Colossians - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

Burbank Conference: 1978, History of Two Men

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Just like to read first of all to start with in Colossians chapter 3. Colossians chapter 3. And the tenth verse. And have put on the Newman, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Well, I'd just like to speak of that theme that we sang in our hymn with Christ. Our theme begins the Lord of truth and love. Because you know, it's often been said that the Bible is really the history of two men. Always say there are many men whose names are recorded in the Scripture, but the Bible says the first man, Adam, was made a living soul. The last Adam, a quickening spirit, and the first man, is of the earth. Earth. The second man is the Lord from heaven. So there was the first Adam, and he was the one that brought in all the ruin. And then there's the last Adam, because there will not be any other, the one who fulfills all the counsels and purposes of God. And so I say again, God speaks of these as two men, the first man and the second man. Whenever we think of the first man, we can't help but think of all the ruin that this world is in brought. Because of what man is. And we're all born into this world with that same fallen nature that is productive of all the trouble that's here. Because the first man brought in ruin, and Adam begat a son in his own image and in his own likeness. But isn't it blessed to know, as I say now, that God has a second man, the last Adam, and that everyone in this room is either under the headship of the first one who was? Adam are under the headship of the second one, who is the Lord from heaven. And when we are brought to know Him as our Savior, God sees us in this entirely new position. Were brought into and part of new creation, were no longer part of the creation that is under judgment, but we belong to new creation. We're part of it already. And so isn't it blessed that we can be occupied with that One who is the head of new creation? And God's purpose, as we're told in Ephesians 1 and 10, is the honor and glory of that blessed One. 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. When God made this world, we're told that He didn't create it in vain, He created it to be inhabited. His delights were with the sons of men. And isn't it a wonderful thing that when man spoiled it all, that God then brought in His purpose? Have often thought like this that if I gave my children some. Very valuable and they spoiled it. I wouldn't be inclined to turn around and give them something better when they had spoiled what I had given to them. But that's what God has done. When man spoiled this world, brought in sin and ruined and his continuing to spoil it by his selfishness and sin and all this, why, what does God do? Well, he says you've spoiled this world, but I have something better to offer to you, something better than what you spoiled. And that is brought in through this one who is the 2nd man, the last Adam. It's wonderful when we consider the grace of God. And this afternoon I just like to look at a few scriptures that bring before us that blessed one. Because as I remarked, the the Bible is really the history of these two men. And it's refreshing to turn from all the ruin, to turn to the one who is the center of all God's thoughts. And then to know above all things that we have been brought into association with Him into the very nearest possible place, because the nearest relationship on earth is the relationship of a man and his wife. And God has brought us as believers into this wonderful relationship, that we are now members of His body. What a place He has brought us into. What a place of association I say, and to share with Him. Coming Glory. Where they know if we get hold of this, it helps us to understand the Scripture. Perhaps some have heard me tell this little illustration, but perhaps it helps to bring out what I'm talking about. There was a man who was very busy in his study and he was, he was occupied with the things that he was doing. This little girl came into the room and ** *** was disturbing him, talking to him and found it hard to concentrate.

So. He opened the drawer of his desk and he pulled out an old map that he had there and took the scissors and cut up the map into a number of pieces and then handed it to the child and said, here now dear, put the map together. And so he applied himself to his work again. She was quiet, but not for very long. It wasn't very long until she jumped up and she said, Daddy. It's all done well. He was amazed because he didn't think she knew very much about geography. And she didn't know much about geography either, but she had discovered something on the other side of the map. There was a huge hand on the back of the map. She didn't try to put it together geographically. She started from the other side. And as she got that hand together and everything connected with it on the other side, it would have been possible to turn it over. Every place would have been geographically correct, because she had seen that hand. And you know, many people say, oh, the Bible is a puzzle. It says in Isaiah, it's delivered to a man that's learned. And he said and say, with these words, read this, I pray thee. And he says, I can't. It's sealed. It's delivered to a man who's unlearned, saying, read this. And he says, I'm not learned. And isn't it true that the Bible cannot be understood by the natural man because he has no heart for Christ? He has no heart for the one who is the theme of this blessed book about those who have been brought to know the Savior. Surely we can say He's everything to us. Christ is all and in all. And so with that in mind, I'd like to ask you when you read the Scripture to try to remember that God is setting this blessed person before us. He's seeking to honor Him. He's seeking to take up our hearts with Him. Because his heart is taken up. With his beloved Son, he's found his delight in him and he wants us to find our delight in him. When we think well of a person, we like our friends to think well of that person too. We speak for them because we love them. And so isn't it nice that God has such delight in his beloved Son that he said, I want you to find your eternal delight in him too. He means so much to me that I want you just to share this wonderful portion because. He will be, He is, and He will be the delight of his Father's heart for all eternity. Now I'd like to turn to Acts chapter 4. And here we find a well known verse, Acts chapter 4. Perhaps we could read 3 verses here from the 10th verse. Be it known unto you all, and to all the men of Israel. That by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Whom ye crucify, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was setteth not of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Well, this is the grand starting point. Surely Here was Paul preaching to a company of people who really had no heart for Christ. This was as he says, Christ was the stone which was set at not of you builders. He had come into this world. He had done all those marvelous works of grace. He had gone to the cross of Calvary and died. He had finished that work that God had given him to do, that work of redemption. For our eternal salvation. He had done all that, but he was rejected. The world wouldn't have him. The Jews had said we will not have this man to reign over us. They despised and they rejected him. But here Peter says there is

absolutely no other way of salvation except through the Lord Jesus Christ. And if there should be anyone here this afternoon who doesn't yet know the Lord as your Savior. Hasn't yet received him. Remember, God has no other way. It's not something that we can say Well, as long as a person is sincere in their beliefs, he will be all right. As long as he follows his religion diligently, he'll be all right. God only has one way. Doesn't it seem strange to you that people reason that way about the things of God, and they don't reason that way and natural things?

That is, you can get on one of these through ways, and you can be absolutely sure you're going in the right direction and that you're on the right freeway, but all the sincerity in the world is never going to change it from the wrong Rd. into the right Rd. You can be ever so sincere, but it'll still be the wrong Rd. And that's what God is telling us. Isn't it strange that people will reason this way in spiritual things? And yet they don't reason that way. And natural things. It only shows to me what God says. The carnal mind is enmity against God. And again, the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not. A person could never reason so foolishly unless he was blinded of Satan. Then other people will say, well, all that you need to be is sincere. As long as you're sincere in what you believe. Now you don't believe that in anything else. You can drink a glass of poison, and you can be absolutely sincere that there's no poison there, but you'll die from it just the same. If it's poison, if it's strong enough to kill you, it'll kill you no matter how sincere you are. And dear friends, if there's anyone here that's unsaved, remember, sincerity is not enough to say that as long as you think you're in the right way, that that's all that's necessary. It isn't that way. God distinctly tells us in his word, Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. There is only two men in God's account, and the first one brought in the ruin, and the second one brought salvation. And Simeon, in the 2nd chapter of Luke, when he took that babe in his arms, he said, Lord, now let. Thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. God only has one salvation for all people. And as Simeon took that babe in his arms, he said, I see now salvation is a person. Salvation is not a feeling, it's not an experience, it's a person. And if you have Christ, you have salvation. If. Don't have Christ, you don't have salvation. Your experience doesn't mean a straw if you don't have Christ. Your sincerity doesn't mean anything if you don't have Christ. Have you received him? As many as received him to them, gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. And So what a blessed thing it is to see that God has a Savior. And only one savior, and he's an all sufficient savior before the face. Of all people, and I beseech you, if there's anyone here this afternoon, if you haven't received him, what better day than right today, the last day of 1978. What better day to be saved than right now so that you truly start the new year in the right way with the knowledge of Christ as your Savior. And so I say with Christ our theme begins. There's only one, and that's the Lord Jesus. What a grand thing it is to be able to. Say Christ is my Savior, I've put my trust in Him. Don't depend on your feelings. That has nothing to do with it. It's the person that saves. It's what he has done that has satisfied God's holy claims. So there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. So it doesn't matter where it is. Whether it's out in China or whether it's in India, God owns. One Savior, and that is his own beloved Son. People say, well, what about the heathen? But you know, God is going to gather in his elect from every kindred and tongue and people and nation. And I'll just make this little comment and that is this, that God has his own way of gathering his elect. Our brother Eric Smith once said. And that he believed that the infant mortality rate when he went to Bolivia was probably over 60%. In other words, that have a family of 10 there would probably only be 4 would actually live. Well, isn't that a remarkable thing? That would mean that of all the children born in Bolivia, there would be more go to heaven than would grow up because every baby that dies goes to be with the Lord. Doesn't know God know how to gather.

For his elect, the scripture says, shall not the judge of all the earth do right? It's not for us to quibble with God. He only has one Savior. And that baby doesn't get there just because it was born and didn't grow up. It it goes there because Christ died. The Lord Jesus came to save that which is lost. The scripture says it's not the will of your Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. So don't. Don't. Don't reason with God, dear friends, just accept what he says. Shall not the judge of all the earth do? Right? But I, I press this fact. God says there's only salvation through one person, and that's through the Lord Jesus. And we're not living in a heathen land, we're in a Christian land. We're living in a land where the gospel is known. And I hope each one here can say Christ is my salvation. Now let's turn to. Philippians, Chapter 2. In verse 5. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus. Every knee should bow of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God that which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Well, I read this portion because I believe it brings before us Christ as our example. We often get very disappointed when we make somebody else our example. We think someone else is a model Christian. We get our eyes upon that person and they let us down. They disappoint us over and over again. The psalmist said I have seen an end of all perfection and if you live long enough you're going to be disappointed in every human you know, because there's no perfection in. In the natural, in the first man, and we all have that fallen nature within us. And alas, although we're told to reckon ourselves dead indeed unto sin, sometimes it shows itself. Too often it shows itself. So there's only one who we can make a model. Now of course, the Scripture does say, whose faith follow. And it's good to imitate the faith of others. My father used to so often say, remember. It says whose faith follow, not whose. Failures follow. Isn't it natural to us to say, oh, he's a fine Christian and he does it, and so we follow his failures. But whose faith follow? If you're going to follow anybody else, follow their faith. But if you're going to have an example, let it be Christ. There's only one who's a perfect example for us. As Peter says, he's left us an example that we should follow in his steps. There's the one who's the perfect example. And what an example he was. It says for him it was number robbery to be equal with God. For Adam, the first Adam, it was robbery. He had no right to try and be as God. That was the temptation. You know ye shall be as gods. And that was the temptation to Adam. And by that temptation he fell. But here was one in this world, and it was no robbery for him to be equal with God. He is God, He is God the Son, and so. It wasn't a robbery, but just think of that one. The only person. Had a right to a reputation. I have no right to a reputation. If I look far enough back in my ancestry, I know I'm a, a son of fallen Adam. So I haven't got any right to any reputation as a natural man. But here was one who did have a right. And yet he came into this world and he made himself of no reputation. He came here. Whose reputation was he seeking? Not his own, he said. I came not to do mine.

Will, but the will of him that sent me, we hear people say, well, you ruined my reputation. What kind of reputation did we have? The important thing is did we ruin the reputation of our Savior because we bear his name? That's actually what baptism is. It's having the name of Christ placed upon us and in this world. As James says, that worthy name by which ye are called, we bear that precious name. And what ought to occupy us is, how is our life a testimony to the one whose name we bear? Doesn't matter, as Paul said, what people think about us, it's what they think about our Savior, Paul said to the Corinthians who had said some kind of unkind things about him. He said, Now I pray God that ye

do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates. Oh, I believe that man had caught something of the spirit of his master. He said, as it were, you can think what you like about us. The thing is, we want you to go on for the Lord. Do what's right before him. Think what you like about us. How isn't it very lovely to see that spirit? Displayed by a servant of Christ, the Apostle Paul. Well, here's the perfect example. He came down into this world. One time they said to him, say we not well Lord a Samaritan and hast a devil. Did you notice the way the Lord answered? He didn't say anything about the personal insult. They said, say we not well Lord, a Samaritan, and that you know, they despised the Samaritans. The Lord didn't even reply to that, but he said, and has the devil, He replied to that because he had come in the spirit of his father. He had come and that was an insult to the one whose name he sought to honor. His name he. He had come to exalt in this world because he said, I seek not mine own honor, but the honor of him that sent me. And so that precious Savior was the blessed example for us. We reply to personal insults too often, but the Lord didn't. He wouldn't have his Father insulted, but he ever sought his glory He made himself. Of no reputation and so. The next one is He took upon him the form of a servant in all the precious Savior up there in his glorious place as God. Why, angels served him? But just think, he came down into this world and he washed the disciples feet. He became a servant to the needs of man. He said My father worketh hitherto and I work. He said I came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. And to give my life a ransom for many. Just think of that lowly grace. Do we like everybody to serve us and do things for us? Not so Our precious Savior. It's often been said he never did 1 miracle for his own comfort. That that is one of the one of the amazing things to me because you know, we do all kinds of things for our own comfort. But here was a person that never did one thing for his own comfort. He had all power. He wasn't when he was in the Garden of Gethsemane and they came to take him. He could have asked his Father for 12 legions of angels, but he had come to fulfill the scriptures. It wasn't the nails that held him to the cross, it was love. It was love that held him there. He had all power and yet he came to do his Father's will. He took the form of a servant, and then he took the lowest form of a servant because. Angels are servants, but he was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death. He took another step downward, was made in the likeness of man. And then, well, you say, I can be. If I have to be a man, I can be a great man. I can be someone great in this world. But what about this Blessed One? It says, being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself. As we've often said, He was the only person that could choose where he would be born, and he was born in a Manger. He was brought up in Nazareth. He went about and when it says in the 53rd of Isaiah, he hath no form near commonness, and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty. The correct translation is there is no lordliness.

That is, the Lord didn't walk through this world displaying His personal greatness. He walked here as the little hymn says, the lowly Jesus I am make and lolly in heart. Just think of it. We say, well, I'd like to be somebody important. Here was one who had a right to everything, who resigned it all to be the example for us. And then it says he became obedient. He was obedient in everything to his Father's will. And not only obedient, but obedient. Unto death, perhaps we've said sometimes. Well, I tried to. I tried to please the Lord as long as I could, but the pressure just got too great. I I just couldn't, I couldn't stand up to it any longer when the Lord Jesus would rather die than disobey. If the pressure got great, and it did in the Garden of Gethsemane, he sweat, as it were, great drops of blood falling down to the ground, and yet he went onward. He'd set his. To go to Jerusalem when the pressure is on you, do you give up the path of obedience? When it's on me, do I resign the path of obedience and say I can't take it anymore? Ah, how blessed to see this one who although He knew the full cost of obedience, and it cost him more than it'll ever cost us. Brethren, we'll never have to suffer for our sins. He not only suffered for one person's sins, but think of the vast number. The redeemed whose sins he bore wondrous grace. He was obedient unto death. And then there is such a thing as an honorable death. He was given a disgraceful death. The most disgraceful death that it was possible for the Romans to give to a human was to crucify him. Just think. Here's the example. Oh, you know, you and I are natural. Snare is pride. We saw we we like to exalt ourselves. But he's. The example, and this one is set before us. God's answer, as we find, is now to exalt Him to the highest place in our wondrous grace. We're going to share His throne. We're going to be with him. Are we going to walk through this world proudly when our blessed Lord and Master took the lowest place? We're going to share His throne, I say. And oh, what a privilege to have suffered with Him than to reign with Him. And now just one. More little comment, he says here. In the this 12TH verse. Were for my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. I'm sure we all realize that this does not say work for your own salvation. It says work out your own salvation. We are saved through the Lord Jesus as we have that verse. Neither is there salvation in any other. There is no other. Who is our Savior? Only the Lord Jesus. What does this mean? Then work out your own salvation. Well, let's put it in a very practical way. There was a problem in this Philippine assembly. There's often problems among us as Christians too. And there were people doing things through strife and vain glory. There was a little quarrel that had broken out, which created a sad situation. In this assembly at Philippi and Paul loved these Saints. They were very. Dear to him, and he could speak so much good about them. But he saw this thing working to spoil this little assembly. And how could it be worked out? Well, by following the example of Christ. And isn't it true, brethren, that many of our problems could be worked out if we would only follow this example? If there was enough humility about us? I'm persuaded that so many of the problems that come up could be. Worked out with fear and trembling, that is, afraid that we ourselves might do the wrong thing. Not afraid somebody else might do the wrong thing, but afraid we might do the wrong thing. And so this is very beautiful to me, an example set before us, and this example so perfect that this problem that existed in the assembly at Philippi could be cleared up just by following the example of the Lord Jesus. And then he says it's God that worketh in you, because not only has God-given us the example, but he has actually given us the ability to follow this example because Christ himself is our life. Just turn for a moment to Colossians chapter 3 and we'll see this now. Colossians chapter 3.

And verse 3. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory. Now so here we're told that Christ himself is our life, and I believe this is connected with what we have read, because when he says it's God that worketh in you, it's because we have within us an entirely new life. It's true that the old man is still there, and we're told to reckon ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God that is. Fallen nature is still liable to act within us, but isn't it very blessed that God has supplied to us this new life? And every believer can say Christ is my life, Christ is my life. Paul could say to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. So let none of us say, well, I just couldn't do. That because if God wants us to do something, he always supplies the power that's necessary. I've often said to my wife, when we undertake something, I said, let's not ask ourselves if we can do it. Let's ask does the Lord want us to do it? Because if the Lord wants us to do it, then all the power is there because it's God that worketh in you. Of course, if we do things in our own strength, we break down if we're trying to. Do something that God didn't intend us to do. Then we may see the breakdown of that thing. But isn't it lovely, this thought that if Christ is our life, God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure? And call attention to that word too, to will, because when it says both to will, it's lovely to me. God will never ask us as Christians to do anything that the new man does not desire to do. Because that new man is the life of Christ. Did he want to please his Father? Yes. And God has given us that very life, the life of Christ. And so he asks us and. That's why James calls it the law of liberty. It's liberty to do what you want to do. And God has given us a life that wants to please him. And his word is like the instruction about how we can. If you want to give a

gift to somebody, it's pretty nice to know something that they like and something that they're going to be pleased with when they get it. God has given to the believer a new life, and then he's given us his word to show us what. Pleases him and every time we read his word, the new life responds and says, oh, that's what I want to do because the new life wants to please him. It's God that worketh in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure. So we have the life, the desire, we have the power, we have the example, and above all, we have salvation in Christ. Now let's turn to Philippians 3 and we'll see something in connection with Christ. As our object. Philippians chapter 3 and verse 13. Rather than I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling, or the calling on high of God in Christ Jesus. I believe in this chapter Paul is setting Christ before us as the object for our Christian. Life in the 2nd chapter, he's the example because he's the one who has run the race perfectly. But when a person runs in a race, there's usually a prize that's offered. The scripture says, know ye not that many run in a race, but one receiveth the prize. So there's always the thought of a prize. And So what was the prize in Paul's life? Well, he had a prize.

Before him, what was it? Well, it was to be up there with Christ that that was what was Paul's desire? He, he was just pressing on through life, just longing for the time that he was going to be with the one who was the object. For God has not only given us an example, but he's given us an object for our affections. Every heart must have an object. And if it's not Christ, it's going to be something else. If I could take enough. With other things, it's evident that I've lost sight of the object and the object for my heart. And for your heart is Christ, a person, the Lord Jesus, not just to get a good report, although God does give a good report if there's a walk of faith, but it's a person, and that's what Paul said. Wherefore we labor that, whether present or absent. I think I've done pretty well. Sometimes you hear people say when you come to the end of the year, look. Back and take stock of yourself. Oh, that's, that's dangerous business. Looking back. What for? If there's anything that we've done that's displeasing to the Lord, let's judge it. But if we look back and it's going to lead to one thing or other, you're either going to get proud because you think you've done pretty well in 1978, or you're going to get discouraged because you think you made a mess of 1978. So there's not much use looking. Back because it's going to lead to one thing or the other, either pride or discouragement. But we're told to look on. And that's what Paul did. It's been compared to breaking a path through a field of snow. Country where I live, there's a lot of snow. We often have to do this and you have to break a path. Well, you know, if the snow is deep, it's very difficult to break a straight, a straight path that is. Walking. You find that as you lift up your feet, first thing you know, you find out that you're making a very crooked path through the snow. Well, here's a person, he's walking along and he realizes that he is breaking a very crooked path. And then he thinks, now the best thing for me to do is to get my eye on something over on the other side perhaps is a tree. And I can get my eye on that tree on the other side of the field and keep my eye on that. And then. I'll do better. Well, this is what Paul is telling us here. So, you know, some of us perhaps didn't have our eye on Christ and we broke a very crooked path. A very crooked path. Now what does God tell us? Well, he says get an object before you. And this was what Paul did. He was pressing on in the Christian race with the object before him. He had Christ as the object before his soul. And now let's suppose that after making this very crooked path, you realize you should have an object. And then after you've gone along for 5 minutes, you decide I'm going to look back and see how I'm getting along. And so you look back and there's that crooked part that you broke, and you feel ashamed of that, all right, But oh, you think I've done pretty well for the last 5 minutes. I've really made a nice straight path. And then you begin to realize that you got your eyes off the object. You got your eyes off the object, and so you put your eye back on the object. But when you get to the other side of the field, you look back and what do you find? Well, that little part where you were looking back, you made another break in the past. It got crooked there because you were patting yourself on the back for doing so. Well, that's always the way. If we get our eye off the Lord, that's why. Paul says this one thing I do and so if it's 1978, you're thinking about why if there's been some failure on it to the Lord, but don't get occupied with that, get occupied with Christ in glory, the object before the soul. And Paul said there's a prize at the end and that is a person and that's Christ. And so I want to say that to myself and to. Each one here let's have our eyes upon the object. There's that blessed one and he's there. He's gone on high. He broke a perfectly straight path through this world. Never heard. And he's the example for us. He's the object for our hearts. And Paul desired that this would be the one thing in his life. May God make it the one thing in your life and mine to have our eyes upon the object who is the delight of God's heart. And the reason I call attention to the other reading is.

It's not the high calling, but the calling on high that is. It's the time when the path ends when we're called on high. When at the end of the path the Lord calls us on high, someone wrote a little poem about Enoch. The Bible says that Enoch walked with God and enjoyed the little poem. When something like this, he walked with God. Not much of what he walked with God, not much of what he said or. Did or said is told not where or what he wrought is even mentioned. He walked with God brief words of fadeless gold and after years long years of such blessed walking. One day God said come, come from this world a weary sin stained sadness come to the fuller fellowship of home. And that is another verse. How many souls were suckered on his journey, helped by his words or prayers? We may not know. Still as we read words of endearing grandeur. He walked with God while yet he walked below. Well, I think that's that's certainly a wonderful thing that Enoch we're not told whether he helped anybody in his life. The word of God is silent about it. Just we're told he walked with God. He prophesied, he told of coming judgment, but. How many people he helped, we don't know. The records with God. He had an object before him and in an evil day he walked with God. I might just add, perhaps others have noticed this point too. It was after he begat his first child that he began to walk with God. And then it says after he had begat his first child, Methuselah, then it says he walked with God for 300 years. And you know, sometimes this is so. When the responsibilities of home life come upon us, we realize how unable we are to cope with them. They're just too much for us and how much more we need this to walk with God. I say this for the help of those who are young parents here. Well, he had Christ as his object. Now the 4th chapter of Philippians and the 13th verse. Well, I'll read the 12TH verse here too to get the context. I know about how to be a based, and I know how to abound everywhere and in all things. I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me. Well, Paul had many ups and downs in his life, sometimes forgotten by his brethren and. In prison and many trials, and he had to learn, as we all learn to accept our circumstances from the Lord. I think that's the hardest thing, those little words. This thing is from me to be in prison with his back bleeding, to be forgotten by his brethren, For only the assembly at Philippi thought of his needs. To know that the Corinthians had said unkind things, all these things. Things must have been very trying. And you say, how could he bear them? Well, he gives us a very simple yet profound little message here, doesn't he? I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me. He didn't claim strength of character. He didn't say I'm above the average for meeting difficulties. And I I've trained myself to accept things. No such thing. No, he could say I can. Do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me. And brethren, it's the only way you and I can never, never meet these things in our own strength. I'm sure we've all noticed how great men have broken down in what seemed to be their strongest point. But here we find one who had learned the secret of strength. I can do all things through Christ. Which strengtheneth me, so we could say here in this lovely verse. That Christ is our strength. Now perhaps we could turn to a well known verse in Matthew chapter 18. And the 20th verse. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Well, I think this is very blessed too. We've been Speaking of more practical things as regards our everyday life, but it's a very blessed thing. To know that it's a person to whom we're gathered. It's not a group of people. It's not even a set of beliefs, although the truth is very precious. I trust to us, and we're told that the assembly is to be the pillar in support of the truth. We're responsible as God's assembly to maintain the whole truth of God. But that'll never keep us. Truth will never keep us. It must be a person. And that person is the Lord Jesus. And if we lose sight of that, we're going to get discouraged. We're going to perhaps turn the other way because we've lost sight of a person. And that person is the gathering center, the Lord Jesus. As it's often been remarked, it doesn't say we're two or three gather, but are gathered because I believe that there's an energy of the Spirit of God in this world not only gathering out. For Christ, thank God for that, because everyone who has received the Lord Jesus as his Savior is part of that glorious bride. There is one body, but there's also such a thing as being gathered together, I believe, by the Spirit, as it says here in my name, that is in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And it isn't just that we. Form some kind of. Of a society ourselves or a gathering center ourselves. It's the energy of the Spirit of God gathering to a person. And if it is truly of himself, it will be according to his word. But I just wish to impress at this point the importance of being gathered just to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ because you know. The world will accept any name that man give. It's amazing how man will have organizations and people ask you well what church do you go to? Well it's very easy to mention the name of some man made group or even if you say brethren the world seemingly will accept anything but just simply to say gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It takes courage. It just seems as. One brother used to say it just seems like there's a lump comes in your throat. He said when you go to say the name of the Lord Jesus reverently and don't you find it so had just something seems to make it difficult for you. You could say any other name or any other organization or you say there's sound in the faith and they preach a good gospel. Yes, it doesn't seem to take courage. To mention the name of any organization and the work that they do. But just quietly to say we're gathered only in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It takes courage, but you know, it must be a joy to the Lord's heart. It must be a joy to his heart because God has given him a name which is above every name. Every knee is going to bow to that blessed name. And just as we have Christ for our salvation, for our example, and for our object and for our strength. Surely do we want anything less or anything more than that blessed and worthy name of the Lord Jesus Christ? May we ever be satisfied to have that name as the one to whom we are gathered. And may we think too, when we come to the meeting, that we come to meet him, to meet him. I say, like Peter said, Lord, to whom shall we go when you get discouraged with the. Just ask yourself this question, to whom shall we go? Not where shall I go, but to whom shall we go? I guess we all get discouraged sometimes, but what are we going to do? How often when people have chosen another course? It isn't. It isn't to whom, but it's where. Where? And so they seek something else. Oh, May God ever make the person precious to us have sometimes. Remarked about that expression there where Peter said, To whom shall we go? The Lord said in reply to it. When Peter said, To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life, The Lord said, Have not I chosen you? 12 and one of you is a devil? I often wondered. I meditated on that for quite a while. Why did the Lord answer Peter like that? You know, in another occasion when he said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Lord said, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona?

Why did he answer him that way? Well, if you read the chapter, it's the 6th chapter of John, it tells us that just at that point many of his disciples had gone back and walked no more with him. And the Lord had said to the disciples, Will ye also go away? And that was the occasion where Peter replied, to whom shall we go? And the thought that I have in it, and it speaks to us, I'm sure as though the Lord said, well Peter. If you're here because I'm here. Don't get your eyes on the crowd. You're going to be disappointed because Judas was there. And you know, if you get your eyes in the crowd, I'll tell you this, you're going to be disappointed. Not just past disappointments, there's going to be some future disappointments too. But not the Lord. He isn't a disappointment. He's the one who's altogether lovely. And so how important that we see no man anymore. Say Jesus only have him as the one who is not only ourselves, but our gathering. Sander. Well, let's turn to 1St Thessalonians 4. And the 16th verse. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise 1St. And we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. Here we have the blessed hope of the Lord's return. And just before we dwell on this for a few moments, I'd just like to mention a couple of other things that the Lord Jesus is to us. And that is in Hebrews chapter 4. It says that we have a great high priest, Jesus, the Son of God, and that he's touched with the feeling of our infirmities. Then we're also told in first John chapter 2 if any man sin we have. An advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. Did you ever have a problem And you wanted very much to see somebody that you felt you could confide in? And somebody else says, well, I'll try to help you. And you said no, I want to speak to that person. They said, well, maybe I could help. You say no, there's just one person I want to speak to. And so there's just one person. And isn't it lovely? We have a great high priest. Who is it? A person we don't have to go to some human they may and not understand this. Every human heart craves understanding and love and we have that in a person. We have it in Christ, this blessed Savior whom we know as our Lord and Savior. He invites us and he says come boldly. Isn't that a lovely word? Boldly. When I read that word, it always makes me think of the way a child comes into his own home. He has. Problem. You can just see the door fly open. It comes in with such confidence. There's no question there's somebody there that cares, somebody that he can talk to, somebody that wants to share his burden. Well, isn't it blessed? We have a high priest. He's touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He was through this world before us. And then when we failed, the same person is our advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous. He'll never. Excuse our failures. Friends sometimes do. Friends sometimes say, well, I don't blame you. Our high, our advocate will never say that. But he will tell us that he paid for the sin at the cross. He will tell us that it cost him a great deal, but he loved us enough to pay for that sin and put it away with his own precious blood. And now he wants to restore us to himself. How blessed to have such an advocate and this is the one who is not going to send someone else. Because when the moment comes for him to return, he's not going to send someone else. He saved us himself. He intends to be everything to us, and he's not going to send someone else to get us. He's coming himself. The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, and it doesn't say. And so shall we ever be in heaven, but so shall we ever be with the Lord. This person whom we've learned to know in our little way down.

Here is the one with whom we're going to spend eternity. He's coming Himself to receive us. Oh, what a blessed hope. What a resource we have in Him. Well, as we read the Scripture, brethren, may we learn more of these blessed things. May we see them for ourselves so that He will mean more to us in our life. He wants to be everything. As it says, Christ is all and in all. And when we get to that? Glorious scene above. I like that verse in the 22nd of Revelation where it says and his servants shall serve him, and they shall see his face, and his name shall be in there for him when we get there. Why, He's going to so fill our hearts, so occupy us that we won't want any other name if somebody had a name written across their forehead. You couldn't mess it. It's in the most prominent place possible, across their forehead. And isn't it lovely that although we've fallen short of our blessed object here, we don't know our Savior as we should. We haven't responded to His claims like we should. When we get there, His name shall be in their forehead. Well, May God by His Spirit make the Lord Jesus more precious to us, so it will affect our lives and so that instead of. Doing what? The whole course of this world is to set self forward. That's the whole course of this world is to set self forward, because that's the whole character of the first man. But the second man, the last Adam, the Lord from heaven,

can we say he's everything to us? Well, May God grant it. Maybe so, in a practical way, in our lives day by day as we wait that moment when the Lord himself shall come.

Conference: 1980, Colossians 4:2

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I could turn first of all the Colossians chapter 4, Colossians chapter 4 and verse two, continue in prayer and watch in the same with Thanksgiving. It's on my heart this afternoon to speak a little bit about prayer, and particularly as we see it brought before us in the life of the Lord Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke, the Lord Jesus is presented to us seven times in prayer, and in each one of these times, I believe there's a different particular context. And in applying it to ourselves, I believe there can be some needed lessons for each one of us. Or how important prayer is in our lives because it's so easy for us just to go on our own way, then when we get into a difficulty, to turn to the Lord and want His answers. But I believe it ought to be to have habitual saying in our lives. But I want to say first of all that there are some things, if I can use the expression, that we should not pray about. Or you say, just what do you mean by saying that? Well, when God speaks in his words, we don't ask him whether we should do the thing or not. If his words speak, the path is clear. We should be obedient. For instance, supposing there is a young person here, perhaps you have found a boy or a girl friend who's not saved, and you say, well, I'm praying about it. Well, you better stop praying because the word of God says. Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. And I can remember when I was a boy that those who were walking to meeting my father said one time he said that there are things that I don't pray about. He said I didn't ask the Lord this morning whether I should remember him in his death. He said I have his word which clearly says this do in remembrance of me. I should be exercised about where he would have me to be gathered, whether it's according to the. His word. But as to whether he would have me remember him, I have his word that speaks simply. And so I want to say, before I start to speak about this, that prayer is never. Thought of omitting the authority of God's precious words. God's precious word is the direction for our pathways. But there are many things in life now that perhaps we don't have a direct word from the Lord, decisions that we have to make and so on. And so you can't turn to an actual chapter and verse that says you better go to the conference at Des Moines. No, you'll have to look to the Lord about something like that. And so there are many things in our lives just like that where we have to turn to the Lord. And I believe those two things are to characterize. Christian life, reading of a word and prayer, and in God's word speak to us. Thy word is a lamp unto my face, and a light unto my path. And then when we have decisions, and when we find something, perhaps even the word, that we don't fully understand, then we can turn to the Lord and ask Him by His Spirit to help us to understand as our brother read to us this morning. If any man will do his will. He shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself. Another comment that was made by Mr. Darby has been a help to me, and that is that prayer is based on the privilege of having common interests with God. No, I think that's a very blessed thing. And I say to you, dear young people, isn't a very blessed thing that you can have common interests with God? Is he interested in your life and mine? Does he care about those decisions and how they affect our lives? Why, of course, he does. He has planned his terrace for you, and so he brings our souls into fellowship with himself. It tells us your Father knows what things you have need of before He asked him let you say, if that is so, why should I ask? Well, I've used a little illustration like this, supposing that you wanted to give a gift to someone. And you decide on a certain thing that you would like to give to that friend, and then one day before you have given the gift. Your friend says, you know, there's something I really like very much and that names of everything that you had already planned to give. All you say is just exactly what I wanted to give them. Isn't there a common mutual joy? Well, you know, in prayer we have the privilege of that common mutual joy. God bringing our souls into communion with himself to look to him for those very things that He knows are for our good and for our blessing. And so it's a very wonderful privilege that we have to be brought into this fellowship with God.

In prayer. I might also mention too that her is brought before us in the Scripture in three particular ways, and these three ways also ought to characterize our Christian life. And we mentioned briefly yesterday about one, and that was the case of Nehemiah. And Nehemiah was the King's cup bearer, standing in the presence of the king, and the king asked him a question, and before he. 3rd It says So I prayed to the God of heaven, and I said unto the king. In other words, Nehemiah's soul was in the attitude of prayer, and I believe that's the force of that verse in First Thessalonians 5. That says. Pray without ceasing. That is, we should, we should always be in the attitude of prayer. So that any Norman, when any given situation arises, we don't feel that there's something between US and the Lord, but that we can just turn to Him and talk to Him as our dearest friend. That's praying without ceasing. And I believe that's a very important aspect of our lives. Keep short accounts with God, though there's nothing between your soul and God, so that at any moment you can just turn and talk to Him and make known your request to Him. And then there is also private prayer. Remember how the Lord Jesus said in Matthew to go into your room and shut your door and talk to your Father who is in secret? Well, we ought to have such times. We find that with Daniel it was three times in a day he went to his room. I don't by any means suppose that there weren't many times that Daniel talked to the Lord when situation arose. Any his work and he asked the Lord about certain matters. I'm sure that was true of him. But there was also this time that he went to his room and prayed. And so you know here young people, I speak especially to you. You have the privilege of doing this and I hope you value it. I hope that there is a little time set apart in your life when you get with the Lord away from the family away from. Just to talk to the Lord. And I think this is a very blessed privilege that we have that we can do just like Daniel. He wouldn't allow anything to rob him of that privilege. Three times in the day. In his case, he went to his room. And then the next instance is assembly prayer. We find that in the close of Acts tells us about the Saints and how when Peter was in prison. It says they were gathered together and praying for all through Peter's release. And so this represents what I believe is a very important thing. We have it brought before us in the second of that. They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship and breaking the bread and prayers. I believe that is assembly prayer. And so we shouldn't allow our private prayer to ever interfere with the fact that we desire to be present at the assembly prayer meeting. Let's just say the assembly prayer meeting, that their long pauses and sometimes I wonder how much space there was. Well, isn't it interesting that the instance that God brings before us in the 12Th chapter of the act where the assembly was gathered together for prayer. There wasn't much faith there either because when Peter got released they wouldn't believe it and when he actually knocked on the door. They denied that he was really there, they said it's the Spirit and he had to continue knocking until finally they let him in. So if the assembly prayer meeting isn't all that you feel it should be, and perhaps we could be exercised about our own part in this too. If it isn't, still, this brings out another thing that I wanted to speak of before I look at the passages in loop, and that is. A wonderful fact. That God is greater than our heart and knoweth all things.

This to me is very, very encouraging in connection with prayer. I might say that confidence is in prayer is the result of obedience and communion. But God answers prayer according to His own heart. And how many of us have proved this? We prayed for something and we had to confess what a lack of faith there was in our prayers. And yet God was greater than our poor doubting heart, and he came. Answered, he's greater than our heart. We missed something by not having confidence, but we didn't miss the answer because he answered according to his own heart. And I think this is a great encouragement for us. If you find, and I often have to say I find a lack of confidence in my heart. I'm encouraged by the fact that God is greater than my heart and knoweth all things. Now just one other thing and that is there is. Fact of allowing anything in our heart, that is anything in our lives that is unjudged, this is a positive hindrance. And so it does say, if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. And it's the same thing to allow something in our hearts that we should be judging, while at the same time asking the Lord for something while we're not desirous to conform our ways into. Pleasing to him. And so I just mentioned briefly these few thoughts in connection with prayer. I say it is a wonderful privilege that God has given is a lovely verse. I believe it's in the Psalms that says. All thou that heareth prayer unto thee shall all flesh come. What a marvelous thing God does to your prayer, and this ought to encourage us. Now to turn to some of these passages in connection with the Lord, the Gospel of Luke, and the third chapter. Luke's Gospel, Chapter 3. And verse 21. Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also. Being baptized. And praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him. And a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art, my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased. How I think this is brought before us. This is the first instance in the Gospel of Luke where we find the Lord Jesus praying, and I believe it's in connection with the commencement of his pathway of service, tells us in the book of the Acts that he was anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power and went about doing good. And now I think this is something that we can apply to ourselves. In the Gospel of Luke, the Lord Jesus is brought before us as the dependent man. I think each of us know that the Gospels have different characters, and so the Gospel of Luke has a character all of its own. It presents the Lord Jesus to us as a dependent man here in this world. Hello. He was and is Lord of all. Elohim is in control of everything. He took his place here among men. He became a perfect pattern for us. He could have accomplished that work upon the cross of. And gone straight back to heaven. That was what was necessary to put away our sins. Why those 33 1/2 years of his blessed pathway, all he was marking out a pass for us. He's an example for us. And more than that, He said it now as it tells us to be a merciful and faithful high priest, so that in every circumstance that we meet in our life, the Lord has trodden. Before us, he was a child, He was a young person, He was an adult, and he walked through this world then apart. He marked out the pathway for us. And so here, this very first time that we have prayer, it's in connection with the Lord at the commencement of his pathway of service. Was it an easy path? All you know as well as I do, it was not. An easy task. It was a difficult path. It was a past that was so trying to him. He said reproach have broken my heart. I am full of heaviness. I look for some to take pity, and there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. Not yet. And we find the Lord Jesus here at the commencement of his pathway in prayer, and I believe as you turn with me to a verse in Galatians.

Galatians chapter 6. Galatians chapter 6. And. Fourth Verse. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another, For every man shall bear his own burden. I believe that this these verses have a reference to what took place when the Levites were taken and given to Aaron for service in the House of the Lord. It tells us that the tribe of Levi was presented to Aaron and his son and each one was appointed to a service and a burden in the House of the Lord. If you ask any Levite, what is your service for the Lord? He could tell you because he could say Aaron told me that this was the service that I was to perform. And what is your burden? Well, he appointed me to this burden. He couldn't so to speak to do somebody elses work that was given to him. Well we haven't got some human that we can go to and say now can you please tell me what my life work is to be? Now we have to go to the Lord. He is the Lord of the harvest. But dear young people, I think especially to you because you're starting out in life. I believe that the Lord has something for each one of you to do and I believe that you're going to miss something in your life if you spend your life without finding out what it is. I believe that the service that He has for you to do, if you can do better than any other person, because if the Lord has called you to it, He has certainly fitted you for it and He will enable you to do that little service and. He often. Protests us, but if he calls us to work, I sometimes said to my wife, when we try to undertake something to the Lord, I said, we don't need to ask ourselves, can we do this? All I need to ask is, does the Lord want us to do it? Because if he wants us to do it, then we become his charge. It says no man goes to work, to warfare at his own charger. When a man joins the army, he becomes the charge of the government. They look after his clothes, they look after his health, they give him the ammunition needed or whatever he is. He's their charge. And isn't it a lovely thing? The Lord has a place for you to fulfill. This is in the body of Christ. Each member has a part to fill and the hand doesn't try to do what the foot is supposed to do unless it's an emergency. Each member has a particular place to fulfill and then each one if those Levi's had a burden to bear or have your young people have you. And I want to know what the Lord wants us to do. Here we find the Lord Jesus at the commencement of His. A pathway in prayer. Have you really asked the Lord to show you what he has for you to do I believe that he can and that he will make it known to you. It tells us I quote again that verse any man will do his will. He shall know and I believe he will show you he may also give you a burden and maybe you may feel that it's an unusual one because. Some of the Levites must have had to carry the boards of the Tabernacle, and some of them seem to have it a lot easier, caring perhaps the pins and other lighter things. Some seem to be occupying a very prominent and important place and carrying the ark on their shoulders, and others may have felt, well, why can't we have the honors that that person is having their right out in the front? Everybody notices them, but the important thing was not. Whether the service puts them in the public eye and these that could be dangerous. But the important thing was had they received that little work to do, have they been appointed to that burden? Every man according to his service and according to his burden. And it tells us that this service was from 25 or 30 years old up to 50. I believe it's simply the fact that it's a good thing for us to.

Before our best years are gone, before our best years and say, oh, I wasted my life. I like to start now. Oh, how much better to start in the time of in the time of King David. It speaks to both and even being in service in the temple at 20 years of age. And I think it shows us that if we're willing, the Lord then will show us. So isn't this a little pattern, the Lord Jesus. Had been baptized, he comes up out of the water and he is praying. He is praying Now I just suggest that in baptism the name of Christ is placed upon us. There's a position in this world of bearing the name of Christ. And So what a what a responsibility. You see a man with a name on his on his shoulder, then you expect to see that he is. Worthy of that name that he bears. And so it's a responsibility to bear the name of Christ in this world. So here we find the Lord Jesus in prayer at the commencement of his pathway of service. And again, I just want to impress upon each one and upon myself that you can discover this. And then isn't this lovely? And then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone and not in another, You say that sounds a little. Selfish. No, it just means that. It just means this, that instead of saying, oh, I wish I was doing what that other brother or sister is doing, you say, oh, I'm, I'm happy because I feel that I'm fulfilling the little service the Lord gave me to do. That's what counts. That's what counts. And you can really be happy in it all. You say it's kind of difficult when you see somebody else have it a lot easier. Oh, but it's the Master whom we serve the town. It's the Master who is the Lord of the harvest. Who died for us? Who has those nail prints in His hands to remind us of what it

cost him to make us his very own? And you are not your own. You are bought with a price. Have you prayed about it? Have you asked the Lord to really show you what He has for you? And if you said, Lord, help me to accept the burden, even if it seems to be a heavy one. Even if someone else seems to have better health and better surroundings and a better meeting to serve in. Lord to be a light for these just where you place me. I believe that's what the Lord would have us to do. Now let's turn to the next one. I believe it's in the 5th chapter of Luke and the 15th verse. Bought so much the more went there a fame abroad of him and great multitude came together to hear and to be healed by him of their. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness and prayed. Well, here's another instance that we find the Lord Jesus in prayer here it tells us in the verse before a fame had spread abroad of him, great multitude came out. Oh, you said that was a fine opportunity. Why did the Lord withdraw himself? Oh, I think this is very lovely. The Lord Jesus never never thought popularity. All that he sought to do was his father's will. Sometimes when people pat us on the back and make a great deal out of us, we can sort of go ahead sort of on the Crest of all the public acclaim and all the people say to flatter us or encourage us or something. And you know, we can go along like that. There is no more dangerous time in our Christian life. Than after the Lord has used us in some way. You know, when the children of Israel had one of the most market remarkable victories that Jerry call and they saw the walls of the city fall down flat. They went up and took the city and they didn't lose a single man. They just got a little bit ****** **. They just thought, oh, that shows that we can handle any other place. Let's go down to the city of AI. It's only a little place and we don't need. Go there because it's going to be easy. Has that ever happened in your life? The Lord is yours, and you've done something for him. And all I can do the next thing. All right, Because I did that. Oh, be careful. They were to get back to Gilgal. And what was Gilgal? Well, Gilgal was the place where the knife was lifted on self. It was the place where it wasn't using a sword on the inhabitant of the land it was taking.

Sword on themselves and it hurt too. And self judgment is very important. And let me say that if the Lord has ever used you and made you a blessing to somebody else, don't forget to pray. Don't forget to get down before the Lord and say Lord, I'm nothing. I couldn't have done this alone. And I can't hear the next thing unless I get help from above and. Turn this lovely when the Lord Jesus. There was a frame of him spread abroad and great multitudes came out. He was draws into the wilderness and there prayed. He's the perfect man. He's the example for us. In the Gospel of Luke we have a somewhat similar situation. And they came to the Lord that he said, all men seek for thee. Oh, you say I'm pretty popular. Everybody's after me. What did the Lord say? He said. Let us go into the next towns also, for therefore am I sent. He didn't seek public acclaim, says in Philippians chapter two. He made himself of no reputation. Oh, it's dangerous for us to seek a reputation of any kind when the Lord of glory in this world, the only one who had a right to a reputation, took the law's place and made himself of no reputation. So I believe we could say that in this second instance in the Lord's life, we see an example for us set before us, that the Lord Jesus as the dependent man here in this world, he didn't seek the acclaim of the world. He sought his Father's approval. That's what counted. And so he goes into his Father's presence, we know, with the Lord Jesus. His communion with his father was always perfect. It was absolute with us. It's not always so. But I say this is a pattern for us and I believe a very needful pattern. So if there's anything that has taken place in your life where you feel the Lord has used you, are perhaps giving you a measure of popularity and people are beginning to pat you on the back, be sure to get on your knees. You need it. If the Lord is going to continue to use you and bless you, be dependent upon Him. The Lord Jesus said without me. He can do nothing. And so we have another case now if we turn on in the 6th chapter of Luke. The 6th chapter of Luke and the 12Th verse passed in those days that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples, and of them he chose 12. Whom also he named apostles. Well, we know that this was at the time when the Lord Jesus chose the 12 apostles who were to accompany him and his pathway of service. And we find those 12 apostles with the Lord all through right up to the very night of his betrayal, those 12 apostles were with him. And now I'd like to apply this in a practical way to ourselves. Here, young people, there's no more important decision in your life than who is going to be your partner, who is going to be? The one who is going to share a life with you, that is the most important thing. Don't treat it lightly, don't allow yourself just to get carried away. With some observation that you've made that you haven't been before the Lord about it. Isn't it remarkable that in this instance we find the Lord Jesus all night in prayer to God, All night in prayer to God? And if you only realize that the partner whom you have in your life is going to make you or break you in every way. Naturally and spiritually, you will never really have Fulfill as you should what the Lord would have you to fulfill. Unless you have the right partner in life and the Lord Jesus here before he chose those 12 disciples, or you say that the Lord knew everything. Why did he do that? To be an example for us, to show us what an important thing a decision like this is in our lives. And then perhaps I could apply it in another way.

Too. Perhaps you're going to do something in the Lord's service. And there's someone who you'd like to have to be a helper with you. Perhaps some of the ones who have tried to do something for the Lord can follow what I'm saying. You ask somebody to help you, but you didn't pray enough about it. And that person wasn't really a helper at all. That person actually hindered you, wasn't really A1 mind with you in what you wanted to do for the Lord. Oh, how very important it is. Those who are our associates in life. The psalmist felt something of this. And in the 119th Psalm, I think it's the 63rd verse, he says, I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts. And so I wish to say to you that it's the matter of a partner. Be sure to pray a lot about it, look into God's Word and be sure that this one whom you would like to have to share life with you. Is one who fears the Lord who wants to please him that you have common interests in life. Oh, it's so important and here as I say we find the Lord Jesus spending the whole night in prayer to God. So I want to just impress upon you in those momentous decisions of your life to be much before the Lord and to be sure that you have sought his mind because. It surely is so important and the Bible says to you know. A prudent wife is from the Lord. It isn't just that you had the wisdom to choose yourself. Or the girl had the wisdom the brother read to us this morning that Rebecca was asked wilt thou go and she answered, I will go. So whether it's the boy and making the chores of the girl responding to the choice all be much before the Lord that you would have the one whom the Lord would have you to do and if have for a partner and then too, if it's a service to the Lord pretty much about who should help you. You will find that whatever you undertake for the Lord, it's going to be so much happier if you have the right one with you. You remember how Paul had Barnabas with him and Barnabas wasn't of one mind. And so there was a little bit of bad feeling when that kind of broke up. And Barnabas went back and took his, took his nephew Mark, and they went off and sailed to Cyprus. And there was a little bit of bad feeling that came from that. And then the next time it tells us that when Paul chose Silas, he was. Amended by the brethren commanded. In other words, others recognized that he had made a happy choice. We don't read in one single clash between between Paul and Silas. Lovely to see. Lord can help you even in those kind of decisions in your Christian life. And now let's turn to another one in the ninth chapter of Luke. The 18th verse and it came to pass as he was alone praying. His disciples were with him, and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am? The answering said John the Baptist, and some Elias and others say that one of the old prophets is risen again. He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering, said the Christ of God. And he strictly charged them, and commanded them to tell no man that thing, saying, The Son of man must suffer many things. And be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes. And be slain and be raised the third day. Well, here we find the Lord Jesus with the shadow of the cross before him. He knew just exactly what he was going to have to bear in the

rejection of the nation. He was in the pathway that his Father had marked out for him. Because it tells us that he said, I do always those things that please him, but were there. In the path, yes, and there will be in yours too if you decide to follow the Lord. There is no promise that it's going to be an easy path. In fact it tells us in the world ye shall have tribulation. Another verse says all they that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution and perhaps there are times when.

In following the Lord, the difficulties and trials could be totally overwhelmed. Some have got so overwhelmed by the difficulties that they've thrown up their hands and say, well, I did want to follow the Lord, but oh, it's just too hard a path. And we have seen many dear young people who've started out well, and we don't question their zeal and we don't question their desire. But the difficulties were insurmountable and they are to me. They are to you too, if you're trying to follow the Lord. How did the Lord Jesus meet all this rejection and shame? Now that he bore along his pathway and finally to be taken and crucified, the very people that he had come to bless, shouting away with him, crucify him, and handing him over to the Gentiles to be nailed to that cross, how could the Lord Jesus endure all this? It says he was alone praying. He was alone praying. And you know, I want to say this too, perhaps. You have sought to do what we've just been talking about. You said I I've tried to do the little service the Lord has for me. I'm trying to walk in the path that He has marked out for me and with the partner that He has for me. But all the problems and difficulties are just overwhelming. Are you praying? Are you praying? The Lord knows all about those problems. He knows. He knows every one of them, and as we sing in a little hymn sometimes, the young people. The Savior can solve every problem. There is nothing too hard for Jesus. There's nothing that he cannot do. There's no problem, there's no difficulty That is so great that the Lord would have to say you just that's too much. You better turn back. Oh no, he is able. And so if you are facing and I as I look into faces here, I know that there are young people who just said, oh. These two or three days, but when I go back, when I go back, I can just see mountains. I can just see all kinds of things turning up. Isn't this lovely? The Lord Jesus was alone praying. It's grand to be in company. You really get a boost for your Christian life when you're with other Christians and they sort of help you along. But you do have to meet some difficulties alone. Every man shall bear his own burden, and some things you just have to meet alone. And you just have to get before the Lord as our perfect example, the Lord Jesus did. He's alone, praying, and then he tells the disciples this is the kind of a pathway it is. It's not an easy one. Paul was careful to tell the early believers about this, too. He didn't paint out an easy, pleasant pathway for them. He didn't say it's all fun. No, he said we must through much tribulation, enter into the Kingdom of God. And so isn't this very beautiful to see the Lord Jesus alone praying, then talking to his disciples and saying, I know how difficult the pathway is. I know just exactly what's ahead. We don't always know what's ahead. What the Lord does, the Lord does. Maybe it's good for us at times that we don't know what's ahead. We just would cringe before some of the things that might come. But he knows and the Lord knew it all, but he pressed on. Nothing would turn him back. Now in this same chapter we have it again in the 28th verse of this 9th of the Luke says here. 28 Verse. And it came to pass, about an 8 days after these sayings, he took Peter and John, and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening. And Beholder appeared with him two men, which were Moses and Elias, who appeared in glory. And spake of his deceased, which he should accomplish. At Jerusalem. Well, here we have again. The Lord Jesus went up into a mountain to pray.

And I believe the reason this comes in here is what is it that will sustain us? When we have to meet these difficulties, the Lord had just acquainted the disciples with the fact that He was going to be rejected. If I had read the intervening verses, you would see that he was telling them. That they were going to have to take up their cross and follow Him. And the 26th verse. Maybe I could read it. For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words of Him, shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's, and in the holy angels. He had acquainted them with the fact that it was difficult, but He warned them not to be ashamed. It says, Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord. Near of me his minister. Will you say what will sustain you at a time like that? Well, here we find the Lord Jesus went up into the mountain to pray. What will sustain you when it seems that the difficulties of the way are overwhelming? Well, we can pray and ask the Lord for grace, but God does more than that. What happened here? Oh, there was a whole Vista of the coming glory that was opened up, and the Lord Jesus, the fashion of his countenance was changed. Doesn't it remind you something about? Steven there he was before the council and they were all against him. What made his face like the face of an Angel? He said. I see the glory of God. And Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And so instead of just looking at the difficulties, they're real. We can't meet them in our own strength. Oh, what's ahead of us, brethren? What's ahead of us? Well, here was a little preview. And Peter speaks of this in his epistle when he's talking about what the Christians had to go through in his epistle, he said. He said. And this voice which came from heaven, we heard when we were with him. In the excellent glory, in other words, Paul, Peter never lost sight of that vision. It remained in his soul. And as he found difficulties, he was in prison, as we said, and the Lord released him. Many difficulties came in his life. But he said I've never lost sight of that. What I saw on the Mount of Transfiguration, he said, that just still shines before me and it sustains me and. According to history, he was crucified upside down. What was it that sustained him? All that glory is shining before Him, and I wish to say that this is the only thing that will stay sustained us. In our difficulties do we pray and say, Lord? Help me to have my eyes upon Thee. Help me to be looking, so that I can say in the words a little hymn. The glory shines before me. I cannot linger here, though clouds may darken. Or me. My Father's house is near. So here we find the Lord Jesus in prayer just after announcing all these difficulties and hardships to the disciples. But he's there on that mountain, and he's transfigured. His face shines as the sun, his Raymond his white and glistening. And what were they talking about? They spoke of his deceased that he should accomplish at Jerusalem. Or we can always, shall I say we can always see God's love revealed at the cross. We may not always see his love in our circumstances, but we can always see his love revealed at Calvary. Sometimes there may be somebody here and you're going through deep waters and the devil whispers, does God love you that he lets all this happen? Oh, your answer is I know he loves me. He sent his son to die for me. He settled the question of my sins so that I could be an eternal glory. It's like casting the tree into the bitter waters. It makes them sweet. And so here in this occasion where we find the Lord praying not so much in facing the difficulties, but rather that which lifts us above the difficulties. And we need to ask the Lord. Perhaps you have. I've asked the Lord. Oh, help me to have. Before me, the reality of all its mind in Christ. Danger. It helps you to go through some of the things that if you just look at them, they almost seem overwhelming. Well, may that view of coming glory be before us, says in Proverbs.

Where where no vision is, the people perish. You lose sight of that. Why? You just can't. You can't stand all the difficulties and problems that come by. Now let's turn over to the next chapter, the 11Th chapter. Well, that was the 9th. It's the 11Th chapter. And the first verse. And it came to pass that as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done. As in earth, so in heaven give us day by day Our Daily Bread. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Oh, you say, I didn't know the Christians prayed the Lord's Prayer? Well, I'll tell you why I read it. The Lord was praying here, and the disciples asked him to pray. Did you ever feel you needed the Lord to teach

you how to pray? Well, it says, you know, we know not what we should pray for as we ought. Now we don't pray in these actual words, brethren, but I would suggest that this lays before us a pattern. And while we're not praying for the bringing in of the Kingdom, but rather looking for the Lord's coming, I believe if I just look at a few points, you can see here. That there is really a pattern prayer set before us, and I think sometimes we don't know how to pray. Because we haven't laid hold of this pattern that the Lord brought before the disciples. I say again, I'm not suggesting you use these actual words because that was a special need at that time that the disciples were praying about. You have different needs. We're living in the dispensation of grace. But it is a model Now. Just notice a few things about it. I believe there are seven points in this prayer that are very instructive. Our Father, which art in heaven. He realized that God's your father. No, I'm not flying it now on a practical way. When you come and talk, how are you talking to God as if he's at a great distance from you and you have no feeling of nearness? It was brought out in the morning, in the meeting this morning. How wonderful. God is my Father. I can talk to one who knows and cares about me. He has a Father's heart for me. When you start to pray, do you talk to God in the consciousness that He loves you more than your human father and that He is the one who? Son to die for you, our Father, which art in heaven, then here the next one, hallowed be thy name. Always pray reverently. Always pray reverently. Never be flippant in your prayers. Talk to the Lord with reverence, because we need to remember the greatness of the person to whom we're talking. We're living in an age of irreverence, we find. Sometimes even prayers are characterized by a lack of reverence. The Lord was teaching reverence here. Hallowed be thy name. Always talk reverently to the Lord. And then thy Kingdom come. Do you see everything messed up in this world? Don't you have a longing for the time when it's going to be set right? Don't you? Yes, of course. I'm sure every Christian longs for the time when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. Now I know that our hope is the Lord's coming, and he's going to take us out before this happens. But do you expect the president of the United States or do I expect the Prime Minister? Canada to set things right. No, I don't, I don't, but I do expect that there is one who's going to and that gives me peace amidst all the unrest and confusion. So when I talk to God in prayer, if the things that are going on bother me, I can say, well, it's all going to be set right another day when my Savior has his rightful place and then the next one. Thy will be done. As in heaven, so in earth. Is this a real desire of our hearts? When we pray, do we really want His will? Or do we want him to change things and make them according to our will? Or do we really want His will? And so I think this is a very important thing in our prayers that we wouldn't want to ask the Lord to give us anything that wasn't according to his will. And so thy will be done. Oh, you know, it's done in heaven, but what about on earth? Do we desire it?

Dear young people, do we really want the Lord's will if that boyfriend is not the one for you? And that girlfriend's not the right one for you. Do you really want them? You couldn't really in your bottom of your heart want them unless it was among the Lord wanted for you. And so in our decisions, let's remember this little model. Thy will be done. And then give us day by day Our Daily Bread. Well, there's a lot of daily needs. Maybe Brad, maybe a job. Maybe where you're going to live, Maybe a house. There's a lot of daily needs, but this is a pattern. Do we try to solve all our daily needs ourselves or do we turn to the Lord? Do we turn to him to solve? They had asked the Lord to teach them how to pray. So he's teaching them here. He's showing them. And we don't perhaps ask the Lord for the daily bread. Perhaps in our plenty we think, well, I think we have enough in our in our kitchen, but we do have a lot of daily needs. If it's not Brad, and it might be bread someday too. It was for our brother Willis when he was in the camp in China. We never know when it's going to be that way, but we have daily needs. Let's ask the Lord about them. And then to forgive us our sins, as we for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us. Well, we know the Lord has forgiven our sins, but I think we can search our own hearts and ask ourselves when we pray. Do we have any bad feeling toward anybody? In the whole world, do we have any bad feeling? Is there somebody that we haven't forgiven all? You said they did such a mean thing. Have we forgiven them? Have we forgiven them? If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. And so here's something that we need to remember. Never, never make intercession against the people of God. That's the only failure of an Old Testament St. recorded in the New Testament. It says Elijah made intercession against Israel, make intercession for the Saints. Did somebody do something mean? Pray for them, don't pray against him, pray for him, pray for him, and maybe the Lord will come in in a remarkable way. So I believe there's a little thought here. And then last of all, lead us not into temptation, in other words. Are we able to meet the situations of life and our own strength? Can we say, well, that's one situation I can handle. I can go out with friends. I know how far to go with them. I wouldn't. I wouldn't do the questionable things. I'll be careful. Be careful. Lead us not into temptation. Peter thought he was strong enough. Maybe all of us at times have thought we were strong enough. But this is a wholesome prayer. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Only the Lord can keep us. We don't know what we do. When we're placed in situations, if the Lord didn't help us, isn't it a beautiful model for us? I'm not suggesting that we start repeating the Lords prayer, but I am saying we have a little model for us and may the Lord grant that we'll bear this in mind. The Lord was praying and now he taught them how to pray. Now there's just one more just before we close in the 22nd chapter. 22nd chapter and the 44th verse. 41St verse Pardon me. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down and prayed, saying. Father, if thou be willing remove this cup from me, nevertheless not my will but thine be done. And there appeared an Angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him, and being in an agony, he prayed more earnestly. And his sweat was, as it were, great drops of blood falling down to the crown. Well, this is the last instance where we have the Lord in prayer. We're all well acquainted with this very, very solemn occasion. The shadow of the cross. What it would cost the Lord Jesus to bear our sins. What it would cost him to be forsaken of God. All this and all its horror and reality was before him. But we find the Lord Jesus saying not my will but thine be done. And there are times when.

We'll never, never, never have to face what the Lord Jesus faced. We'll never have to bear sin if we're believers. He bore that for us. But I do believe, dear friends, that there are times in our lives when there is some very, very difficult situation that faces us, something that, shall I say, we actually sweat about. We really. Say, oh, this is just overwhelming. This is just too much for me. And here we find the precious Savior three times in the agony of prayer, but he ever sought his Father's will. He said he wanted to do his Father's will. He said, not my will, but thine be done. Oh, I think it's beautiful. Perhaps we could characterize this one by. Perfect submission, perfect submission, submission in love because. He was going to do the Father's will for our blessing. Oh, May God grant that pattern of the pathway of the blessed Lord Jesus may be an encouragement to us. And I'm just going to add one thing that's not found here in the Gospel of Luke, but I have enjoyed it very much that in one of the other gospels, I've forgotten which one. I think maybe it's Mark, but I'm not sure when it speaks of this. Event in the Lord's life in the Garden of Gethsemane. He says he went away again. And prayed, saying the same words. You know, that's been a comfort to me. Because sometimes you think, oh, the Lord heard me say that there's no use repeating it. Isn't it wonderful? Our perfect example when he prayed. And there are times when situations just overwhelming. And I guess you've done it too. You've said the same words, You've said the same words and the Lord understood it was proper, it was right. Our perfect example did that. But the Lord knows the burdens that come into our hearts. But isn't it lovely? That he's walked the whole pathway before us, President. He knows every situation and we find him as a dependent man in every situation of his blessed precious pathway in prayer seven times, meeting all the things that you and I have to meet. Does he understand? Yes. He's a merciful and faithful high priest. Let's not forget the pray.

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Like the turn first of all to Colossians chapter 4. Colossians chapter 4 and verse 2. Continue in prayer and watch in the same with Thanksgiving. Was on my heart this afternoon to speak a little bit about prayer and particularly as we see it brought before us in the life of the Lord Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke, the Lord Jesus is presented to us seven times in prayer, and in each one of these times I believe there is a different particular context. And in applying it to ourselves, I believe there can be some needed lesson for each one of us. Well, how important prayer is in our lives because it's so easy for us just to go on our own way. Then when we get into a difficulty to turn to the Lord and want His answer. But I believe it ought to be the habitual thing in our lives. But I want to say first of all, that there are some things, if I can use the expression, that we should not pray about. Or you say, just what do you mean by saying that? Well, when God speaks in His Word, we don't ask Him whether we should do the thing or not. If His Word speaks, the path is clear. We should be obedient. For instance, supposing there is a young person here, perhaps you have found a boy or a girlfriend who's not saved. And you say, well, I'm praying about it. Well, you better stop praying because the word of God says be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. And I can remember when I was a boy that those who were walking to meeting my father said one time he said there are things that I don't pray about. He said, I didn't ask the Lord this morning whether I should remember him in his death. He said I have his word which clearly says this do in remembrance of me. I should be exercised about where he would have me to be gathered, whether it's according to the truth of his word. But as to whether he would have me remember him, I have his word that speaks simply. And so I want to say before I start to speak about this, that prayer is never with the thought of omitting the authority of God's precious word, God's. Precious word is the direction for our pathway, but there are many things in life now that perhaps we don't have a direct word from the Lord, decisions that we have to make and so on. And so you can't turn to an actual chapter and verse that says you better go to the conference of Des Moines. No, you'll have to look to the Lord about something like that. And so there are many things in our lives just like that where we have to turn to the Lord. And I believe those. Two things ought to characterize our Christian life, reading of the Word and prayer, letting God's words speak to us. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. And then when we have decisions, and when we find something, perhaps even the word, that we don't fully understand, then we can turn to the Lord and ask Him by His Spirit to help us to understand as our brother. Read to us this morning, if any. Man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself. Another comment that was made by Mr. Darby has been a help to me and that is that. Prayer is based on the privilege of having common interests with God. No, I think that's a very blessed thing. And I say to you, dear young people, isn't a very blessed thing that you can have common interests with God? Is he interested in your life and mine? Does he care about those decisions and how they affect our lives? Why, of course he does. He has planned. He careth for you. And so he brings our souls into fellowship with himself, it tells. Because us your father knows what things ye have need of before ye ask him whether you say if that is so, why should I ask? Well, I've used a little illustration like this. Supposing that you wanted to give a gift to someone and you decide on a certain thing that you would like to give to that friend. And then one day before you have given the gift, your friend says, you know there's something I'd really like very much and it names the very. Saying that you had already planned to give all you say. It's just exactly what I wanted to give them. Isn't there a common mutual joy? Well, you know, in prayer we have the privilege of that common mutual joy. God bringing our souls into communion with himself to look to Him for those very things that he knows are for our good and for our blessing. And so it's a very wonderful privilege that we have to be brought into this fellowship.

With God in prayer. I might also mention, too, that prayer is brought before us in the Scripture in three particular ways, and these three ways also ought to characterize our Christian life. Yesterday about 1. And that was the case of Nehemiah. And Nehemiah was the King's cup bearer, standing in the presence of the king. And the king asked him a question, and before he answered, it says, So I prayed to the God of heaven, and I said unto the king. In other words, Nehemiah's soul was in the attitude of prayer. And I believe that's the force of that verse in First Thessalonians 5 that says. Because pray without ceasing. That is, we should, we should always be in the attitude of prayer so that at any moment when any given situation arises, we don't feel that there's something between US and the Lord, but that we can just turn to Him and talk to Him as our dearest friend. That's praying without ceasing. And I believe that's a very important aspect of our lives. Keep short accounts with God. So there's nothing. Between your soul and God, so that at any moment you can just turn and talk to Him and make known your request to Him. And then there is also private prayer. We remember how the Lord Jesus said in Matthew to go into your room and shut your door and talk to your Father who is in secret. Well, we ought to have such times. We find that with Daniel it was three times in a day he went to his room. I don't by any means suppose that there weren't many times that Daniel talked to the Lord when situation arose in his. In his work, and he asked the Lord about certain matters. I'm sure that was true of him. But there was also this time that he went to his room and prayed. And so, you know, dear young people, I speak especially to you. You have the privilege of doing this and I hope you value it. I hope that there is a little time set apart in your life when you get with the Lord. Away from the family, away from others, just to talk to the Lord. And I think this is a very blessed privilege that we have that we can do just like Daniel. He wouldn't allow anything to rob him of that privilege. 3 times in the day. In his case, he went to his room. And then the next instance is assembly prayer. We find that in the 12TH of Acts tells us about the Saints and how when Peter was in prison, it says they were gathered together and praying for Peter's release. And so this represents what I believe is a very important thing. We have it brought before us in the second of Acts. They continued steadfastly in the apostles. And fellowship and breaking of bread and prayers. I believe that is assembly prayer. And so we shouldn't allow our private prayer to ever interfere with the fact that we desire to be present at the assembly prayer meeting. Well, you say the assembly prayer meeting there long pauses and sometimes I wonder how much faith there was. Well, isn't it interesting that the instance that God brings before us. In the 12TH chapter of. Acts where the assembly was gathered together for prayer. There wasn't much faith there either because when Peter got released, they wouldn't believe it. And when he actually knocked on the door, they denied that he was really there. They said it's his spirit and he had to continue knocking until finally they let him in. So if the assembly prayer meeting isn't all that you feel it should be, and perhaps we could be. Exercised about our own part in this too. If it isn't still, this brings out another thing that I wanted to speak of before I look at the passages in Luke and that is the wonderful fact that God is greater than our hearts and knoweth all things. This to me is very, very encouraging in connection with prayer. I might say that confidence is in prayer is the result of obedience and communion. But. God answers prayer according to his own heart, and how many of us have proved this? We prayed for something and we had to confess what a lack of faith there was in our prayers. And yet God was greater than our poor doubting hearts, and he came in and answered. He's greater than our hearts. We miss something by not having confidence, but we didn't miss the answer because he answered according to his own heart. And I think this is a great.

Great encouragement for us if you find, and I often have to say I find a lack of confidence in my heart. I'm encouraged by the fact that God is greater than my heart and knoweth all things. Now just one other thing and that is there is a solemn fact of allowing anything in our hearts that is anything in our lives that is unjudged. This is a positive hindrance. And so it does say if I regard iniquity in my heart. The Lord will not hear me. And it's a solemn thing to allow something in our hearts that we should be judging, while at the same time asking the Lord for something while we're not desirous to conform our ways into what is pleasing to Him. And so I just mentioned briefly these few thoughts in connection with prayer. I say it is a wonderful privilege that God has given. There's a lovely verse, I believe it's in the Psalms that says. O thou that hearest prayer unto thee shall. All flesh come. What a marvelous thing God does here. Prayer. And this ought to encourage us now to turn to some of these passages in connection with the Lord. The gospel of Luke in the third chapter. Luke's Gospel, Chapter 3. And verse 21. Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also being baptized. And praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him. And a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art, my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased. I think this is brought before us. This is the first instance in the Gospel of Luke where we find the Lord Jesus praying. And I believe it's in connection with the commencement of his pathway of service tells us in the book of the Acts that he was anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power and went about doing good. And now I think this is something that we can apply to ourselves. In the Gospel of Luke, the Lord Jesus is brought. Before us as the dependent man. I think each of us know that the Gospels have different characters, and so the Gospel of Luke has a character all of its own. It presents the Lord Jesus to us as the dependent man here in this world. Although he was and is Lord of all, although he is in control of everything, He took his place here among men. He became a perfect pattern for us. He could have accomplished that work. Upon the cross of Calvary and gone straight back to Heaven. That was what was necessary to put away our sins. Why those 33 1/2 years of His blessed pathway? All He was marking out a path for us. He's an example for us. And more than that, He's fitted now as it tells us, to be a merciful and faithful High Priest. So that in every circumstance that we meet in our life, the Lord has trodden the past before. For us, he was a child, He was a young person, He was an adult, and he walked through this world sent apart. He marked out the pathway for us. And so here, this very first time that we have prayer, it's in connection with the Lord at the commencement of his pathway of service. Was it an easy path? Oh, you know as well as I do, it was not an easy path. It was a difficult path. It was a path. Was so trying to him, he said, reproach hath broken my heart. I am full of heaviness. I look for some to take pity, and there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. Yet we find the Lord Jesus here at the commencement of his pathway in prayer, and I believe if you turn with me to a verse in Galatians. Galatians, chapter 6. Galatians, chapter 6.

And. The fourth verse. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another, For every man shall bear his own burden. I believe that this these verses have a reference to what took place when the Levites were taken and given to Aaron for service in the House of the Lord. It tells us that the tribe of Levi was presented to Aaron and his sons and each one was appointed to a service and a burden in the House of the Lord. If you asked any Levite what is your service for the Lord, he could. Tell you because he could say, Aaron told me that this was the service that I was to perform and what is your burden? Well, he appointed me to this burden. He couldn't, so to speak, do somebody else's work that was given to him. Well, we haven't got some human that we can go to and say now you please tell me what my life work is to be. Now we have to go to the Lord. He is the Lord of the harvest, but. Dear young people, I speak especially to you because you're starting out in life. I believe that the Lord has something for each one of you to do, and I believe that you're going to miss something in your life if you spend your life without finding out what it is. I believe that the service that He has for you to do, that you can do better than any other person, because if the Lord has called you to it, He has certainly fitted you for it and He will enable you to do that little service. And he often. One tests us, but if he calls us to a work, I've sometimes said to my wife, when we try to undertake something to the Lord, I said we don't need to ask ourselves can we do this? All we need to ask is does the Lord want us to do it? Because if he wants us to do it, then we become his charge. It says no man goes to work to warfare at his own charges. When a man joins the army, he becomes the charge of the government they look after. Clothes say look after his health, they give him the ammunition needed or whatever he is. He's their charge. And isn't it a lovely thing? The Lord has a place for you to fulfill. Just as in the body of Christ, each member has a part to fill, and the hand doesn't try to do what the foot is supposed to do unless it's an emergency. Each member has a particular place to fulfill. And then each one if those Levites had a burden to bear. All, dear young people, that you and I want to know what the Lord wants us to do. Here we find the Lord Jesus at the commencement of His pathway in prayer. Have you really asked the Lord to show you what He has for you to do? I believe that He can, and that He will make it known to you. It tells us. I quote again that verse. If any man will do his will, he shall know. And I believe he will show you. He may also give you a burden, and maybe you may feel that it's an unusual one because some of the Levites must have had to carry the boards of the Tabernacle, and some of them seem to have it a lot easier, carrying perhaps the pins and other lighter things. Some seem to be occupying a very prominent and important place and carrying the ark on their shoulders, and others may have felt, well, why can't we have the honors that that person is having? They're right out in the front, Everybody notices them, but the important thing was not whether the service put them in the public eye. Indeed, that could be dangerous, but the important thing was. Had they received that little work to do? Had they been appointed to that burden? Every man according to his service and according to his burden, and it tells us that this service was from 25 or 30 years old up to 50. I believe it's simply the fact that it's a good thing for us to learn this before our best years are gone. Before our best years and say oh I wasted my life, I'd like to start now. Oh, how much better to start in the time of in the time of King David. It speaks about them even being in service in the temple at 20 years of age. And I think it shows us that if we're willing, the Lord then will show us. So isn't this a little pattern? The Lord Jesus had been baptized. He comes up out of the water and he is praying. He is praying Now. I just suggest that in baptism, the name of Christ.

Is placed upon us. There's a position in this world of bearing the name of Christ. And So what a what a responsibility. You see a man with a name on his on his shoulder, then you expect to see that he is worthy of that name that he bears. And so it's a responsibility to bear the name of Christ in this world. So here we find the Lord Jesus in prayer at the commencement of his. Pathway of service. And again, I just want to impress upon each one and upon myself that you can discover this. And then isn't this lovely? And then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone and not in another? You say that sounds a little bit selfish. No, it just means this. It just means this, that instead of saying, oh, I wish I was doing what that other brother or sister is doing. You say, oh, I'm. I'm happy because I feel that I'm fulfilling the little service the Lord gave me to do. That's what counts. That's what counts. And you can really be happy in it. Oh, you say it's kind of difficult when you see somebody else have it a lot easier. Oh, but it's the Master whom we serve that counts. It's the Master who is the Lord of the harvest who died for us, who has those nail prints in His hands to remind us of what it cost him. To make us his very own. And ye are not your own. Ye are bought with a price. Have you prayed about it? Have you asked the Lord to really show you that what he has for you? And if you said, Lord, help me to accept the burden, even if it seems to be a heavy one, even if someone else seems to have better health and better surroundings and a better meeting to serve in, just help me Lord, to be a light for thee, just where you've placed me. I believe that's what the Lord would have us to do. Now let's turn to the next one. I believe it's in the 5th chapter of Luke. And the 15th verse. But so much the more went there of fame

abroad of him, and great multitudes came together to hear and to be healed by him of their infirmities, and he withdrew himself into the wilderness and prayed Well. Here's another instance that we find the Lord Jesus in prayer here. It tells us in the verse before. A fame had spread abroad of him. Great multitudes came out. Oh, you said that was a fine opportunity. Why did the Lord withdraw himself? Oh, I think this is very lovely. The Lord Jesus never, never sought popularity. All that he sought to do was his Father's will. Sometimes when people pat us on the back and make a great deal out of us, we can sort of go ahead sort of on the Crest of all the public acclaim and all that people say to. Flatterers or encourage us? Encourage us or something? And you know, we can go along like that. There is no more dangerous time in our Christian life than after the Lord has used us in some way. You know, when the children of Israel had one of the most remarkable victories at Jericho, and they saw the walls of the city fall down flat, they went up and took the city, and they didn't lose a single man. They just got a little bit puffed up. They just thought. That shows that we can handle any other place. Let's go down to the city of AI. It's only a little place and we don't need to even all go there because it's going to be easy. Has that ever happened in your life? The Lord has used you and you've done something for him, and you say, oh, I can do the next thing. All right, because I did that all. Be careful. They were to get back to Gilgal. And what was Gilgal? Well, Gilgal was the place where the knife was lifted on self. It was the place where it wasn't using a sword on the inhabitant of the land. It was taking and lifting the sword on themselves. And it hurt too. And self judgment is very important and let. Say that if the Lord has ever used you and made you a blessing to somebody else, don't forget to pray, don't forget to get down before the Lord and say, Lord, I'm nothing. I couldn't have done this alone, and I can't do the next thing unless I get help from above. And so in this lovely when the Lord Jesus, there was a fame of him spread abroad and great multitudes came out, He withdraws into the wilderness.

US and there prayed. He's the perfect man. He's the example for us in the Gospel of Luke we have a somewhat similar situation and they came to the Lord that he said and said all men seek for thee. Oh, you say I'm pretty popular. Everybody's after me. What did the Lord say? He said let us go into the next. Towns also for therefore am I sent he didn't seek public acclaim. 1000 Philippians chapter 2 He made himself of no reputation. Oh, it's dangerous for us to seek a reputation of any kind when the Lord of glory in this world, the only one who had a right to a reputation, took the lowest place and made himself of no reputation. So I believe we could say that in this second instance in the Lord's life, we see an example for us set before us that the Lord. Jesus as the dependent man here in this world, he didn't seek the acclaim of the world. He sought his Father's approval. That's what's counted. And so he goes into his Father's presence. We know with the Lord Jesus, his communion with his Father was always perfect. It was absolute. With us. It's not always so, but I say this is a pattern for us and I believe a very needful pattern. So if there's anything that has taken. Place in your life where you feel the Lord has used you, or perhaps given you a measure of popularity and people are beginning to patch you on the back. Be sure to get on your knees. You need it. If the Lord is going to continue to use you and bless you, be dependent upon Him. The Lord Jesus said without me He can do nothing. And so we have another case now if we turn on in the 6th chapter of Luke. The 6th chapter of Luke and the. 12TH verse. And it came to pass in those days that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples, and of them he chose 12 whom also he named apostles. Well, we know that this was at the time when the Lord Jesus chose the 12 apostles who were to accompany him and his pathway of service. And we find those 12 apostles with the Lord all through right up to the very night of his betrayal, those 12 apostles were with him. And now I'd like to apply this in a practical way to ourselves. Dear young people, there's no more important decision in your life than who is going to be your partner. Who is going to be the one who is going to share a life with you? That is the most important thing. Don't treat it lightly. Don't allow yourself just to get carried away with some observation that you've made that you haven't been before the Lord about it. Isn't it remarkable that in this instance we find the Lord Jesus? All night in prayer to God. All night in prayer to God. And if you only realize that the partner whom you have in your life is going to make you or break you in every way, naturally and spiritually, you will never really fulfill as you should what the Lord would have you to fulfill unless you have the right partner in life. And the Lord Jesus here before He chose those. 12 disciples. Oh, you save it. The Lord knew everything. Why did he do that? To be an example for us, to show us what an important thing a decision like this is in our lives. And then perhaps I could apply it in another way too. Perhaps you're going to do something in the Lord's service and there's someone who you'd like to have to be a helper with you. Perhaps some of the ones who have tried to do something for the Lord. Can follow what I'm saying. You ask somebody to help you but you didn't pray enough about it. And that person wasn't really a helper at all. That person actually hindered you, wasn't really A1 mind with you in what you wanted to do for the Lord. Oh how very important it is of those who are are associates in life. The psalmist felt something of this and in the 119th Psalm, I think it's the 63rd verse, he says.

I am a companion of all them that fear thee. And of them that keep thy precepts. And so I wish to say to you that it's the matter of a partner. Be sure to pray a lot about it. Look into God's Word and be sure that this one whom you would like to have to share life with you is one who fears the Lord, who wants to please him that you have common interests in life. Oh, it's so important. And here, as I say, we find the Lord Jesus spending the whole night. In prayer to God. So I want to just impress upon you in those momentous decisions of your life to be much before the Lord and to be sure that you have sought his mind because it surely is so important. And the Bible says too, you know, a prudent wife is from the Lord. It isn't just that he had the wisdom to choose yourself. Or the girl had the wisdom the brother read to us this morning. Hearing that Rebecca was asked wilt thou go and she answered I will go. So whether it's the boy in making the choice of the girl responding to the choice all be much before the Lord that you would have the one whom the Lord would have you to do and if have for a partner and then too, if it's a service to the Lord, pray much about who should help you. You'll find that whatever you undertake for the Lord, it's going to be so. Much happier if you have the right one with you. You remember how Paul had Barnabas with him, and Barnabas wasn't of one mind. And so there was a little bit of bad feeling when that kind of broke up. And Barnabas went back and took his, took his nephew Mark, and they went off and sailed to Cyprus. And there was a little bit of bad feeling that came from that. And then the next time it tells us that when Paul chose Silas, he was commended by the brethren. Commanded. In other words, others recognized that he had made a happy choice. We don't read in one single clash between between Paul and Silas. Lovely to see Lord can help you even in those kind of decisions in your Christian life. And now let's turn to another one in the 9th chapter of Luke. The 18th verse. And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him. And he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am? The answering said John the Baptist. And some Elias and others say that one of the old prophets is risen again. He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering, said the Christ of God. And he straightly charged them, and commanded them to tell no man that thing, saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day. Well, here we find the Lord Jesus with the shadow of the cross. Before him. He knew just exactly what he was going to have to bear in the rejection of the nation. He was in the pathway that his father had marked out for him because it tells us that he said I do always those things that please him. But were there difficulties in the path? Yes, and there will be in yours too, if you decide to follow the Lord. There is no promise that it's going to be an easy path. In fact, it tells us in the world ye shall have tribulations. Another verse says all day that will live godly in Christ. Jesus shall suffer persecution and perhaps there are times when, in following the Lord, the difficulties and trials could be totally overwhelming. Got so overwhelmed by the difficulties that they

have thrown up their hands and say, well, I did want to follow the Lord, but oh, it's just too hard to pass. And we have seen many dear young people who've started out well, and we don't question their zeal and we don't question their desire. But the difficulties were insurmountable and they are to me. They are to you too, if you're trying to follow the Lord.

How did the Lord Jesus meet all? Rejection and shame that he bore along his pathway and finally to be taken and crucified the very people that he had come to bless shouting away with him, crucify him, and handing him over to the Gentiles to be nailed to that cross. How could the Lord Jesus endure all this? Oh, it says he was alone. Praying. He was alone praying. And you know, I want to say this too. So perhaps you have sought to do what we've just been talking about. You said I've tried to do a little service the Lord has for me. I am trying to walk in the path that He has marked out for me and with the partner that He has for me. But all the problems and difficulties are just overwhelming. Are you praying? Are you praying? The Lord knows all about those problems. He knows. He knows every one of them and. As we sing in the little hymn, sometimes the young people, the Savior, can solve every problem. There is nothing too hard for Jesus. There is nothing that he cannot do. There is no problem. There is no difficulty That is so great that the Lord would have to say you just that's too much. You better turn back. Oh no, he is able. And so if you are facing and I as I look into faces here, I know that there are young people who just said, oh, I've enjoyed these two or three days. But when I go back, when I go back. I can just see mountains. I can just see all kinds of things turning up. Isn't this lovely? The Lord Jesus was alone praying. It's grand to be in company. You really get a boost for your Christian life when you're with other Christians and they sort of help you along. But you do have to meet some difficulties alone. Every man shall bear his own burden. And some things you just have to meet alone. And you just have to get before the Lord as our perfect. Example. The Lord Jesus did. He's alone praying, and then he tells the disciples this is the kind of a pathway it is. It's not an easy one. Paul was careful to tell the early believers about this, too. He didn't paint out an easy, pleasant pathway for them. He didn't say it's all fun. No, he said we must, through much tribulation, enter into the Kingdom of God. And so isn't this very beautiful to see? The Lord Jesus alone, praying and talking to his disciples and saying, I know how difficult the pathway is. I know just exactly what's ahead. We don't always know what's ahead, but the Lord does. The Lord does. Maybe it's good for us at times that we don't know what's ahead. We just would cringe before some of the things that might come. But he knows. And the Lord knew it all, but he pressed on. Nothing would turn him back. Now in this same chapter we have it again in the 28th verse of this 9th of Luke. Says here. 28th Verse. And it came to pass, about an 8 days after these sayings, he took Peter, and John, and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering. And behold, there appeared with him two men, which were Moses and Elias, who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease, which he should accomplish. At Jerusalem. Well, here we have again, the Lord Jesus went up into a mountain to pray, and I believe the reason this comes in here is what is it that will sustain us when we have to meet these difficulties. The Lord had just acquainted the disciples with the fact that He was going to be rejected. If I had read the intervening verses, you would see that He was telling them that they were going to have to take up their cross and follow. Him and the 26th verse. Maybe I could read it. For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words of Him, shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when he shall come in His own glory, and in His fathers, and in the holy angels. He had acquainted them with the fact that it was difficult, but He warned them not to be ashamed. And says, be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his minister, Will you say, what will sustain you at a time like that? Well, here we find the Lord Jesus.

Went up into the mountain to pray. What will sustain you when it seems that the difficulties of the way are overwhelming? Well, we can pray and ask the Lord for grace, but God does more than that. What happened here? Oh, there was a whole Vista of the coming glory that was opened up and the Lord Jesus, the fashion of his countenance was changed. Doesn't it remind you something about? Stephen there he was before the council. And they were all against him. What made his face like the face of an Angel? He said, I see the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And so instead of just looking at the difficulties, they're real. We can't meet them in our own strength. Oh, what's ahead of us, brethren? What's ahead of us? Well, here was a little preview. And Peter speaks of this in his epistle when he's talking about what the Christians had to go through in his epistle. He said. He said, and this voice which came from heaven, we heard when we were with him in the excellent glory. In other words, Paul, Peter never lost sight of that vision. It remained in his soul. And as he found difficulties, he was in prison, as we said, and the Lord released him. Many difficulties came in his life, but he said, I've never lost sight of that, what I saw on the Mount of Transfiguration, he said. That just still shines before me, and it sustains me. And according to history, He was crucified upside down. What? What was it that sustained him? All that glory shining before him? And I wish to say that this is the only thing that will sustain us in our difficulties. Do we pray and say, Lord, help me to have my eyes upon Thee. Help me to be looking so that I can say in the words a little. Him the glory shines before me. I cannot linger here, though clouds may darken. Or me, my Father's house is near. So here we find the Lord Jesus in prayer. Just after announcing all these difficulties and hardships to the disciples. But he's there on that mountain, and he's transfigured. His face shines as the sun. His raiment is white and glistening. And what were they talking about? They spoke of his decease that he should accomplish at Jerusalem. Oh, we can always. Shall I say we can always see God's love revealed at the cross. We may not always see his love in our circumstances, but we can always see his love revealed at Calvary. Sometimes there may be somebody here and you're going through deep waters and the devil whispers, does God love you that he lets all this happen? Oh, your answer is, I know he loves me. He sent his son to die for me He settled the question of my sins so that I. Be an eternal glory. It's like casting the tree into the bitter waters. It makes them sweet. And so here in this occasion where we find the Lord praying not so much in facing the difficulties, but rather that which lifts us above the difficulties. And we need to ask the Lord. Perhaps you have. I've asked the Lord. Oh, help me to have before me the reality of all. It's mine in Christ. It sustains you, it helps you to go through some of the things.