there was one who was seeking the honor and the glory of Christ. All brethren, how many difficulties would be saved amongst us in our homes? And in our business life and in our assembly life, if this was before us, that Christ alone might be honored. I've sometimes said this, if a brother says something that's untrue about me, if I just stop and say to myself, well, it could have been true, and but for the grace of God, it would have been true.

Then I wouldn't get angry about it, because it was quite possible that I could have done the thing if God hadn't preserved me. But the reason we get angry is this. We're as good as saying, oh, I wouldn't do a thing like that. I'm not so mean that I would do a thing like that and so we really have high thoughts about ourselves, but all how needful that we say that the Lord Jesus is the one whom God delights to honor that in all things he might have the preeminence Wellness was a very impressive thing. To see all the singing and these instruments of music and this cart and the. Hawks and driving it and other and a higher out in front. In a place of honor and prominence, surely everything looked very beautiful to the eye of the natural man. But God was not pleased. They hadn't asked Him, they hadn't looked into His word, and they had given honor to men instead of giving honor to his presence in the midst of his people, of which the ark was a symbol. And so. The oxen stumbled and the ark began to shake, and as A and a higher out in front, driving it as a put forth his hand to steady the ark because the oxen stumbled. Perhaps I shouldn't say that the Ark shook. The Bible doesn't say here that it did, but it does say that Aza put forth his hand to steady it. At least, he thought perhaps it would have. I don't believe it did, actually, because I believe God's eye was upon that ark and it wasn't necessary for us to put forth His hand. God was taking care of that ark just as He had taken care of it when it was down in the country of the Philistines, and the gods of the Philistines fell on their faces in the presence of that ark. God saw to it, and God will ever guard the glory of His Son. And if you and I are in community. With his thoughts, why we only need to acknowledge him? In his rightful place, well, Aza was smitten down as a was smitten den. And it tells us here that David was displeased because the Lord had made a breach upon us. Therefore that place is called Perez Aza to this day. And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? While I say David was afraid of God, David was exercised. Why had this happened and all if there is anything that ever happens? Among the people of God we ought to be exercised by it. We find that David discovered later why this had happened. They hadn't asked the Lord, and they hadn't gone to his word about it. They had done this according to their own plan. And so sometimes when we try to put through some plan or do something in human wisdom, we get a little displeased when God doesn't prosper our plan. But if God thwarts our plan, if he frustrates us in some purpose in life, should we not be exercised as to why God has allowed it? Should we not see? Has a purpose in it. And we might say, well, that was us fault. He was the one that was wrong. Well, he was wrong, but the whole circumstance was wrong. The whole thing was displeasing to God. And as a was the one who put forth his hand, He was the one who did the, shall I say, the overt act. But the whole circumstance was not according to the mind of God. So when they can send God didn't say Akan has sinned. Said Israel hath standing, we ought to be exercised and not say, Well it's that persons fault, it's what that person did. But let us each be exercised. David was exercised, he said, How shall I do it? How shall I do it? Oh, let us look up as our brother brought before us yesterday. Let us look up and say.

Lord, what wilt thou? Have me to do? And I think there's a very sweet little point here in the end of this chapter. That when David at this time was not permitted to bring up the ark of God to his place, that it was carried into the House of Obed Edom and remained in his house for three months. To me this is a very touching little incident. That is. God had made known his displeasure. And the fact that as it was smitten, but we find here this man valued the presence of God, he valued that ark. And so when this plan was frustrated, why he allowed his house to be opened and the ark of God was carried in. Well, my thought in connection with it is just this. That when difficulties arise and when troubles arise. Isn't it grand that we can still keep our homes for the Lord, that we can still give Him His rightful place in our homes, and if we do, the Lord will bless us for it? How often one has found that when difficulties come among the people of God, a whole home will be affected. The

family will become discouraged and turned aside. And why is it? Well, I believe it's because there wasn't what was done here. There isn't the fact that if there has been failure, we can still seek to honor the Lord in our own homes. We can still seek to keep our homes as a place where the Lord Jesus is given His rightful place. We can still have a heart for God and for His people, for as they kept that ark, it wasn't. Say it wasn't that they themselves boasted to be anything. But it was simply that they themselves enjoyed the Lord's presence there in their home, while this time of exercise, shall I say, went on until David learned what was the mind of God in connection with the carrying up of the ark. May God grant that no difficulty in our lives. May be allowed to hinder us in our homes from seeking to give the Lord Jesus. The place that he has, he rightfully deserves. And if we do as it says here, the Lord blessed the Lord blessed the House of the Obed Edom and all he had, he didn't say to his children, well, look what other did. And look at David. He didn't know what to do. Look, he he consulted the captions instead of turning to the Lord. Now we find no mention of that ol bet Edom value the ark in his own home. He valued the article. Let us not speak of the failures of one another, but let us speak of the worthiness of Christ. I was thinking this evening fact, I wasn't just sure what the Lord would have me to speak about tonight, but I was thinking a little bit of the 45th Psalm. And in that beautiful Psalm it says my heart is indicting a good matter. I speak of the things which I have made touching the king. My heart is the tongue. My, my tongue, rather, is the pen of a ready writer. Thou art fairer than the children of men. Grace is poured into thy lips, brethren. I always enjoy that salmon, especially because of this, that it's in the second book of the Psalms, when God's people were driven out from Jerusalem when it was in the possession of the enemy. The heart could still be kept. Fresh and happy in his life and the world may be in a condition of turmoil. We are living in days of declension, but Christ is always the same. And you and I can always be Speaking of and thinking of a good matter. We can be occupied with the things that we have made touching the king, that precious one, that worthy one, whose garments smell of myrrh and owls and kasha, who's ever beautiful to the one who sees in him.

The altogether lovely one. Only come to the 14th chapter. The reason I read this is because in the eighth verse we find here that the Philistines at this time came out again David. You know, seems to me the devil always comes when we're discouraged. Did you ever feel discouraged? I have. I suppose everyone has, and it always seems the devil. Gathers together a great force against us when we get a little bit discouraged, doesn't he? He just brings such an army that it looks altogether hopeless. And he makes the outlook look so dark, so impossible that we say. What shall I do? What shall I do? Well, that's the condition of things that we find here in this 14th chapter. And David was displaced. He had made a mistake, and the ark hadn't reached Jerusalem. And now the Philistines gather together their armies and come out. Well, David's going through an exercise through all this. And so it tells us in the 10th verse. And David inquired of God and David. And choir of God, he could have got all together cast down said it's all hopeless. I tried to do the right thing and I thought everyone agreed with what I was doing too, because they all said that it was the right thing to do. But he said he might have said, well it's it's useless. But when he saw the enemy, he turned to the Lord. He inquired of the Lord, oh how beautiful this is. And. And it says here. I go up against the Philistines, and wilt thou deliver them into my hand? And the Lord said unto him, Go up, for I will deliver them into my hand. And God did. And David didn't forget to thank the Lord. He didn't forget to thank him. We often forget to thank the Lord. We think about our disappointments, we think about our troubles, we pray about them, but we often forget to thank Him for the many blessings that we receive, the little hymn says. Unnumbered comforts to my soul, Thy tender care bestow before my infant heart conceived from whom those comforts flow. Isn't it true that we forget? Well, David here didn't forget, he said the Lord. Has broken forth upon mine enemies. Well, did the enemy leave them alone then did he say, well, Davidde in a such a nice state of soul, I won't attack him now. Oh no, he comes with a second attack. He comes again next time. But David perhaps had learned something of the futility of the uselessness of depending on past circumstances or experiences or on human wisdom. Anything. And so he didn't say, well, I attacked them the other time and I had a complete victory. I'll do the same again. Now notice. It says here. The 13th verse in the Philistines yet again spread themselves abroad in the valley. Therefore David inquired a gain of God. And God said unto him, going on up after them, turn away from them, and come upon them over against the Mulberry trees. He didn't act here upon what had happened in the past. He acted upon the special wisdom given to him of God for this circumstance. And all, brethren, every circumstance that rises in your life or mine. Is a different 1 from 1 we have ever met before. As dear Mr. Darby said. And he said in one sense, in one sense, experience is not what we need in the things of God, it's God himself we need. Well, one doesn't mean that experience, and he didn't mean that experience wasn't valuable. But if we rest on it, we can make some great mistakes.

It's God we need, it's the one who alone can undertake for us. And so in this second instance, he asked the Lord again. And the Lord says this time go around another way. And so David did that and the Lord gave him a victory. This time. David was learning. What was he learning? Not to depend on his own wisdom, not to depend upon man. Not to depend upon past experience, but to defend upon the Lord. And so the Lord did come in and deliver him. And let me say again, before we speak of this next chapter, if there are any of us here that should be discouraged or cast down, and the Philistines seem to be gathered together against us, let us remember that God is always sufficient for every. From staff and if we look to him, he will not fail. He knows the situation fully, he's allowed it. In I want to sometimes said in first Peter chapter 5, it says casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you. The next verse says, be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is a roaring lion. Walk at the boat, seeking whom he may devour. I used to think that Satan was a roaring lion in connection with persecution, but I believed that Satan is a roaring lion in connection with discouragement. Discouragement when you get discouraged, or that's when the enemy seeks to come in. You know, a Christian that's being persecuted for the name of Christ is happy, but a discouraged Christian is open for the attacks of the enemy. And if you and I don't cast our cares upon the Lord, then we better watch because. The enemy is going to be right there, and we surely can't meet him in our own wisdom or strength. David must learn that. You and I must learn it too. Well, now David desires to bring back the ark of God. All this exercise has been good for him. And everything that God passes us through in our lives, brethren, is good for us. All that Edom got a blessing by the mistake of David. And you and I have got many blessings from the mistakes of Peter. And so if if others have made mistakes, let's profit by them. God's written these things. We might profit by their mistakes, and He teaches us even through our own mistakes, if we turn to Him. And seek his face in them. And so David profited by all this. And so now over Edom have got a blessing. David had got a blessing. And so he said, well, I'm going to bring back the ark of God to his place. That is, he didn't say I'm going to do it according to my plan or bring it to my place, but he was going to bring it to the place where God would have it and he was going to do it in the way. That was pleasing to God. And where would he find that out as he called together the captains of thousands and hundreds and every leader? Does he say, I think this, or I think that? No. Notice this in the second verse. Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites, for them hath the Lord chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him forever. Where did he learn that? How he learned that in God's Word. Searched the word. We need those two things, prayer, the reading of the Word, the chapter before we find them, independence, asking the Lord's mind. And in this instance, when it was a question of bringing up the ark, he turns to the captains, he turns to all these men of understanding, and he says, I know God has told us how in his word, it's the Levites that are to carry the ark of God. That wasn't human wisdom. That was from the word of God. And I believe, brethren, that there's either a principle or a direct Scripture.

To govern our conduct in every circumstance of life. I'd like to encourage you, dear young people, you boys and girls here. To read the Old Testament and store your mind with these lovely stories. You will find that God will use them in blessing in your life later. These stories are written to teach us lessons in our lives. We see David discouraged. We see David making a mistake, and we see him going to the Word of God. Isn't it nice to have your mind stored with these things and see how God comes in? You know when you buy a part for your car and you're going to put it on, there's written instructions and then there's. A picture. Well, I like to look at the picture. I read the instructions too, but the picture means quite a bit to me. And God's got the written instructions in His Word, and He's got the pictures too. And you and I have got both, if we acquaint ourselves with the Old Testament, with his beautiful pictures and all the instructions written down for us in the New Testament. Oh how lovely it is. It's all here for us. Well, David found out from the word of God that the Levites were to carry the ark. They were. They didn't copy the Philistines this time. Staves were already in the ark. They didn't have to make anything. There was number new carp to be made. The ark had been made long ago according to the pattern that Moses had seen on the mount. The staves were already in it. They didn't have to do anything but just to lift up that arc. And I like to think of it in this way, that now the men were hidden. God doesn't tell us the names of the men that carried the arc at all. That didn't matter. And as far as I can see, the men were probably quite hidden underneath the ark. They cause that beautiful ark with the cherry bins and it's shining gold was lifted up far above their heads. And the person of Christ, the glory of Christ is above our understanding. It's, it's something that we can't understand. When others tried to steady the ark it was. It seems to me it's a picture of 1. Who perhaps might even try to explain the person of Christ? We can't do it, brethren, but we can lift that Blessed One up. And give them a place of exaltation above our understanding. High above our praise, the little hymn says, Worthy of homage and of praise worthy by all to be adored. Other hymns says, no place too high for him is found, no place too high in heaven. Well, here they start now to bring up the ark. And now there's a scene of real rejoicing. And notice what David says in the 15th verse, the 12Th verse rather. And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites. Sanctify yourselves, both he and your brethren, that he may bear up the bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel, under the place that I have prepared for it. For because you did it not. At the 1St, the Lord our God made a breach upon us. Or that we sought him not after the due order? So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel. David acknowledges his mistake here. And David says to the Levites. Sanctify yourselves, and how important this is. If we have made a mistake to own it, to own it and the next thing is to set us set ourselves apart. The word sanctified means to set to be set apart, and we ought to set ourselves apart, for the Lord says in the 17th of John. Sanctify them through thy truth. Thy word is truth. So you and I ought to be set apart for the Lord. So what a beautiful scene we have here. How this exercise has resulted now in blessing. And here they start out to carry the ark up to Jerusalem, to the place where God had appointed. And it's a scene of great rejoicing. There was singing, there was rejoicing.

David danced before the Lord. He was so happy over this. And if you and I would have a rejoicing that abides, we need to go on the path of obedience and dependence to the law. Find Michael, Saul's daughter, despising David when he was bringing up the ark on the new car. She didn't despise him at all for that, because that was an idea that came from the natural man. She didn't despise him, but when the ark was being brought up in God's way, then this woman who was a picture of of nature. She looked down, despised.

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