Jeremiah - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

Toledo Conference: 1972, Grace and Truth in Christ

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Like to turn first of all to Jeremiah Chapter 9, Jeremiah Chapter 9, and verse 23. Thus saith the Lord, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might. But let the rich man, let not the rich man glory in his riches, but let him let glory of glory in this, that he understandeth the north me, that I am the Lord, which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight sayeth the Lord. And now the next chapter, the 10th chapter. In the 23rd verse, oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, correct me, but with judgment, not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing. Would you turn with me also to First Timothy chapter 3 and verse 15? But if I carry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the House of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground or base of the truth, and without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit. Scene of angels preached under the Gentiles believed on in the world received up into glory. And now would you also turn with me to Philippians? Philippians. I'd like to read a verse in each chapter in the first chapter of Philippians and the 20th verse, according to my earnest expectation and my hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness as always. So now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is game. And then in the second chapter. And the fifth verse, let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Then in the third chapter. And the 13th verse, brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended. But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth under those things which are before I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Now the 4th chapter and the 13th verse. I can do all things through Christ. Which strengtheneth me while it's a privilege, dear young people, to be here and to. Look into your faces this afternoon. And if the Lord leaves us here, how many important decisions are made in youth? I believe the most important decisions of life are made in youth, and often those things that mold our whole life are decided by at least the age of 25. And so how important it is that we should have right direction for our pathway as the world increases in its confusion. We hear about guidance teachers, we hear about people going and consulting about all kinds of questions in business, marriage, all sorts of things. But isn't it a blessed thing that God has given us the light and wisdom of his precious Word? And he has also given us the person whose very name is Wisdom, for it tells us in Corinthians. And that you are in him who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. And so it was on my heart this afternoon to speak of the importance of walking in the truth and with a right of purpose and object in our walk. You know there are many dear young Christians, and I'm sure that many of you have met them at school. You've met them in the place where you work and. It's lovely to see their energy and desire for the Lord. They really have the Lord before them. But as you talk to them, you find that there are so many things about God's Word and that they haven't been made clear about. And they have a person before them, but they haven't yet been guided, directed by the light and wisdom of His Word.

And then perhaps you talked to some of the young people in the meeting and you find out that they know a great deal more of the truth, but still they don't seem to have the person of Christ before them. And isn't it often so that we in this way become one sided was mentioned last night how in governmental circles they talk about a rightist and a leftist and. So it is in spiritual things. God speaks about the kings in the Old Testament. And he says about those who went on to please him, they turned not to the right hand or to the left. It's quite possible to be so taken up with having the Lord before you that you don't stop to listen to the directions that He gives in His Word. And so you're seeking to please the Lord, perhaps, but you haven't listened to the instructions in His Word about how you can please Him. Or perhaps, as I say, on the other hand, you sat in the meetings. You've heard the truth ministered, you've read some very good and helpful books, and so it would could be said that you're quite well instructed in the fundamental things of Christianity. But somehow there seems to be lacking the enjoyment of the person that Blessed One who ought to fill each one of our hearts to overflowing. He can't. The heaven and the heaven of heaven can contain him. And surely He can fill our little hearts. And fill them to overflowing. But perhaps that lack is in your life as I often feel it is in mine. Well, that's why I had on my heart this afternoon with the Lawrence helped to try and bring these two things together. And that is the importance of truth. And the importance of a right purpose and object in our lives, to give up one or the other would make us extremists in One Direction or the other. And so I want to say as I begin here, and that it's a very blessed thing to be brought up under the sound of God's word, to be brought up under the sound of the truth of God, to have within your reach. The precious ministry of many who have gone before. Who have instructed us in the things of God, but because sometimes we don't see the spiritual energy that we'd like to see either in ourselves or others, then we get a distracted we seek perhaps a wider path. But I believe that God has marked the path through this world for us and there is no reason why you and I cannot go on in the truth and also walk with. Before us, you know, we'll have to leave the path of the truth to have Christ before you, because now that would be to turn your back upon His revealed mind and the instruction that He has given us in His Word. And so here in Jeremiah Chapter 9, the Lord is speaking through Jeremiah and he says, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom. No, there there are some young people amongst us and they have singular ability. Now they're very clever. But you know, there's a danger of us using this ability in order to get along in this world. We find it's the habit of the world and of the enemy of our souls. To always try and pick the best for themselves. The king of Syria came to the king of Israel and said your children, even their even the goodliest are mine. He claimed the very best of the people of God to be in his court and to add to his importance we find too when. The children were carried down into captivity, Daniel and Shadrach, and Meshach and Abednego. Now that king Nebuchadnezzar chose them because they were the best, the most clever, the ones who had poise ability to stand before the king. So he chose them to give them a good education and promote them high in the province of Babylon. But in the in the in the second case, we find that there was a purpose of heart and that this ability that God had given to them would not be used. Just to increase the importance of Babylon, but it would be used to be a witness for the Lord in Babylon. How much better that was. And so if God has given to anyone a little more ability than another.

It was brought to us yesterday. What hast thou that thou hast not received? Whatever we have, it's not our own. We're bought with a price. We belong to the Lord. He has paid a tremendous price, more than we could ever measure, to make us His very own. And then it says, Let not

the mighty man glory in his might. Maybe there are some young people and there are here, and they're real, really. Strong physically all they can do all kinds of feats at school and they can run, they can play and they they really have exceptional physical ability. Well, how nice it is to see those who have a body that is affinity of God for endurance use that for the Lord not to get along in this world, but to use what He has given us for Him. And then it says, let not the rich man glory in his. Let not the rich man glory in his riches. Perhaps God has blessed you with a little more. The material means of this world and another well, it's not your own. The Scripture speaks of material things as being another man's They don't really belong to us. What really belongs to us is the unsearchable riches of Christ. But whatever material things we have, we are only stewards. They don't really belong to us, so why should we glory if we did happen to have a little more ability? A little more physical strength, a little more of the material things of this world. It's nothing to glory in it, but increases our responsibility because we have received it from the Lord. But now it says, here's something to glory in, but let him that glorious glory in this that he understandeth and knoweth me. All that is the most wonderful thing in this whole wide world. Not that you have been able to master things in this material world or make progress in this material world that may make you great in the eyes of your fellow man. But oh, what a wonderful thing. He understandeth and knoweth me over. And dear young people, God has revealed himself. He has made himself known, and He has made himself known so that we might be able to know what is. Heart, and then He has given us eternal life so that we can share His thoughts. For eternal life is not merely the endurance or length of time that we will exist, because even the unsaved will exist eternally. But when it speaks of eternal life, it's explained to us in John 17. It says this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ. Thou hast sinned, that is, by numerous. God has given us a life by which we can enter into and enjoy His thoughts. We can haul communion with the very one in whom we live and move and have our being. I don't know of anything more wonderful than this. I have mentioned this little incident before, but it rather struck me. And there were a couple of men, and they were crossing the ocean on a ship. And the two of them were standing on the side of the ship. Looking at a beautiful sunset, one was a believer and the other was an unbeliever. The unbeliever turned to the Christian and he said, he said, do you know of anything more wonderful than this? The sunset at sea, It's so beautiful. Yes, as a Christian, I know of something more wonderful. I know the God who made all those things. I know God is my father. I know the Lord Jesus. As my savior. Ah, that's far more wonderful. If you could be a clever scientist and master many of the. Things that men are now finding out in connection with this world which God has created, that wouldn't be half as wonderful as knowing the person himself. If you had a personal acquaintance will say in his lifetime with Einstein, wouldn't you be very pleased to tell your friends, oh, I've not only heard about the wonderful inventions and discovery of that man, but he's a personal friend of mine? Oh, how wonderful. It says Abraham was called a friend of God. Oh dear young people, you have a tremendous heritage if you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you know the creator of the universe, and you can speak to him as one who loves you, one who's interested in the smallest detail of your life. For in him we live and move and have our being. You haven't a friend on earth, whoever counted.

But the one that we're talking about has counted your hairs. He knows the very number of the hairs of our head. Not even a Sparrow falls to the ground without his notice. And he says, let him that glorious glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me. Yes, people have various ideas of God. They have ideas of their own. Their own minds. And they will tell you, well, I think God is this. I think God is a God of love. I don't think he would cast anybody into hell. And they'll tell you all kinds of things that they think about God, but they really don't know him. They think they do, but they really don't. Because the only way that we can really know him is through the revelation that God has given of himself. That God hasn't left us to find him by our own searching. As in Joel can stop my searching, find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty to perfection? Do you think that you can by any kind of searching, find out God or you just have to look on the confusion of this world and find out whether it's possible? Just think of all the different religions. So I think of all the wise men in this world. Have they found out God? No. The only way that you can move God is through his Word. And God has been pleased to reveal Himself through His Word. He has been pleased to make himself known as a God of light, as a God of love. As a God, as a scripture says, humbles himself to behold the small things of our lives, who talks to us how the most intimate things in our whole life there isn't a thing. It tells us in the 139th Psalm that before I was even born, as a God saw my substance, yet being unperfect. And in His book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. Isn't that marvelous? Before I was ever born, God was taking notice of the very members of my body. And then he gave me breath. And in my lifetime, he tells me that there isn't a single thing associated with my family life, my life among my brethren, my life in the world, my clothes, my hair, everything. He's concerned about every single thing. And if there's a person says something that's a little. He knows all about that, and he is one who enters into and sympathizes with us in our whole pathway, as we have been having in our reading. And in order to have our company and to be a faithful and merciful high priest, He's gone up there and he's a man in the glory, and he'll remain a man forever. Oh surely, dear young people, we have something worthwhile. We have something. We ought to hold as the most marvelous heritage possible that I have. God has made himself known not as one who is so far away that we really can't know too much about him, but he has come down in the person of Christ. Want this world in this world as our brother read to us God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself. Perhaps if I could put that verse very simply, it's like this God knew that men had wrong thoughts about him and so he sent his son down into this world and he said now they'll see in a man what is really in my heart toward them and there was one in this world for to be. Means to be before a person having. No, nothing between. And so here we find the Lord Jesus walked through this world. He wants to know his sympathies. He wept at the grave of Lazarus. Do you want to know? Do you want to know how he felt toward a blind man? He stood still in a big crowd of people when a blind man cried out. Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy upon me. He went to a home and there was one sister that was worried because she was having a little much too much.

To do and he talked to her and explained to her that she was too much occupied with things that were not as important as others. Oh, this is this is God revealed in Christ. That was what God really was. And yet at the end of that blessed pathway, what did the world say? Well, it's a song thing to think of it, but I believe that is what is brought before us in the end of the 15th of John. It just as if the world at the end of his life said well if that's what God is like, we don't want him, we don't want him for in the end of the 15th of John it says as they have seen and hated both me and my father. Oh what a picture of the heart of man and yet. Didn't give up before 1 can speak reverently. The blessed Savior went into death and went forth that we might be reconciled. We refused to be reconciled by his perfect life of love and grace and kindness. And so he went into death, and he bore our sins in his own body on the tree, and now He's beseeching men to have right thoughts about Him to be reconciled to God. And so I say again, what a privilege is yours, dear young people. If you know the Lord is your Savior, you have the most wonderful heritage that any person could have upon the face of the earth. He understandeth and knoweth me that I am the Lord, which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. And for in these things I delight, saith the Lord. Yes, I've often made this comment. The Christian is the only person who has an intelligent outlook on what's going on. World, do you think the wise men of this world do? Will read the editorial columns in the newspaper and you'll find that the wisest man has suggestions, but they have no solution. They just don't know what to do. As the Lord Jesus said, men's hearts feeling them for fear, distress of nations with perplexity. How can the Christian face it all so calmly? Is it because he just closes his eyes to what's going on? Oh no. God has called us his friends. The Lord Jesus said, I have

not called you servants. I have called you friends for all things that I have heard of my Father, I have made known unto you. And so because we're his friends, he, as it were, brushes aside the curtain and says, now I'm going to tell you what's going on in the world. You don't need to be confused like the rest of people. I'll tell you what's going on in the world and I'll tell you where where things are heading. And you just watch the events take place. You watch the leaders move into their place. You watch things happen and you will see that I knew it all beforehand. Known unto God are all his works from eternity. And so the Christian, as the little hymn says. Through scenes of strife and desert life, we tread in peace our way. What a privilege then is ours. How we should value of this precious revelation of God. That's the most up-to-date book in the world. It's far ahead of the daily newspaper. It's far ahead of the things that are coming off the press in this very day. Because God only knows the future and knows it with. Accuracy and so how blessed we are. I would just like to make a little mention here. About sin, you know there is a confused idea that many people have. About sin, and especially in this day when the devil is seeking to blind people as to what sin is before God. Because sin is the basic cause of all the trouble in this world, and nothing could be a more clever plan of Satan than to hide from man what sin really is. And so probably many of you young people have heard the expression, well, sin is just relative. It's only what you've been taught, and if you've been taught one way, then you look on a thing as a sin. If you've been taught another way, you don't look upon it as a sin. Well, God gives us a clear definition of what sin is. Sin is lawlessness. It's the exercise of my own will and independence of God. It's just doing what I like without any reference to my Creator. As it says, the plowing of the wicked is sin. The prowling of the wicked is sin. Pardon a little illustration that will help you perhaps to understand that verse, because a man might easily say, well, I don't see anything wrong in plowing. Why does it say that that's sin? Well, supposing you were a farmer and you waken up one morning and you look out in your field and there's a man and he's plowing in your field. What do you say to your wife? I wonder what that man is doing out there in my field.

So you go out and speak to him and he, he's running the plow out in the field. And you say to him, Sir, what are you doing? Oh, he says, I didn't know there's anything wrong with plowing. Tell me what's wrong with plowing? Well, you say it's my field. He didn't speak to me. You didn't recognize my rights over that field at all. That's what's wrong. That's what's wrong. Well, he said I could get another instrument instead of a plow. Perhaps I could get. Would that make any difference? No, he said. You say that's not the point. You wouldn't recognize any responsibility to me. And now, dear young people, when you live your life with no reference to God, no sense of responsibility to God, that is sin. That is sin. Sin is lawlessness. Whatsoever is not a faith is sin. Them people sometimes say, is that a sin? If you have no reference to God in your life, if you haven't consulted Him about where you should go tonight and how you should act tonight, then I'm not going to ask you what you're going to do. But I say you sin that you didn't recognize your responsibility to Him. You have a responsibility to God Now. There's some things in His Word that He has made very clear. And I'd like to just give a couple of little. Instances in the Word about this. First of all, when God placed Adam and Eve in the garden, He gave them a command. He told them that there was one tree and that they were not to eat out, and they ate of that tree. That was sin. That was an act of positive disobedience to God. But I want you to notice that after they had taken of that tree, the strange thing is that what caused them to hide from God was something else. Did you ever notice that? And when the Lord came down and walked in the garden and called Adam, what did Adam say? Adam said I hid because I was naked. God hadn't said anything about that. God never told him that that was wrong. He told them that it was wrong to take that tree, but why did they feel ashamed that they were naked? That's the first instance of conscience in the Bible. Nearly knew that they had done something wrong and they had a conscience. And God has seen to it that every man has a conscience, even if he has never heard God's commands. Every person in this world has a conscience. Now conscience. Never tell you how great a Sinner you are. It might be illustrated like this. Supposing that you had a perfect vision, perfect vision, and you're in a dark room. Well, your eyes are all right, but you don't see very much because the room is dark. Nothing wrong with your eyes, but the room is dark. You maybe see a few things. Some of the things that are in the room, you're not just sure what they are because the room is. But you know, there's something in the room. Well, that's like conscience without the word of God. Man knows he's a Sinner, but all of a sudden somebody switches on the light. Everything shows up and God's word illuminates conscience. God's word makes a man feel uncomfortable. And so why do people say, oh, I don't believe the Bible? Well, it's just like turning on the light and it makes them feel. Uncomfortable. So you see, there are instances where there is a definite going against the word of God. That's disobedience, it's transgression, and then there is the sin against conscience. But not just another little word for those who are Christians. Daniel, as we mentioned a few moments ago, was in Babylon. He was going to school in Babylon and the king prescribed that they should. Have certain meat and drink wine. At the at the meal table cafeteria, if you like to call it, they evidently had their meals together. And so they were all provided with the meat that the king gave and the wine which he drank. Now you see, the word of God had condemned certain meats to an Israelite and so he could say, no, I can't take those meats. They are forbidden of God.

But what about the wine which he drank? There was number express command to an Israelite that he was not to drink wine. Now I believe this brings in something else. Here were here was Daniel and his three friends in the court of in the school in Babylon and and now who do they want to please? Who do they want to please and they discerned in communion with the Lord without a direct command. That this was something. That would not be pleasing to their Lord, something that would be a hindrance to their testimony. As those who wanted to please the Lord Now dear young people, I say this to you. Perhaps you say, well, show me a verse that that's wrong. Well, some there are some things you can show a verse, but there are also other things and that if you really want to please the Lord, he'll show you. He'll show you. He showed Daniel and his three friends and. Nobody said you've got to do this or got to do that, but inside their heart. Was the desire to please the Lord and saw when this situation arose, they acted faithfully, they acted firmly and they recognized that that thing under those circumstances in that position was wrong and the Lord will guide you if you want to please him and there may be things in life. Where you will have to be near enough to the Lord to discern his mind. That's why I say with young people. We like to leave room for growth. We like to see them go on in the things of God. And maybe there's something that you don't see anything wrong with today, but if you seek to go on and walk with the Lord in time while He's going to show you that that thing is a hindrance to you living to please Him, it's a hindrance to your testimony. Lord will give you grace then to give up that thing. Well, how wonderful to know that if there's anyone here that's not saved, the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin, whatever your sin may be. And surely when we think of what sin really is before God, but countless sins, how many things have we done to please ourselves? Or you say I just have a few sins. Well, I could ask myself, how many things have I done to please myself? I dare not say to you that I just have a few sins I have to recognize in his presence now that it's one disgrace. I'm a 500 pence debtor and he's frankly forgiven me and he'll do the same for you. He's a wonderful savior. I commend them to anyone here who doesn't know him. He wants to be your savior today. But now we read also in First Timothy chapter 3. And the 15th verse. But if I carry long the psalmist know how the oddest to behave thyself in the House of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. Here we find. The responsibility of the Christian in the House of God. Now I might say here that the House of God here doesn't refer to a physical building. It's not how you behave in a certain building which men term a church, which men might term the House of God. The House of God is that place on earth that is in the place of the profession of Christianity. And so it's important that we

should know amid all the confusion that we see and that which bears the name of Christ, is there a conduct that God has given to us in his Word that is becoming Yes, I believe there is. Here it is that we might know how to behave ourselves. God. And if we read God's precious word, if we acquaint ourselves with the revelation that God has given in His word to them, and we will know how we ought to behave ourselves as those who bear the name of Christ, who are in the place, in the ranks of Christian profession. And then it goes on to say, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. I just like to speak a little of this last part of the verse. The Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. Now the church doesn't teach the word of God is what teaches. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

But the Church is responsible to be the support of the truth. To be that which maintains and stands for the truth of God. And that is the purpose of the Bible readings that we have been having here. Now that is, if we profess to be gathered according to the mind of God. Then we are responsible to maintain the whole truth of God. You may know of many places where you could go in the city of Toledo, and you know that there are some very sincere Christians. But perhaps when you go there, you know that the speaker who is there may perhaps teach that you could be saved and lost again. He might deny the sinless humanity of the Lord Jesus. He might say that. Could sin, but did not sin Well? Could you recognize that as being the support of the truth, where those things that are so vital to the person and the work of Christ are not maintained? Or, brethren, surely this is very humbling to us because. Because. You say all that they're nice Christians and they have the Lord before them and thank God for that. Went to God that some of us who knew the truth were more occupied with the Lord Jesus. But this is no reason whatsoever to give up the truth of God. This is no reason to go and identify ourselves with a very vivacious and happy company of Christians who are not standing for the whole truth of God. God's assembly is responsible to be the base and support of the truth of God. And if in this meeting there is anything that is said or in the Bible reading that is not according to the truth of God, I hope that it will be corrected. The important thing is, and that we have no right to handle a word of God deceitfully. We have no right to set aside any part of it. We have no right to say, well, we'll agree to disagree. We must stand for the truth of God. Now, of course, there may be. Little things that affect our personal walk that, as we mentioned before, are a question of personal growth in our souls. But when we speak of that which is the foundation, that which has to do with the person and the work of Christ, brethren, it's so important. Stand for the whole truth of God and in these days of testing. In these days when the enemy is so busy, May God grant that you, dear young people who are being brought up in the meeting and may value the Christian heritage that God has given to you and that you should be able to sit under the sound of the Word, where the truth of God is given out, where the person and work of Christ are maintained. And I'm thankful to say, as I hear, I just heard. This I heard a short time ago about a man, a very important man. Who taught that the Lord Jesus Christ could sin? And then I was amazed just about a week ago. To hear about another man very very active among Christian young people, his works being read by Christian young people. And he made a public statement that the Lord Jesus Christ could sin. All brethren, May God in His grace keep us walking in the truth of God. Give us to value and walk in that which God has made known to us. And so the assembly, God's assembly is the pillar and ground of the truth. It is that which is responsible to support the truth. All you say. There's so much weakness, though. Meetings are so small. There is bickering, there is little things. The enemies at work, the enemies at work. I must tell you a little incident, if you'll pardon a personal reference, about my dear father. He was asked to go up to Quebec City and Canada some years ago. To visit a little company of Christians who had come out from the systems and who were who were meeting simply in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And so he made the trip up there and when he met this little company. One of the brothers said to him. He said, well, we've just come out from the churches, but we don't want to have anything to do.

With those known as brethren, because they have so many divisions, so many troubles, we don't want to be identified with them. Well, I thought the Lord gave my Father wisdom about how to answer him. He said, well, I'd just like to ask you one question. Why did you leave? The church is where you are? Well, we didn't think we could go along with some of the things that were contrary to the word of God, and that's why we left. And he said, now you've just gathered together as a group of little of Christians here, a little company. And you're meeting in the name of Christ alone, he said. Do you think the devil is going to look on this little company here in Quebec City and say? Now those Christians are so happy and they are so desirous to please the Lord. I'll just leave them alone. I won't bother them at all. I'll just let them go on happily together. Well, he hung his head. He said. No, I suppose he won't. And he said, when trouble comes in among you, what are you going to do? Well, he said, I suppose we'll have to stand for the truth. And, brethren, so it is. The enemy will never leave that little company alone. He'll do his best to bring in personal bickerings. He'll do his best to bring in distractions. Do His best to bring in anything and everything to rob us of the precious truth of God and to rob us of that precious harmony one with another. So isn't this next verse lovely? If the 15th verse brings before us the responsibility of the assembly as being the pillar and base of the truth, isn't this 16th 1St lovely because this brings before us a person, a person, and without controversy? Great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit scene of angels preached under the Gentiles. In the world received up into glory, what is the secret of godliness? Oh, it's the Lord Jesus Himself in His blessed pathway here through this world. It's a person you know. I'm sure we all recall the instance in the 6th chapter of John when the Lord spoke faithfully. He said is the Spirit that quickeneth the flesh profiteth nothing. And many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. Then the Lord turned to the 12 and he said, Will ye also go away? And Peter, who had a person before him, made this remark. Said Lord, To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ. And the Lord's answer must have surprised you. It surprised me. I meditated on it for some time. I thought the answer was very, shall I say, surprising? The Lord said to Peter in response. Have not I chosen you 12 and one of you is a devil? Why did the Lord make an answer? Why didn't he say, Peter, that's lovely, I see you're here because I'm here. Why did the Lord answer him in that way? Well, I think of it like this. It's just as if the Lord said, well, Peter, if you're here because I'm here, then don't look at the crowd. There's another disappointment ahead. And brethren, it's important for us. Let's not have our eyes upon the crowd. There's only one, the mystery means secret here. There's only one person who is the secret of godliness. And his blessed pathway, as we have been having in our reading, gives us the secret of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh. As we remarked, here was one in this world who perfectly revealed God. He was God manifest in the flesh. He was justified in the Spirit. The Spirit of God came down at his baptism and marked him out. You say I have been misunderstood, I have been falsely accused. Things have been said about me that are not true. The Spirit of God never falsely accused you. The Spirit of God never falsely accused you. He knows everything. The Lord Jesus was falsely accused, but he was justified in the Spirit. The Spirit of God came down and said, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

And. Spirit of God falsely accuses you, then I say you would have a reason to leave the meeting. That could never be though, could it? And so isn't this lovely. The secret of godliness is here was one manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit seed of angels. The angels looked down and saw their Creator as a man here in this world. And the angels are looking down. They're looking down to see the wonders of God's ways in the church. They look down to notice whether a sister has a covering upon her head. Have they noticed things in our lives too? And so there is in

the word of God that which is, as Paul said, were made a spectacle to the world and to angels and to men. Preached under the Gentiles, I think this is lovely too. Because when the Lord Jesus was rejected by the nation, what did he do? Well, his grace reached out beyond the nation to the Gentiles. Did somebody hurt you? Somebody did something unkind and mean and you said, I'll never try to do anything again. That's all the thanks I got. What happened when the Lord Jesus was rejected by the nation? Well, he just went on. And if those people wouldn't have him? The branches grew over the wall, blessing reached out to the Gentile, and in his blessed path, where we find the blessing of the Saraphanesian woman, we find his grace reaching beyond the limits of Israel. Oh dear young people, if somebody hurt you and said something, don't give up. That's just what the devil wants you to do, just exactly what he wants you to do. Some perhaps, and perhaps an older brother or sister, but it always hurts a little more when we. Say something unkind and you know when, when this happens, it's very easy to say, well, I'm not going to come to the meeting anymore. Nobody cares. The Lord cares. Don't give up. Don't give up. The Lord allows that testing, but he loves you. He wants you to be his friend, his companion, and then believed on in the world that is, there were results. In spite of the fact that he was rejected, there were results. And we will meet those in glory. Yes, there were results from the blessed work of that rejected one down here. And God will see to it that if you go on for Him, there will be results. They'll be manifested when maybe not here. He was received up in glory. They will be manifested at the judgment seat of Christ. Oh dear young people, don't give up. Don't be discouraged. Don't think because somebody said something and hurt you and that this is a good reason. That's just what the enemy wants. Go on the assembly then we see is the pillar and base of the truth. But the secret of godliness in the assembly is a person and having. That person before you and you will never be sustained in the path. God is testing you and your youth. God is testing here when you are young because He knows that if the young people go off, when I go to an assembly and I see that the young people have gone and they're just a few older ones, I must say it almost breaks my heart. I know there's just what the enemy wants. He just wants to see all the young people discouraged and gone. But oh, what a word of encouragement here. God has made himself known. He has a testimony here upon earth and he has a person to set before our souls. Now I just want to read these verses that we looked at just very briefly in Philippians because. Was my purpose to say a lot about these verses, but just to bring in a few thoughts. Philippians chapter one and verse 20. According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether we it be by life or by death, or to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Now, my father used to have a little saying. Some of the older ones have heard him say it if we did any everything right. Nothing would be right unless the motor was right. And now that's why I read Philippians, because I could spend time here to trying to correct a lot of outward things. I could spend time here talking to you about things important in their place that have to do with outward things. But I want to talk to you now about the motive springs of your life.

What is your purpose and mine? In life, here was Paul's, he said. My earnest expectation and my hope that in nothing. I shall be ashamed that is, he wanted to live in such a way. That His blessed Savior would approve of the way. He was living his life at the moon of springs that control. His life would not be self, would not be what other people said and thought and did, but that Christ would be the one whom He could speak of as His life. He is our life in the absolute sense. But in a practical way that he might be our life is a little hymn says not We may live while here belong, but Christ our life shall be. Is that your earnest expectation and your hope? Is this what you and I are living for now, that our lives might be for Him? That he might be the one who is the mode of spring of all our actions. Why, As I say, you could get people to do things in an outward way. There be nothing for God in this at all. When the Lord Jesus was here. They kept the Passover most scrupulously. They kept the Feast of Tabernacles most scrupulously. But it was the Feast of the Jews, feast of the Passover, it was the Jews Feast of Tabernacles. And you could go on an outward things that you could mold yourself in outward things. But now I want to talk about the inward. The outward is important and I'm not belittling it, but I'm speaking about the N word. Is Christ really the purpose of our lives? Are we really seeking to live in such a way? That he would be magnified in our bodies, as another has said. We are a testimony and nothing else. That's all we are here in this world. A testimony and nothing else as it was read to us. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ. That is the important thing that we should live in this world as those who have Christ himself as our life and this manifesting itself in our pathway. Now in the second chapter, we have him brought before us as our example. And I haven't time to go into all the details of this chapter, but many that are acquainted with the Epistle to the Philippians remember now that there was something that burdened the heart of the apostle in Philippi, and that is, there was envy and strife and vain glory. And there is nothing so chilling as when there is that sort of thing at work among the people of God. And what was the apostles reply in the midst of all this situation? Well, I don't believe there's any epistle that ministers Christ in such a lovely way as is brought before us in the epistle to the Philippians. Christ is our life. And now in this chapter, Christ is our example, and it brings before us how the Lord who was. God himself, who is God himself, came into this world and took the lowest place, and now this is the example God has given to us. You say, well, I follow brother Soon, so I think he's a godly man. I follow sister so and so. I think she's a very godly person. But you have the wrong example. You have the wrong example. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Whoever you set your mind upon, that person may fail. And if you do? If that person fails, you are very likely to go down with them. But if you and I may Christ our example, what a perfect pattern? Could we have any more perfect pattern? Oh, don't make any other Christian your example. Imitate their faith, but only have one example and that is the Lord Jesus. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. And on the 3rd chapter.

And the 13th verse, brethren, 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 of God in Christ Jesus. Well, here when it talks about forgetting those things which are behind, it's not primarily Speaking of forgetting past failures. In a sense, we should not forget past failures. Paul had to say to the Ephesians, Wherefore remember that she being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, Paul never forgot that he once persecuted the Church of God and wasted it. But there's something we can afford to forget. We can afford to forget the anything that we've done for the Lord. In the past, if you lived yesterday for the Lord, you can forget about that because God has got the record down. So you can afford to forget about it because He won't, He won't forget about. God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love. And the trouble with us is when we try to remember some of the good things that we've done that's liable to make us proud and think that we're getting somewhere. So Paul said, he said I don't want to look back and make a kind of a report in my life and see how I'm getting along. I might get puffed up if I thought I had lived for the Lord. I might think I was somebody. And dear young people, I'm not going to encourage you to look back on your life if you failed on it to the Lord. But don't look back to pat yourself on the back. You'll only spoil your object, having the object before your soul. Man was trying to break a path across a field of small. They realized he was making a very crooked path. So he set his eye on a tree on the other side, and he started on and then he thought, well, I must look back and see how I'm getting along. And there he saw this crooked path. And then when he had put his eye on the tree, he had done very well. And he started encouraging himself how well he was getting along. And then he realized he wasn't looking at the tree, it was really looking at how he was getting along. So quickly he put his eye back on the tree. And I went, but when he got to the other side of the field, he spoiled that nice path while he looked back to compliment himself on how well he was getting along. Oh, don't look back. Keep your eye on the Lord. If He's kept you to this day,

thank Him. But if you get your eye off Him, you might make a little break in your path. Any of us could. Doesn't matter who we are or may we have our eye upon Him. We have a right object for our hearts. We have His truth, but we need to have a person. As I said, there needs to be a right object, a right purpose in our lives, and then the last. The 13th verse I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me. You might say all, but it's so difficult. You don't know what it's like in the place where I live, in the office where I work, there's problems in the assembly. The Saints are not as happy as they used to be. There are no young people. Yes, the Lord knows all about it. He knows all about it, everything. He's a merciful and faithful. Priest and he was all about just exactly what you're trying to face and when God wanted a man to write this verse. I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me. He didn't choose a man who was enjoying good health and sitting in a nice parlor or in a nice study writing letters. I sit in a very comfortable study sometimes when I write letters, but he didn't choose a man. In that kind of a circumstance to write this verse, no. I was in a Roman prison. He'd been forgotten by some of his brethren. Just one assembly thought about the mall, the rest forgot about him. He was, he was abased. There were those who were breaking his heart and it was much that could cast him down. God said you're the person. You're the person to write that verse. You have proved it experimentally. Oh dear young person, the Lord can strengthen you. I know you can't do it. Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps, if God were to deal with any of us. According to what we deserved, he'd do just what it says there in Jeremiah 10. He'd have to bring us to nothing. He'd have to bring us to nothing but all the way of man is not in himself, but it's in Christ. It's in Christ. He's the way, the truth and the life. May God by His grace cause to do 2 Things to value the precious heritage of truth that God has given to us.

And may He also give us grace to go on in the path with the right purpose, with the right object, with Himself before us, content to wait the day when all will be manifested in His presence. Now that is what really counts in life.

Detroit Conference: 1968, Unchanging Love of God

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Jeremiah, chapter 31, third verse. The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying. I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee. Now if you'll also turn over with me to Malachi. Last book in the Old Testament. 1St chapter in the first verse. The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi. I have loved you, saith the Lord. And also in Deuteronomy. I'm not sure of the chapter. The 33rd chapter of Deuteronomy. And the third verse. Yeah, he loved the people. All his Saints are in thy hand. They sat down at thy feet. Everyone shall receive of thy words. Also in John Chapter 11. John, Chapter 11. And the fifth verse. Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. In Romans chapter 8. Verse 35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature. Shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. 2nd Corinthians 5, 2nd Corinthians 5 and verse 14. For the love of Christ constraineth us. Because we thus judge that if one died for all, then were all dead, and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. And in First Epistle of John. And the fourth chapter. Verse 16. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. The 18th verse There is No Fear in love, because perfect love casteth out fear because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect. In love we love Him. I might say the new translation doesn't have the word Him we love because He first loved us. Well, the reason I have read these verses, I believe the Spirit of God in these meetings has been bringing before us in the meeting this morning and in the address by our brother. Something about that wondrous love that was in the heart of God, and it's in the heart of Christ. But I was thinking in reading these different verses, how about love was spoken of at a time when perhaps we would least have expected it, at a time in Israel's history when they had failed grievously. Had that love that God had toward his people changed and altered by their failure? Well, isn't it beautiful in that passage in Deuteronomy to hear the Lord's? Speaking and saying. Yeah, he loved the people. When was that spoken? Was that at the beginning of their wilderness journey, when they had come out in triumph out of Egypt and had been singing on the banks of the Red Sea? We might have expected it then because the Lord did value the love that was in their hearts at that time. He speaks of it in the early part of Jeremiah. He says, I remember these.

The kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a lamb not sawn. But 40 years of wilderness life had brought out what the flesh is. The flesh in them was displayed during that wilderness, and brethren, we're tested in our passage through this wilderness world, and we are conscious of how often the flesh displays itself in US. And we might get cast down and grieved as we see how much of the flesh there is, and well, we might too. But oh, isn't it lovely that alone we change, He changes not. And so I say, not at the beginning of their wilderness journey, but at the very end, after all their failure, after their hearts had displayed themselves at their very worst, in all their murmurings and complainings and failure. If then. Yeah, he loved the people. Oh how blessed this is all that. It might grip our souls. Because so often when failure comes into our lives, why we become discouraged and we don't enjoy that love. And God himself delights to assure us that He has not changed. He loved the people, all his Saints, yes, not just. Joshua and Caleb, they were faithful. All his Saints are in thy hand. Isn't that lovely to think that he looks over this company and sees each one, That everyone is in his hand? Secure could not be more secure. Not because of ourselves, but because of what he has done. And so it says, all his Saints are in my hand. And they sat down at his feet. To hear of His words, I trust, brethren, that that will be our experience when we realize that nothing that we have ever done has altered His love toward us, that we're still in His hands, that we will sit down at His feet, We'll take our place, recognizing our failure but enjoying the fact that He is the same. Yesterday and today and forever and that we'll hear his words. And that those precious words will come home in such a way to our hearts, and that we'll realize is love more, and that our hearts will be warmed by it. Well, we turn over to Jeremiah. In the 31St chapter, what kind of a state was the nation in at this time? Well, I'm sure most of us are acquainted with the prophet Jeremiah. He was the one that was sent to tell the people that because of their failure, God was going to have to allow them to be carried captive into Babylon. Surely if he is going to have to announce his government upon them, surely if his heart is so green because of their failure. His love isn't the same, is it? Well, Jeremiah breaks out with this message from the Lord in the 31St chapter and says, yeah, I have loved thee with an everlasting love. Isn't that precious? Yes, He may have to deal with us in government, and he does what's on his He whom the Father chasteneth. Not every one of us in some measure have had to feel His hand upon us. Because of failure in our lives. But it's love that brings it. Whom the Lord loveth. He chase nothing. It's because He loves us that He brings us upon us. And He would have us, even

in the midst of His ways with us, to realize that the hand that is brought down is brought down in love. Why, as our brother read to us, why did he sanctify and cleanse the church? Because he wanted to present it to himself. Suited to his own mind. That's why he wanted the company of the one whom he had died to redeem. And so he wanted it in such a way suited to himself, so that he could enjoy her company. But it wasn't because his love was altered. So it says, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, Therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee. And so.

Would say again, if there are any of us at this time and we feel the Lord's hand upon us. We know that there are things that perhaps have taken place in our lives that we have to recognize are because of his governmental ways with us all. Let us never allow a question to come in our minds that he doesn't love us and just the same as he ever did. The very hand that brings it down is because he loves us. It's wielded in love and so how assuring that message to that people at that very time. Well, then we turn over to Malachi. Here was a little remnant that had come back. God's government had fallen, They had been carried captive into Babylon, but God in his faithfulness had brought a few back from Babylon to his center at Jerusalem. And they had come back, and with holy zeal they had rebuilt the temple, they had built the wall, but all was there, everything that might be desired in that little company. Oh no. And I believe if one might speak humbly, brethren. That God has gathered a company to His precious name in these last days? Is there everything that might be desired among us? Well, read the book of Malachi and you'll see the condition that existed among the people. They questioned His love. They said, Wherein hast thou loved us? They said it was vain to serve the Lord. They offered the lame and the blind to the Lord. Surely he must have been grieved when he saw that little remnant in which he had found such joy when they returned back to his center and now beset with failure not only from without, but with him within. And he had to write through Malachi to tell them how grieved he was with all that had taken place in that little remnant back in his center but not corresponding. As he desired to his heart toward them, so he sends his servant Malachi. And Malachi is a heavy burden upon his heart for the people. But how does he start that burden? What is the first part of the burden that was so heavy upon his heart? I have loved you, saith the Lord. That was why the Lord cared about them. You don't care about people that you don't love. You see somebody in a condition that's deplorable. Well, why do you care about them? Whether you care? Because there's some feeling of affection that goes out to them. And the deeper the affection, the more you feel the state that they're in. And so when Malachi. Tells the people how the Lord felt. He begins, I say, with that word, and I have loved you, saith the Lord. I have loved you before. He says a word to correct the state of things that existed which so grieved the heart of the Lord. He begins by saying, I have loved you. And so they say, we're in this. Thou loved us. While the Lord said I love Jacob and I hated Esau. Well, you know, if I compared the 2 Characters, I think I saw a little more that I liked and he saw than I did in Jacob. I don't think there was very much that was too commendable in the way Jacob acted in getting the birthright from his brother and in some of the other things he did too. And the Lord said, I love Jacob. In other words, it was a causeless love, a causeless love. It wasn't because Jacob was a nicer boy than he saw, but it was because the Lord set his love upon him. And blessed brethren, you say, well, I don't deserve love like that, Neither do I. But why did he love Jacob? He set his love upon them. He he loved them, and nothing would alter that love toward them, no matter how. Law, their state, and all. May these words sink down into your heart and mind. If we begin to question the Lord's love, we must think it's because He loved us for something nice He saw in us. And when that something nice isn't seen, then we say, well, he can't still love us. But all divine love doesn't act that way. Divine love acts because of what it is in its source. And the source is unlimited. And so that love flowed out to that people. People returned from the captivity in all their failure. Yeah, he loved the people. Oh, may that burden be on our hearts for our brethren when we seek to help them. When we see a state of things perhaps that casts us down and bows our hearts. May we begin the message by saying the burden of the word of the Lord. I have loved you, saith the Lord. If we felt that way, brethren, perhaps.

We'd be able to help some of the things. Things that exist in our local assemblies. If we only have that feeling that Malachi had when he could begin the message by saying I have loved you, saith the Lord. Then we turn over to that passage in John, and here we find a family. We know how the Lord spoke, so command the play about Mary. He even rebuked Martha on one occasion because Martha was careful and troubled about many things. But Mary seemed to know what was pleasing to the Lord, and she sat at His feet and heard His words. And so we would have expected, when the Lord spoke about those of that family, that He would have put the name of Mary first. That he would have said, Now Jesus loved Mary and Martha and Lazarus. We would have expected the name of Mary would have come first. But the Lord says now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Isn't that beautiful? Or you say some other brother or sister has been a lot more faithful than me and I am sure the Lord has more love for them than he does for me. Oh, isn't it lovely to hear the Lord talking about that family? Perhaps he's talking about your family too. Perhaps he's talking about us. And isn't it blessed to think that he would mention the name of the one who at one time grieved his heart and said Jesus loved Martha and her sister? What an encouragement. Martha must have loved to think of that fact, how it must have come home to her soul when she found that the Lord had put her name before Mary when He spoke about the family. All the Lord loves His people. We don't all enjoy His love alike, but His love goes out to His people. So we see that in each one of these four cases that we have spoken above about, it was at a time when we would perhaps. Least expected such a display of affection, but at such a time the Lord mentions it more than at times when things seem to be in a happier state. Because we're always prone to doubt His love, or to fail to display His love when things aren't the way they should be. But that's the time when it's needed the most, and that's the way the Lord. Acted toward his people, but then when we turn to the. Beautiful 8th of Romans, those verses so well known to us. It talks here about circumstances. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? In the 37th verse. Nay, and all these things we are. More than conquerors. Through Him that loved us well, here we're assured that nothing can separate us from His love. That love. There's not a thing that could happen in the circumstances of life. We've noticed that failure and coldness hasn't changed His love. I believe in this passage we have circumstances, circumstances, tribulation. You say, well, it's not just the state of things, but. I have so much tribulation, so many trials. One thing after another seems to come upon me. It just seems one thing's over and another thing comes along. Well, here's a little word about circumstances. It says that none of these things can separate us from the love of Christ. And more than that, it says in all these things we are more than conquerors. What does it mean to be more than a conqueror? Well, I believe it's this. We sometimes go through a trial and we say, well, the Lord gave me grace to bear it. He gave me grace to go through it. Well, that's to be a conqueror. But what is it to be more than a conqueror? Well, I believe to be more than a conqueror is to profit by it, Not only to have the grace that conquers the situation, so to speak, but that looks back upon it as a positive gain.

As one has sometimes said, when she drank, Meshach and Abednego were cast into the fiery furnace, and we know that they were conquerors. They didn't allow this to. Come between their souls and the Lord. But I would say they were more than conquerors because the Lord walked with them in the fire. And I believe when they look back on that experience in a coming day above, they're going to say that that was one of the brightest experiences of their whole pathway. It wasn't just something that they had to go through. You go through a bad spot on the road, you say, well, he just have to go through that bad spot. To get where you want and you're glad when it's over, you never think of

it being an actual gain to go through it, but something you have to go through. But brethren, the circumstances of your life and mine are not like a bad spot on the road. We can be more than conquerors, their positive gain, because those experiences of the Lord's grace and love and patience with us are things that we can only have down here. Have those experiences in heaven, As we remarked yesterday, in heaven everything will be eternal rest. There will be nothing to ruffle a pathway there. But it's down here that we learn things that we can't learn in heaven. And that is how the Lord undertakes for us in tribulation, in trial, and all that we go through and draws near and assures us of His love. And now perhaps you've noticed in the 38th and 39th verses something very beautiful that one has enjoyed, and that is the transition from the singular to the plural. In the first part of the 38th verse it says, I am persuaded. In the 39th verse it says shall be able to separate us. Notice that. Because. Actually, nothing can separate us from His love. But can you say I am persuaded this is a personal matter? Nothing that happens in your life or mine separates us from his love. Paul knew that. And Paul could say I am persuaded. And so the Lord would have us individually to be persuaded. It's a fact whether we're persuaded of it or not. It's a fact no matter how low we get or discouraged we get. It hasn't changed his love, but it's a triumph to be able to say I'm persuaded that it hasn't changed Islam. I am persuaded. That this circumstance has not altered his love. And so he says. I am persuaded that none of these things can separate us. From the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. I just paused to say a little word to anyone who is not clear about the security of the believer. I think this is so precious to my own heart. It says nothing shall separate us. Shall I say like this? Whether you're persuaded of it or not, thank God it's true. You can't be separated from His love because it says nothing can separate us from His love. But it's happy when the soul comes to the knowledge that can say I am persuaded, I am persuaded. But it's blessed to know that whether you're persuaded of it or not, it's true because it's all founded upon the finished work of the Lord Jesus, which doesn't change. So now let us turn over to 2nd Corinthians chapter 5. In the 14th verse. For the love of Christ come strain of us, because we thus judge that if one died for all, then we're all dead, and that he died for all. That they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Here we find the effect of this love upon the heart. We've spoken about that love. That doesn't change. But now the apostle, in enjoying this, he says, It does something in me, it produces something in me. And this love that we have been talking about, brethren, it ought to produce something in US. And what is it? That is it what it ought to constrain us. That is, draw us along. Draw us along just like a magnet, and you get it near a piece of steel and it draws the piece of steel along. It's constrained. It doesn't say the love of Christ ought to constrain us. It says it does. It does. A little boy where I was visiting, he got a new magnet.

And we brought the magnet down to a little piece of steel. The steel didn't move until the magnet got close. But when the magnet got close, the steel couldn't help but move. And why are you and I not constrained by his love? Perhaps the magnets too far away. Perhaps we're not mere enough to him. Perhaps there's something come between us and him. Did the magnet not have a drawing power even before that little piece of steel started to move? Of course it did. But it wasn't near enough. And if you and I. Do like poor Peter? We follow afar off. We allow circumstances. To come between US and the Lord. But then we don't feel the pull of that love, but it's there. It's still there. And so as we allow that precious word and the sense of His love to come near to our hearts, what is the result? Why we desire to live not unto ourselves, but unto Him who died for us and rose again. That little piece of steel began to be controlled. Were affected by the power that was so close to it, drawing it along, and I trusted each one of us as we returned from these meetings. Brethren, that we will have been near the magnet, and people will notice that we've been moved. And that we're drawn along, that there's something that's affected us. I hope in the school, in the office and in the families where we go when we return, that people will see that there's been a magnetic force that has affected us and we're being drawn along and instead of selfishness and instead of self importance, controlling our lives. That there is that desire to live not unto ourselves. But unto him who died for us, and rose again. And so I say in this portion, I believe we have the effect of that love produced upon us and the result in our lives. It doesn't. It doesn't outline certain things of worldliness. It doesn't outline certain evil things. It just simply says to live unto Him. And I'm sure that each one of us will have many questions in our lives settled if we just ask this question. Am I doing that for self? Am I living unto Self or unto Him in this matter? Yes, how precious, how we should not live unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Only that love constrain us. Now we turn over to 1St Epistle of John and the fourth chapter. 16th verse. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Yes, this shows us that it isn't something that would just be a thing that stirs us for a little time, but this lovely expression dwelleth in love. It's something of the same thought as in the epistle of Jude, where it says keep yourselves in the love of God. We feel something of this when we're together in these meetings and the love of Christ is ministered to our hearts. But as I say, we we leave again. We go out into a cold world. We meet difficult circumstances. Is it possible in the midst of all this that we can actually dwell in love? Yes. The children of Israel were in a land that was full of darkness. A darkness that might be felt. That's how bad it was. And surely the world is getting like that. It's a darkness that might be felt, it says in Isaiah chapter 60. Darkness shall cover the earth and growth, darkness the people. But the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. They had light in their dwellings. What an amazing thing. It wasn't the light of the sun, but they had light. They had the presence of the Lord bringing light into their dwellings. And brethren, this world is getting darker. Conditions are becoming more difficult, but we can dwell. In love not just get stirred up occasionally, but it is time. For the believer, according to God's provision. I don't mean by this that we don't fail betimes, but it is the normal thing, perhaps I should say, for a Christian to dwell in law, dwell in the enjoyment of that love that we have been talking about, which removes fear, which gives the holy confidence in the pathway that amid all the darkness which is ever increasing.

Amid all those things that perplex us, the state of things in Christendom, the state of things even amongst us, the state of the world, the state of our own hearts. Isn't it lovely that when this love shines in and warms your heart and mind, and that it brings us to a place that amid this gross darkness that we can have light in our dwellings? And so it tells us, he or he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him, God himself. Does not change and would walk and dwell in the sense of this in our souls. Produces a quietness. A sameness, shall I say, that characterizes the Christian's walk as going on with the Lord. And instead of being apprehensive, this perfect love casts out fear, it removes torment, because the sense of that love fills the heart, satisfies the longings of the soul. And then still more it says. We love because he first loved us. We love. It's true that we love him, but it's simply that we love that is. Divine love, as we said, acts without anything to draw it out. It acts because of what it is in itself. And we love, yes, we love the most unlovely. You know that neighbor who's so troublesome, can you love him? Yes. The Lord Jesus looked down upon those around the cross as it was brought before us last night. And he said, Father, forgive them. They know not what they do. And perhaps that brother in the meeting. That you find hard to love. Why do you love them? All you say is not very nice, but that isn't a reason for our love. Now we love Why? Because He first loved us. Did He see something in us that made Him love us? No, and He loved us not because of anything there was in us. But we love for that same reason. And so we love that neighbor, We love that brother. We go through the world as those who have entered into and enjoyed that love. But more we have partaken of His very nature. We possess the very life of Christ. We have the Spirit of God. We have the capability. Of loving in the same way that God has loved us. We love because He first loved us. And if there's anyone that we find a little hard to love, just stop and say, well He first loved me and what did he

see in me to make him love me? What is he seen in me since He saved me to make Him love me? Well, I'll never mind what we see in others. To make us love them. Love acts. Divine love, I mean, acts because of what it is in itself, in its source. And the heart of God is the source. And you and I have that life so that we can enjoy that love. We can walk in the sunshine of it and we can show it out. As the Lord said, he that dwelleth in me, he that drinketh of me, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. There's an outflow. It's impossible to receive it without having more than the cup can contain. And so it flows out. But it flows out in the same way it was received. And so may the Lord grant, brethren, that as we meditate on His love and it's unchanging character. Now that we may love. Because he first loved us.

Lawrenceville Conference: 1998, Sovereignty and Responsibility

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to turn first of all to the 25th chapter of Jeremiah. What am I had in my heart especially was how we have two things in our lives. We have the sovereignty of God and we have our responsibility. And I believe they're beautifully brought before us in God's ways, in connection with the people of God. I was thinking of the captivity which they had and how God brought them back from that captivity as it's described in the book of Ezra. But in this 25th of Jeremiah we see that it is announced long before 25th chapter of Jeremiah, the 10th verse. Moreover, I will take from thee the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the candle. And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment. And those these nations shall serve the king of Babylon. Years. It shall come to pass, when 70 years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it a perpetual desolation. And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in the this book which Jeremiah has prophesied. Against all the nations. Here we see that long before the captivity took place, when the children of Israel were taken captive and brought down to Babylon, God announced that this was going to happen. He told how long it would be they would be there, how long this captivity would last. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if you and I just thought for a moment that God knows all about us. He could talk about our lives for 70 years to come. He could tell exactly what's going to happen, what's going to happen to those who are acquainted with us and that we have to do with no known unto God are all his works from eternity isn't a blessed thing for us as children of God to be able to say. That God who knows all things makes all things work together for good. Tells us in Romans chapter 8 and verse 28. All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. And I've always enjoyed the context there because it immediately follows by these words. Whom he did for know He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son. Who he did predestinate them he also called. Whom he called them He also justified. And who? He justified them. He also glorified you. And I might say, well, my life story hasn't been written yet. But in God's ways and in his purposes it has been written. And so as we read those verses in Romans chapter 8, we might say, well, how is all this going to work together for good? Perhaps at some time you picked up a book and you came to a very, very dark page. Dark. Paragraph or a dark chapter in that book. And you said I don't know how this is going to work out. It certainly looks pretty dark. And what did you do? Well, you went over to the end of the story, and when you saw that the story ended all right, you went back and you read that sad chapter with perfect confidence. Why? Because you said I peaked, I know how the story ends. And so it's going to be all right. Maybe the tears were running down your face as you read this sad chapter. So God says, I know that's going to happen in your life too. You're going to say, how are all things going to work together for good? So God says, I'll tell you the end of the story. What is the end of the story? They were going to be conformed to the image of his son and every believer in this room. Some are passing through real times of stress and sorrow in your life. Isn't it wonderful? When we meet in the glory, every one of us are going to say, well, I see how God worked that all out, but He knows that beforehand and He's working those things. Would you say, don't we have anything to do? Yes, responsibility comes in. We're going to see in God's dealings with Israel how responsibility came in. The two things run concurrently in our lives. Responsibility and sovereignty and God who knows the end from the beginning, knows how to make those things work out. So God said that they were going to be into in captivity for 70 years before this ever happened at all. And so I just want to say this word of encouragement for any who may be passing through trials or perhaps there is something ahead of you that you don't quite know about yet.

This often happens. We start out and everything looks very bright and some tragic things happen and we say, however, can that work together for good? Will God use this period in Babylon for blessing? We've all read the book of Daniel, and God gave a wonderful testimony in Babylon through some of those who were captives there. We think of Daniel, We think of his three friends. Meshach and Abednego, God had his own way of bringing a testimony into Babylon through these men, and so even though they were because of their failure, brought their God can overrule circumstances like that. And make them turn into a blessing. And so we love to read the book of Daniel and find all that God did through Daniel and his friends, how faithfully were when they were placed in that land. For they might have easily said, well, what have we done that we have to be down here because they were faithful believers. And yet God allowed it. And God turned everything out for blessing. And now let's turn over to Daniel. I'd just like to. One thing in Daniel Chapter 9, Chapter 9 and the second verse in the first year of this reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years where of the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish 70 years in the desolations of Jerusalem, and I set my face unto the Lord by God. To seek by prayer and supplication and fasting, and sackcloth and ashes. And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, Oh Lord God, the great and terrible God. Keeping the covenant with and mercy to them that love Him, and to them that keep His commandments, we have sinned and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from Thy precepts and from Thy judgments. Neither have we hearkened unto Thy servants, the prophets which spake in Thy name to our kings, our Princess, our fathers, and to all the people of the land. Oh, Lord righteousness. Belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel that are near and that are far off, through all the countries, whether thou hast driven them because of their trespasses. Because of their trespass, which they that they have trespassed against thee. Oh Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face to our kings, to our Princess, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him. Well, here that had taken place that God had foretold because God knows the future there they were down in Babylon. Babylon, as we know, was picture of confusion, and they kept the people of God down there in *******. But we see that those Daniel and his three friends, they were faithful. They didn't allow themselves to be irritated by their condition. They might have easy said, well, wasn't our fault that all is happening. It was fault of our fathers that it happened. But we see them taking their circumstances from the Lord. 1St chapter of Daniel says the Lord delivered them into the hand of king of Babylon. The Lord gave them favor in the sight of those who were over them. The Lord gave them the ability that they had. For they did very well in their school training and they got good positions. God was

overall. But now we find that Daniel is one who reads the word of God. He searches the word of God. And I'd like to encourage every young person here to read the word of God and read every bit of it. You may not always understand it, but the Spirit of God is the remembrance tells us. In John 16, He shall bring all things to your remembrance. How can He bring things to our remembrance if we have never read them? For as we were saying in the meetings, the Bible is unlike any other book. It's God's book, and it's perfect when you think of all those books, 66 books, and if you take the five books of the Psalm, 70 books.

And isn't it wonderful that we have this? Word of God spoken over a period of hundreds and hundreds of years and all fitting together perfectly because it's God's word. Well, here was Daniel in this captivity, perhaps feeling badly that the people of God were down there in Babylon, and he found written there that God had said this captivity was going to last. 70 years. So what does he do? Does he say, well, that's going to. That's good news. No, he didn't just stop there. It was indeed good news. Was a wonderful thing for him to have discovered this, that the captivity was going to come to an end. But now the responsibility side comes in. What did Daniel do? He humbled himself. He acknowledged their iniquity and their failure. And sometimes this is a hindrance to our blessing, brethren. It's because we're not willing to acknowledge our faults and our failures. Too easy for us to see faults and failures in others, but too often we're very slow to see them in ourselves. But the Word of God would encourage us to get into the presence of God and acknowledge those things that are coming to our own lives that are a hindrance to blessing. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Well, you see Daniel here confessing his sins and the sins of his people and acknowledging that the hand of God was upon them. So the sovereignty of God had allowed them to be there, and they were going to be there for 70 years. The time hadn't yet come for its fulfillment, but Daniel knew that there was going to be an end to this captivity as far as. Those who are faithful was concerned. And God would bring some of them back to the land of Israel. And so here he is making confession and it's good for us. I say again, does anything in your life or mine that we have done, we've not pleasing honoring to the Lord? Let's forget before the Lord about it. You say, well, there's lots of faults in other people, but Bible says every one of us shall give account of himself to God. I'm not responsible for what you did, but I am responsible for what I did. It's good for us to remember that we'll never be happy if we are constantly seeing the wrong and other people and not seeing it in ourselves. But if we are before God, He will point out to us those things in our own lives that are a hindrance to blessing. Well, it's very beautiful to see here, Daniel owning and confessing this. So God was beginning to work Dell. We know that later on he caused the king to make a decree that. The children of the captivity could go back to their land. But he first worked in the heart of Daniel, and Daniel knows and owns their failure. Now if we go over to Ezra, we'll see how God worked in the heart of the king. Ezra chapter one, verse one. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled. The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation. Throughout all his Kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying Thus saith Cyrus, king of Persia, the Lord God of heaven, have given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he hath charged me to build him in house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? His God. Be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the House of the Lord God of Israel. He is the God which is. Jerusalem. And whosoever remaineth in any place where he saw a journal, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the free will offering for the House of God which is at Jerusalem. Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah, and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the House of the Lord, which is. Not only that were about them strengthened their hand with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

Well, we've been noticing how God foretold this would happen before it ever happened. They had spent 70 years down there. God had wrought in the heart of Daniel, and Daniel had found out from the Scriptures that their captivity was going to last 70 years. Now we see God working in the heart of this great king. You say, well, there's no hope that that would happen. Yes, it could happen. It did happen. And God is able, and it's a wonderful thing, Brethren, you may be in an impossible situation. I've heard people say you'll never change that person, but God can change them. God can change him. You pray about it. You may be surprised when you pray and ask the Lord that he can touch the heart of that person and make him show an altogether different attitude. I found that so often we just get sort of stubborn about it and say it's no use. But isn't as sweet to see that God wrought in the heart of this great king. And he said not only can the people go back, but I'm going to help them. And I'm going to give them what is necessary so that they can go back and build that House of God. Oh, how wonderful are the ways of God. Perhaps behind the scene it was the faithfulness of dear Daniel and his friends because we know when they were there, they didn't fail to let their light shine. And during those 70 years, we have a little record of the three friends of Daniel and himself and how they were faithful in their school life. And then how when there was a decree made that. Everyone must have fall down and worship an image. There were three boys that said, no, we're going to honor the Lord. We will not fall down and worship that image. Even if you put us to death, we'll still not do it. And they threw them into the fiery furnace, but the Lord walked with them in the fiery furnace. God is able to do what seems impossible. He can't touch people's hearts. But what I was saying was it may have been. Testimony of Daniel and his friends while they were there that made this King Cyrus realize. That there was a true God in the whole world, the God of this whole world. And now he makes this decree and says that they can go back. It actually helps them. And he commands others that if they're willing, they can help them. And now we see that their hearts are stirred up to go back. And if we come to this second chapter. Tells us here all the names of those who came back. You might say, well I always have found it hard to read over a list of names, but I'm sure if your name was in there you would be very interested in that list. Sometimes when? They publish a list of the ones who have graduated from certain courses. You're very anxious to see that list if there's some hope that your name is going to be in there and so. The Lord calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. We all like to be addressed by name. I confess I forget people's names, but it's very nice when somebody comes up to you and says hello and gives you your very name. Well, here we have the list of the names of those who came back, and the Lord takes notice of us, not just as a group. Well, 100 people or 200 people, or 500. No, he has. He calleth his own sheep by name. All I want to encourage you, I don't know the names of all who are here, but you know God has a list of the names of all who were here present. He knows perhaps that some it's been a real difficulty to pick time off and get here. The Lord takes notice of all those things and I'm sure it wasn't a very easy thing for these people to make those journey. There's one little point I'd just like to notice also in this, the 61St verse. And of the children of the priests, the children of happy ayah, the children of cause, the children of Basilia, which took a wife of the daughters of Basilia the Gileadite, and was called after their name. These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found. Therefore were they as polluted put from the priesthood. And the Zirsha said unto them, They should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim. And.

Some of them here we find that there was care. And this is interesting feature here too, that there is such a thing in the Word of God as defilement by association. People sometimes say, well, I'm walking godly, but are you associated with something that is contrary to the Word of God? That's very solemn association with evil defiles. We're told in Second Timothy 2 That those who would be vessels to honor for the

Lord. Had to separate from the vessels to dishonor. And so the man therefore purged himself from these. He shall be a vessel unto honor sanctified, and meat for the masters. Use and prepare it unto every good work. Be careful what you get associated with. I'm sure when these people married the daughters of Brazilian, they never thought this was going to happen. And so I say to you, dear young people. Be careful the partner that you have. Be careful, let you choose one who loves the Lord Jesus, who wants to follow him, who wants to honor Him. How can two walk together except they be agreed? It's going to have an effect on your whole life to get married to one who is not saved or doesn't want to follow the Lord. What a hindrance it's going to be. Well, here in this little company, there were those. They were polluted by their association. May the Lord keep us, He's able. And to him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory. With exceeding joy I couldn't keep myself. I could easily have been LED astray. I just thank the Lord for His preserving grace. Ask Him to keep you. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. And I'm not going to read the remainder of this chapter, but that sort of has interested me that it should tell about the number of horses and mules. You would wonder why Everett is the word of God. Deal with that details is that, but in that very lovely to see that God is interested in the smallest details of our lives. We all need the transportation to get here. Was he concerned whether we had a way of transportation, whether I had a car or the car was in order and able to carry us here? Yes, He's interested in all these things. What a wonderful God we have, a God who counts the very hairs of your head. You haven't got a friend that ever did that for you. My wife never counted the hairs of my head. And yet there's a lot of love between us and there's no one that would do that for you. But the Lord numbers the very hairs of your head and mine. What a wonderful God we have. We want to encourage you. If you belong to Him, acknowledge Him in your life, give Him His rightful place and you'll find how he'll come in. I don't see you won't have difficulties. Christian life is beset with that, but we learn in all those difficulties that come. How good the Lord is and how he comforts us. I tell a little story sometimes about my father. He went to the dentist in those days when they didn't freeze your when they're taking doing a filling or something. And sometimes they were quite painful. And this time the dentist was going to do a rather deep cavity. And he said, Mr. Hale, this is going to be rather painful though. Do it as gently as I can. But we have to drill this out to fill the tooth. And you know what my father said to him, He said Doctor Lyon, that was his name, Doctor Lyon. He said if I never suffered pain, I would never know what the word PAIN meant. And when I heard about the Lord's suffering, pain untold for me, he said it would be just a word to me. I wouldn't know what pain was. But he said every time I suffer a little bit of pain, it just gives me a little conception of. The pain that my Savior had when he bore my sins in his own body on the tree. So let's think about that, that sometimes these things teach us lessons that are going to be valuable to us even here and for all eternity. Well, so we see the number of the horses and all that they had, and we come to the third chapter. Of Ezra here, says here. And when the 7th month was come, and children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem. Then stood up Joshua the son of John Adec and his brethren, the priests, and Rubble the son of Shealdio and his brethren, and builded the altar of the Lord God of Israel to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God.

And they set the altar upon his basis, for fear upon them because of the people of those countries, And they offered burnt offerings around unto the Lord. Even burnt offerings, mourning and evening. They kept also the Feast of Tabernacles as it is written and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the custom as the duty of everyday required. I hear what was the first thing that they did. You might have said, well, you must have felt so very feeble. You would think by themselves first of all. But no, it was the first thing they did. They gave the Lord his rightful place. That was the first thing that says. They gathered themselves as one man to Jerusalem. God had a center. When Daniel was in Babylon, he couldn't get there. There he was, but he opened his window towards Jerusalem. He said, if I can't get there. At least recognize that God has an earthly center and I'm going to pray toward that place because the Lord who Ford knew everything he said that he would answer a prayer that was made in that place, but also prayer that was made toward that place. And so he opened his window toward Jerusalem. Well, now there may be times when you and I might be able, we might be isolated and not be able to get to the meetings, but on Lord's Day morning, we can think of it. I know some. And they were in a place where they couldn't remember the Lord. They said, well, I just went for a little quiet time and I, we just sat there in the Lord's presence. We couldn't get to the meeting at Lord's Day, but we recognize that there was a place where the Lord put his name. We couldn't get there. We were going to think about Him during that hour and in our hearts remember him. Well, it's a privilege when we can get there. Well, they were there, this company, Daniel had opened his window, but now here are the people and they're there, and they offered burnt offerings. Iran. No, there are different offerings that are mentioned, but the burnt offering is the first one. And the burnt offering brings before us what the work of Christ is to God. And I think it's very precious. Not only has it met our need, but it has glorified God, and it is brought out what is in the heart of God toward us too. Sometimes I use illustrations because they help me at least to understand things. Closing I have a debt and I cannot pay that debt. And someone says, well, Gordon, I know you've got a big debt and I'll go and pay it for you. So he goes and pays the debt. He hands me the receipt. I know my creditor can never bother me because I've got a receipt, but I don't know whether my creditor likes me or not. Maybe he likes me, maybe he doesn't. But supposing, let's put it this way, my creditor himself. He says, you know, I love that Gordon Hayhold. And he says to his son, he said, would you be willing to sell your house and raise the money S we can take this big debt off our books. And his son says, oh, yes, I'd be glad to do that, to tell out your heart and my heart toward Gordon Hayle. So he sells his house. The money is raised and I get a receipt in the mail and it says paid in full through the kindness of my son, in both cases, I knew that it was paid. A lot of difference in the second case, I know my creditor, I know his son. And dear brethren, it's not only knowing that our debt is paid, but it's knowing that God himself, as it was mentioned this morning, who am I, who will I send? He said I will go. The Lord Jesus. God had one son, and he said he would send his son, and he did send him. And when you and I give thanks. Paid many of the hymns that we sing in Christendom bring before us. How wonderful it is to know that that the debt is paid. But to me it's so wonderful that it was God himself. Who shall I say, send his Son to accomplish that work that would tell out his heart. That's what's pictured in the burnt offering. The peace offering is the communion offering. The sin offering is the wrong things that we have done. Perhaps not always knowing that they were wrong. Trespass offering is knowing that they're wrong and still doing them. That's the trespass offering. And the peace offering is the communion offering. That is, we can be now in communion with God our Father will. They offered these burned offerings. And isn't it interesting what it says here?

In the third verse and they set the altar upon his bases, for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries. And they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the Lord, even burnt offerings, mourning and evening. Isn't this quite striking? It says, for fear of the people. Why would that? Wouldn't you say? Well, surely they would have got swords and Spears ready if they were afraid of the people now? They said if we give the Lord his rightful place, we can count on him. If we give the Lord his rightful place. So they said the first thing is to give him that in all things He might have the preeminence. So they first of all built this altar and offered offerings, mourning and evening. Good to start the day with the Lord. It's good to end the day with the Lord too. Morning and. We also this was done and then it tells us about them offering willingly unto the Lord. Well, I just like to go over now to the 8th chapter because. Perhaps I could just read the last verse of the 6th chapter, this little verse. And they kept the Feast of Unleavened bread 7 days with joy, for the Lord had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the

king of Assyria unto them. To strengthen their hands in the work of the Lord. See how the Lord took care of it. He turned the heart of the King of Syria. You know the Lord is the one that the King's heart is in the hand of the Lord. As the rivers of water. He turneth it whithersoever he will. Now in this 8th chapter we see a little company going up to Jerusalem. I just like to read from the 15th verse. And I gather them together to the river that runs through Ahava, and thereof ode we intense 3 days. And I viewed the people and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi. Then sent I for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemia and Forrel Nathan, and for Jereb, Forrel Nathan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Michelin the chief man, also for Jordan and for El Nathan, men of understanding. And I sent them with commandment unto Idol the chief. The chief at the place, Castafia and I told them. But they should say unto it, do I it'll, and to his brethren the Nathaniems at the place Cassafaya, that they should bring to unto us ministers for the House of our God. And by the good hand of our God upon us, they brought us a man of understanding of the sons of Mali, the son of Levi, the son of Israel, and Cherova with his sons and his brethren. 18. And Aishabaya, and with him Josiah, the sons of Murari, his brethren and their sons. 20 Also of the methods whom David and the Princess had appointed for the service of the Levites. 220 Nephilim. All of them were expressed by name. Then I proclaim the fast there by the river of Ahava, that we might afflict our souls before our God, to seek of Him a right way for us. And for our little ones and for all our substance here, we find a little company now exercise to go up to Jerusalem very much concerned because there were enemies along in the way. But he gathered this little company together, and it says he found there, there were none of the sons of Levi. Now, you know, the sons of Levi were given to Moses and to Aaron for the service. And you know, I believe there's an exercise for us in this. Here we're a company that wanted to go up to Jerusalem. They're willing to endure quite a few of the hardships, but isn't interesting that says there were none of the sons of Levi. And you know, perhaps, brethren, there's a lack of more devotedness to the Lord. I think each one of us can say. I remember what a brother said to me one time. He said, Gordon, he said, I think we're living in days of Christian convenience. He said people do things when they're convenient, but if they're not convenient, they don't bother. He said they don't want to put themselves out and be diligent in service to the Lord.

And so I looked over these people and he said, where are the ones that really are willing to put themselves out in service to the Lord? These Levites were given for the service. You read about this in the Book of Numbers. They were given for the service of the House of the Lord. And you know, there's plenty to be done. All of us have become aware, perhaps in recent times, of how God is working in other lands. We marvel as we see the work of His Grace over there in Malawi. We see the work of His Grace now in Cuba. We see it in Romania, we see it through South America in a remarkable way. And I just like to encourage you, dear young people, while you've got strength and energy, don't put it all into just getting a good job and business. But may there be among us those that are Levites? Those who devote themselves, these Levites devoted themselves to the service of the Lord. I don't mean necessarily that you're supposed to quit your job and go out into the Lorde work. The Lord may call you to that, but there's plenty it can be done and very effective things that are done by those. Who are willing to spend time for the things of the Lord. Set aside a little time what you can do some little service for the Lord, and you will find it'll give the Lord joy, but it'll give joy to you too. I think many of us know that this work in Malawi. As a result of those who are willing to do a little service and mail things out and write letters to people, and God has caused it to grow into real work. Well, there were none of the sons of Levi, so he said, and they found men he sent. It says that in the end of the 70s. First that they should bring us ministers or servants for the House of our God. Good hand of our God upon us, they brought us a man of understanding of the sons of Mali, the son of Levi. The son of Israel and Sharabaya, and his sons and his brethren. 18 Not too many were there, but there were some that came. One of them it says he was a men of men of understanding. That's very helpful too in the gifts that are given. Tells us there in the 1St Corinthians 12, it speaks of the gift of knowledge and the gift of wisdom. You say what is the difference in the gift of knowledge and the gift of wisdom? Some people have a knowledge of the Scripture, but they don't seem to have wisdom about handling. Situations they know the scriptures, but they don't have wisdom, but the Lord provides those who have wisdom. We we provide those who have understanding of his word too. We need both. And so let's turn to the one who is the Lord of the harvest. The Lord said pray therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would thrust forth. Laborers into his harvest I just want to stir up hearts of. You, dear young people, when you're having some times of fun, like it says in the 10th chapter of Numbers, in the days of your gladness and in your solemn days, they were to blow the silver trumpets. What are the silver trumpets? What is silver? It's redemption. And they blew the trumpets. In other words, they acknowledge that we're a redeemed people. We're not our own. We're bought with a price. We belong to the Lord. Let me say in all your good. That you have. Be sure you give the Lord His rightful place. Be sure you do something where you recognize Him and his claims. And you'll find that it'll give joy to the Lord. It'll give joy to your heart too. And then there are others here that are mentioned. The methods who were these methods? Well, I'm not positive that I'm accurate about this, but I have read in the Bible dictionary that they were the descendants of those. People who came and deceived Joshua. The Gibeonites and Joshua made an agreement with them that they could stay in the land. And that they were to become servants and so these people. Who didn't have too good a background, if I can put it that way. They were now. It seemed like they were more devoted than the rest of the people. Because it says here that there were 220 methods. 220 methods, you say, Well, I wasn't brought up in the assembly and I don't fully understand, but you can still be devoted to the Lord.

Much blessing has come in from those who have bought the truth. Perhaps for myself. I was born brought up in a Christian family. I learned the truth of God from my childhood. I thank God for it. He alone can keep us and I don't. I'm not saying this in a boasting way, but there are those sitting in the audience here that have had to buy the truth. And perhaps there are more of them than there are with those of us who were brought up in the truth. May we value it, may we be devoted to the Lord, all this company. And now in the 21St verse it says, I proclaimed a fast there, that we might at the river of the habit, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of Him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our. Before they started out on this journey, they got down before the Lord and they asked Him for the right way. Well, God has given us the right way in His word. Bible says there is a way that seemeth right unto all man, but the end there ever the ways of death. We know there are many people in the world that are very sincere but sincerely wrong. And you and I, even as Christians, sometimes we can be sincere. You remember the case of David when he wanted to bring up the ark of the Lord. That was a very wonderful desire. God was pleased with that desire, but he decided that He would do it at the same way that the Philistines had sent back the ark. And so he made a new cart, and he put the ark on the new cart, and he gave two men a position of honor to take this card and guide it and bring it up carrying the ark. But the oxen stumbled. And then David began to think and he said. God has told us in His Word the way the ark is to be carried. We don't just make our own plans about these things. God has said that the ark is to be carried upon the shoulders of the priests, not on a new cart. That was a Philistine idea. And so if you're going to do something for the Lord, do it according to His Word. A lot of activity going on in the Christian world. We thank God for the desire of people. Letters seeking to do something for the Lord. But if you want to do something for the Lord that meets his approval. Search his words and find out how he wants it to be done and do it that way. When David did it, the way that God had ordered here was the ark. And you know, it's interesting, when it was on the cart, you're watching the men that were driving it and the cart was down there and there was the ark on the cart. All the attention was to the people that were driving the car. But when it was God's way was on the shoulders of the priest and all you would see in the crowd was there was that ark up above. The heads of

all the people God delights to honor His blessed Son, and every service that he has is a service that honors the Lord Jesus, that in all things He might have the preeminence. Well, they thought of Him a right way for themselves, for their little ones, and for all their substance. Notice this? Their little ones. So it's a wonderful privilege. We have children, we have a lot of young people here. I love to see you, dear young people here to see you have this privilege of being brought up under the sound of the word of God. May the Lord grant that you will be among those who will value the truth of God. A right way for our little ones and for all our substance and what we have, our possessions, our cars, everything that we want to use them for the Lord. Will he be sought the Lord, and He was entreated of them. There were a lot of enemies in the way. Now when they wanted to bring this these things up to Jerusalem and get there themselves, there are a lot of enemies in the way but tells us here in the 23rd verse. So we fasted and besought our God for this, and he was entreated of us, says in the 31St verse. Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the 12Th day of the first month, to go on to Jerusalem, and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy into such as lay in wait by the way. And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days. There's just another little thing I'd like to notice in between here. It tells us here in this 24th verse.

Then I separated 12 of the chief of the priests, Sharabiya Hashabaya, and 10 of their brethren with them, and wait unto them the silver and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering of the House of our God, which the king and his counselors and his Lords, and all Israel their present had offered. He even weighed unto their hands 650 tons of silver, silver vessels, and 100 towns, and of gold, and 100 tons, and also 20 basins of gold, and have 1000 grams, and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold. And I said unto them, Ye are holy under the Lord, the vessels are holy also, and the silver and the gold are a free will, offering unto the Lord God of your Father's. Watch ye and keep them until ye weigh them before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and the chief of the Fathers of Israel at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the House of the Lord. So we so took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver and the gold, to bring them to Jerusalem under the House of our God. You know this, all these vessels and everything was weighed out to them. And the truth has been, if we might use that expression, it has been weighed out to us. And we hear Paul saying to Timothy, oh, Timothy Keith, that which is committed to thy trust, we find in the message to Philadelphia. It says, I'd like to read it because I don't think I can just quote a word for word. In Revelation chapter 3, Revelation chapter 3 and verse 11. Behold, I come quickly, hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Wonderful deposit of truth has been committed to us as gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus, and it's been weighed out to us, and someday we're going to have to weigh it in. Have we lost it, by the way? Have we given it off, perhaps to follow perhaps other ideas instead of following? How often Paul exhorted Timothy. To keep that which was entrusted to him. May I say to your dear young people who are growing up, may you value the precious deposit of truth that God has given to us. It's been given up on every hand. A lot of young people have have been turned aside into activities that are going on. And one is very thankful for all the activities where the gospel is sounded out. The God specially valued faithfulness to him. And when these people came up to Jerusalem. And I just like to before we close, I just like to notice here in the 33rd verse. Now on the 4th day was the silver and the gold, and the vessels weighed, and the House of our God, by the hand of Miramoth the son of you Moriah the priest. And with with him was Eliezer the son of Phinehas, and with them was Joseph Ed, the son of Joshua, and Noah Dia, the son of Benui the Levites by number and by weight of everyone, and all the weight was written at that time. Also the children of those that have been carried away, which were come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the God of Israel. 12 bullocks for all Israel 90 and six rounds. 70 and seven lambs. 12 He goats for a sin offering. All this was a burnt offering unto the Lord. Now this was only a small little company. They're associating with the ones who were already there. But we find here they offered 12 bullocks for all Israel. There were only 10-2 tribes that were coming back in, just a small part of the two tribes. Why did they offer 12? Bullocks fell this morning, brethren, There was one loaf on the table. What did that one loaf represent? The company that we're here now represented every member of the body of Christ. What a privilege to be gathered on that ground. The truth has been committed to us. We're thankful for every true child of God. But may we value the truth as those vessels were weighed in by number and by weight of everyone, not only knowing the truth of the Lord's coming, not only knowing the truth of the church, not only knowing the truth of the one body, but how much weight does it have with us? Is it something that we're saying? Well, I know that's partially important, but. There are other things too that are important, but by number and by weight of everyone. Well, I rejoice, brethren, that we can be gathered as members of the body of Christ. What a great privilege it is. And we're just coming down here. Met a young man, He said, what church do you belong to? And I said, we're gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. Now isn't it strange that people think they have to have some name for what they have set up?

But isn't it precious to be gathered to that only name, that name which is everything for salvation? That name that was going to be honored and glorified forever and to be gathered not as members of a group. When I'm not a member of the group, I'm a member of the body of Christ. What a privilege. Even if there's only two or three, we can get expression to that precious truth. May the Lord grant that we'll value it. When we see in this, as I say, we see the sovereignty of God. We see responsibility. God foretold that they would be in captivity for 70 years. He told how they would be brought back. He knew the whole thing all beforehand, and he worked it out according to his own counsels. But there was also responsibility. There were quite a few that never got up from Babylon, never got up there. God delivered the ones whose heart stirred them up, and they came up and came, valued the place where the Lord had put his name. Value. The burnt offerings valued those precious vessels that were used for the House of the Lord. There were many dear believers that perhaps still remained in Babylon, but not a privilege. May the Lord grant that we'll see His hand in our circumstances, that we'll give the Lord Jesus His rightful place, and that we'll give Him that place of honor that is due to Him. Brethren, we're soon going to see that precious Savior as our brother brought before us this morning, joy unspeakable and full of glory. And won't it be worth it all? To hear him say well done, well done, it'll be worth it all no matter what the effort was, may be may he granted for his namesake.

Glendale Conference: 1981, The Wisdom of God for our path

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Might determine first of all to Jeremiah chapter 10. Jeremiah chapter 10 and. Verse 23 I'm. Not in himself, it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. And then could we also turn to the 27th Psalm, Psalm 27 and verse 4? One thing have I desired of the Lord. That will I seek after, that I may dwell in the House of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord. And to inquire in his temple. And would you turn also to Proverbs chapter 1? And the seventh verse. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. But fools despise wisdom and instruction. In the 4th chapter of Proverbs on the 23rd verse. Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. And then again in the. 3rd chapter. And the fifth verse. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all

thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. And just one more passage in the 9th chapter of Proverbs. Proverbs Chapter 9 and the first verse. Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars, she hath killed her beasts, she hath mingled her wine, she hath also furnished her table, she hath sent forth her maidens, she crieth upon the highest places of the city. Whoso is simple, let him turn in, hit her, As for him that wanteth understanding. She saith to him. Come eat of my bread. And drink of the wine which I have mingled, Forsake the foolish and live. And go in the way of understanding. Well, I'd like to speak a little this afternoon, dear young people, about the importance of the wisdom of God for our pathway. And I was thinking of how each one of us only have one life, how short life really is. And most of us, I trust all of us, are looking for the imminent return of the Lord Jesus, that soon he is going to come. And so that we really only have a very short time left to us. That we can truly live for the Lord Jesus. It's only a very short time, I believe, because as we look about on the horizon of this world, we see things taking place prophetically. We see also the breakdown of morals. We see the breakdown of everything that God has committed to man and responsibility. And we can't help but feel that the Lord's coming is near. But perhaps he might leave us here a little longer. And it is most important that we should seek to order our lives in a way that is pleasing to Him, that is for His honor and glory. And I was speaking and thinking particularly of how important the home life is. I believe we can see how the enemy is seeking to attack the people of God in his attempt to try and smash the pieces. The home life we find that even a blessing in the assembly is. Very often the result of a home that is ordered according to the mine and will of God. We find in the epistle to the Ephesians, where we have brought before us that high truth that we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, that it's in that very epistle that we have brought before us those practical things in connection with husband and wife and children and parents, masters and servants. Yes, in the very epistle where we have the highest truth. It ought to display itself in our lives down here, and in the way that we act in the relationships of life. And so we find also in the Epistle to the Corinthians of those important instructions in connection with marriage. We might say, but Corinthians has to deal particularly with the assembly and assembly order. Yes, it does, but how often, and one has to say it with sadness. We can see whole assembly.

Families in trial and sorrow because the home life has not been ordered according to the mind and will of God, and it brings its reflection right into God's assembly. And so we find in Timothy where we have the governmental ways of God, there again we find the same thing. Why he's exhorting how husbands and wives should act. So we find all through the scripture the importance of. And seeing this meeting is particularly for young people, and perhaps if the Lord leaves us here, there may be those who are going to enter into marriage or have recently entered into it. Why? Surely it is something that we should carefully consider before the Lord. We should consider it because of what we are. We are here as representatives of Christ here upon earth. I was reading something very interesting in connection with Prince Charles. I think all of us know that recently there was a royal wedding over in England and Prince Charles's comment was I'm not an ordinary person. He said I expect someday to be the king of England. And he said I have to consider this in connection with. The partner that I choose, because I'm going to choose one who will probably be the queen, and he said I must consider very carefully the one who is going to share this position with me. Realize, dear young people, that we are kings and that we are going to reign with Christ, and that this has a reference to us. If Prince Charles, a man who is only thinking of an earthly position, should make such a comment, and should think so seriously about the step that he was taking, how much more so when we think that we are. Destined not to just be a king over a country like England. But to the kings and priests to reign with Christ, when he takes his place as King of kings and Lord of Lords, and that now we are here on earth as representatives of heaven. Paul said, Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us. We pray you in Christ's death be reconciled to God. He considered that he was here as a representative. For Christ, and we in some measure are here as representatives of Him too. It was read to us this morning. He that saith He abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. Moreover, Prince Charles also added this. He said divorce must never be in my thoughts. That would be totally out of my thoughts as one who was going to be the King of England. And how much more so when we think of that as believers we are part of the espoused bride of Christ. How much more serious that we should seek to enter into the relationship with a proper prospectus and understanding of what God requires of us and what we should be and what we as individuals and what our homes represent here upon earth. Well, that's why I read these different passages. Do any of us in ourselves have the wisdom to handle these situations that we must meet in life? The prophet Jeremiah said. Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is. Is not in himself, it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. Some of us are a little older. We have entered into marriage and been married for many years and we know that it wasn't our own wisdom, it wasn't anything of ourselves that we were able to find the path and the partner that the Lord had for us. It was by us. Prayer for a prudent wife is from the Lord. And so. The way of man is not in himself. It's not something that you and I can enter into and decide in our own wisdom or in our own strength. We need the wisdom of God, and we have that in this precious book. I think I can say as I rolled right back through this precious book, more and more what God has given to us just exactly and altogether what we need for our whole pathway.

It says his divine power. Have given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. There is instruction for our whole pathway. I'm speaking a little bit this afternoon about this marriage relationship but there are so many other important decisions that we have to make and in some sense they're somewhat relative to that is we need wisdom as to the line of employment that we would follow in life we need. Wisdom from God as to where He would have us to live to locate ourselves. We need wisdom from Him too, as to the company of Christians with whom we could be associated. Why? There are many, many different companies of Christians and we just have to look around and pick out the ones we like the best, the ones where we think we could be most accepted and compatible with them. Oh no. We find the answer. In God's Word, we don't seek out a job that is just altogether what we ourselves would choose without reference to the Lord, because you might find yourself in a position of something that you might like to do, but in which you could not glorify God. You might choose a certain place and climate and find out that that wasn't where the Lord wanted you to be at all. He might want you to be in some other place altogether because He doesn't place all His lights in exactly the same spot. He hasn't told us as Christians to locate ourselves in the most ideal climate and surroundings He has. Told us in all thy ways acknowledge him. And he will direct thy paths. So it's a very blessed thing that we have direction in the Word of God for all that we need for our pathways. The first verse that we looked at in Proverbs was this. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and I believe that this is a very important thing for us. This is not the thought of the fear of dread. It's a fear that is begotten in our hearts because of two things. Because we know that God our Father is so wise and because we know His love toward us, you might have a fear of dread of. Someone who could do you harm. But as a believer, you know that judgment has been taken care of, It's passed for you, and there is no judgment to those who are in Christ Jesus. Nevertheless, there is such a thing as the fear of displeasing one who has done so much for us. We use that expression commonly ourselves when there's someone that we love very much and someone asks us to do something that we know would displease that person. And our answer might be, oh, I'm afraid that would hurt so and so. And he's very dear to me. I wouldn't want to do that. It would hurt him if I were to. Do that we use the word afraid. It isn't exactly a fear of bread, but it's a fear that is begotten of love. And two, there is a fear of going against the advice of someone who knows much better than yourself. If someone always had perfect wisdom, I would be afraid to go against their advice, wouldn't you? And you know, the one whom we call our

friend knows everything, His wisdom. Ever wake up? His sight is never dimmed. He knows the way he taketh, and I would walk with him. Aren't you afraid to choose a different path from that that has been marked out by your dearest friend? The one who knows infinitely more than I do or you do, who looks down from heaven and looks on The whole panorama of life sees exactly what's happening on every hand. Knows our frame, knows all about us. Good to have someone like that, your young people. Aren't you a little afraid to go against his advice? Aren't you a little afraid to go against His Word? The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. God looks to those who tremble at His Word, So it's important that we should have the fear of the Lord before us.

That's the very beginning of wisdom. There's anyone who is not saved here. Why? I say to you, it's a very solemn thing not to have the fear of God before you, because in your case you need to fear Him as one who has the power to act in judgment and will have to be your judge if you refuse His offers of grace. So then we have the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and we have that beautiful verse in the 4th chapter. And just like to look at it again, the 23rd verse. Thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life or, as the new translation reads, keep your heart above everything that is guarded. We guard carefully our health, we guard our possessions, we guard so many material things in this world, but isn't it strange that we just seem to let our affections run fast and loose as though we could just. And like this and like that, and let that like that we have, or that love that we have, hold and control our lives. Lives many a young person has allowed his heart to go out to someone or something and that has molded his whole life for her whole life and has changed their course from following the Lord. Well might the apostle John say love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Oh, I beseech you, dear young people, watch your affection. Watch your affections. When you see your affections going out to someone or something, check whether it's according to the mind and will of God. It's so easy. King David was a very wonderful king, but one day he got a little bit LAX and he let his his affections go out to someone that was forbidden of God to be his wife. And we know the sad disaster that took place. We know where it landed him. And it was just because he didn't keep his heart above everything that was guarded out of it are the issues of life. You and I are just exactly where our affections are. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. Our life is exactly where our affections are. The boy likes football? Well, that's where he's going to be if he likes. If someone likes dress, why, That's what you're going to go after. You like entertainment? That's what you're going to go after. And so we need to watch where we allow our affections to go. Oh, how good. If our affections would go out in return to the one who loved us and gave himself for us, he couldn't give more. He gave himself, and he wouldn't give less. And more than this, he's never going to cease to love us. Having loved his own, which were in the world, He loved them unto the end. So keep your heart, dear young people, Watch where you let your affections go, whether it's things or people. All be careful check by the word of God. He is the one who's interested in your blessing and your happiness. The Lord Jesus not only died to save us from hell, but He died in order to put us for glory. And then it tells us too, in that passage we looked at in the 27th Psalm, that David had one thing, he said one thing. Have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the House of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple? We all know the end of the 23rd Psalm where the Psalm says. Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever. And we can think of that in connection with the glorious future ahead of us in the Father's house. But David had a deeper desire, and his desire was that he might dwell in the House of the Lord all the days of his life. O dear young people, are we praying this that we would be kept in communion with the Lord? In the path of his choosing, is that the one thing that's most important and above everything to us? Oh, as I have watched young people all my life and I think I can say love them from my heart, why, surely I've seen many, many start out so well and then other things and other interests came in and we can't help, as the prophet Jeremiah said. He said my soul shall weep in secret places.

For your pride because the Lord's flock is carried away captive. What a sad thing to see those who allow their affections in their hearts to go out in the wrong direction. There isn't that one purpose in their life. One thing that I desire of the Lord and not only desire at dear young people, seek after it day by day. Pray that prayer of the 16th Psalm. Preserve me, O God, for in Thee do I put my. Trust there isn't one person in this room of any kind of maturity years that wouldn't just look up and say I only thank the Lord that he's kept me thus far. It's only his keeping grace that can keep any of us. But do we have this desire? Oh dear young people, it's so important. Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. It says that all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord, and that is what is it that will keep us? A sense of duty? Oh no, A precious Savior, one who's altogether lovely. Loves us and will never cease to love US1. Who's everything that we can wish and more. What a Savior we have. What a blessed one to fill and satisfy our hearts. And this is what the psalmist said. I always want to see the superlative of beauty in my precious Savior. I want to see Him as the one who's the best friend. Altogether lovely. None with him can compare. Have you and I got this desire? One thing, to dwell in the House of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord. And then why does it come in at the last, and to inquire in His temple? Well, you know, many young people inquire and ask the Lord what they should do when they get into a problem. I guess we all do that. Why wait till we get into a problem? Why wait till we've got into a difficulty? We don't we we try as we travel. Not to wait till we get on the wrong road to look at the map. We try to get it out before and know where we're going so that we don't get on the wrong road. And here, young people, you want to make the right decisions. All I can say then is keep close to the Lord, keep close to the Lord, follow the light and wisdom of His Word and you won't go wrong. And he wants to guide you. He wants to direct you. He's far more interested in your blessing and happiness than anyone else in the whole world. He, he loves you so much that he is not going to be satisfied with anything less than your company for all eternity. And the wonder of all wonders to my heart is that when I get there, he's going to be satisfied. How can he be satisfied with me? Well, that's a marvel, isn't it? But he is. That's just how much he loves us. It's an unchanging love. And so I say to you, dear young people, may this prayer or this desire in the 27th Psalm be the expressed desire of our hearts in our pathway here. I'm going to say the verse again. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that when we seek after that takes diligence, takes purpose apart, that I may dwell in the House of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord. And to inquire in his temple, Well, I believe if there is that, then the Lord graciously comes in. Patiently is with us. He wants to bless us, I say. Well notice brings us to what we've read here in this 9th chapter of Proverbs. It says Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars. Maybe some young people have heard me make this comment before, but perhaps. That mayor is repeating that the book of Proverbs has particularly to do with a father and a mother instructing their children in the 1St 7 chapters. Each chapter begins, I think, but one with my son. Or hear the instruction of a father, and forsake not the love thy mother, because this is the God ordained channel for our instruction.

And I know that there are many young people. People here who have Christian fathers and mothers thank God for a Christian father and mother. You don't know what a blessing it is. You may not realize when you're young. You may feel that they are always after you and instructing you, but you don't know how much they seek your good and your blessing. They want you to be happy. They desired above everything else for you. And so God has given this responsibility to parents and. Just pause to say a word to those who are parents. This is a day when it's hard to earn a living. It's difficult. And it seems the economy is set up so that two parents are expected to work, to even have enough money to support a home. And it makes it very, very difficult. And so I'm saying this because this is a devil's attempt that parents

wouldn't have enough time with their children. Because whoever has their children and young people, they are the ones that have them. And I beg of you as parents to remember that God has given you a tremendous responsibility in those young lives, committed to your care, and may He give us grace as parents to be faithful now. One parent said to me, we were busy trying to get a home, trying to get along and get settled in life, and we neglected our family. Now they're grown up and they're away. Oh, I say to you, it's it's true. It is difficult in the present economy, but put First things first. Remember these first seven chapters of Proverbs. Remember how much our children need the instructions and the warnings that are given to us so plainly in those chapters. Then in the 8th chapter the picture changes a little bit and we see a little picture brought before us of the children leaving home. And all the time comes when the children leave home. You'll notice the way the 8th chapter begins. It doesn't say like the other chapter. My son, keep my words and so on, but notice the 8th chapter. Doth not wisdom cry and understanding put forth her voice. She standeth in the top of the high places, by the way, in the places of the paths. She prayeth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in, at the doors. Perhaps in your own mind you can just picture this. And I know there's a lot of young people here that perhaps for their jobs they've. Gone somewhere to school. Perhaps I've had to go someplace for the sake of unemployment. And you don't hear Father's voice, you don't hear Mother's voice anymore. But Wisdom still cries. Wisdom still cries. And the wisdom is the Lord Jesus himself personified. He is Wisdom. If you read the chapter, you'll see. And that He is the one who is brought before us here as the Creator, who knows us through and through, who knows all about this world and all its tricks and everything. The chapter shows us that he has a perfect understanding. All things wisdom is mine sound counsel. He said he understands all the things that you're going to have to meet. And now when no longer you hear the voice of parent, don't forget the voice of wisdom still cries. God has given you in his word the instruction that you need. And I won't dwell upon this 8th chapter, but in the 8th chapter it says. In the. Last verse. He that sinneth against me rameth his own soul. All they that hate me love death. All they that hate me love death. That is, if we don't want the wisdom of God, then we must love a path that only leads to a sad and solemn end. Oh, may the Lord grant that we might follow them the wisdom of His word. When we come to this 9th chapter, it says here Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars. Well, I'd like to just speak of this verse in connection with a partner for life. You know, as I say, and I believe it is very important, the partner that you choose in life is either going to make you or break you, is either going to help you or hinder you, is going to be a blessing or otherwise in your life. And it's so important that you should be before the Lord about this. There is no other decision.

That is so important, except that which has to do with the salvation of your soul and following the Lord in the path of obedience in a spiritual way. But in a natural sense, it's the most important decision that you can possibly make. And as I have watched young people and seen them enter into relationships of life, I have seen some and it has just been the beginning of a real change and a blessing of happiness and joy and following. The Lord helping one another and with others it has been the very opposite. It hasn't been for their blessing. And I'm saying these things rather frankly because as I say, as I have traveled about, I have seen how that the breakdown of the home is affecting the whole assembly. It's spoiling the testimony because we become involved. And all these kind of things, because the whole life is the background of the Assembly of God. We find in the epistle of Timothy the one who was in the position of responsibility in the assembly was one whose house was ordered according to the will of God. And so this is so important. I just like to mention these 7 pillars as the things that you might look for so that you can build a home that is according to the mind and will of God. I address this both to the boys and to the girls. I address it particularly to the boys because you are the one who makes the particular advances, but also to the girl because she is responsible about her response. You know, I believe that in the divine pattern the love is always to begin in the heart of the man. There was no love in our hearts toward the Lord Jesus. The love began in his heart. Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. He was the one that had that love in his heart. And at first we didn't respond, but in His grace He continued seeking us until he broke us down and then he won our hearts. And I've seen some very happy marriages where the boy has really. Sought the affections of the girl and has resulted in happiness. But I've seen the reverse, where it hasn't really been the boy who did the seeking. And I don't believe that that is the divine pattern. I believe it's God's pattern, that it should begin in the heart of the boy, and then it's something that is sustained through the marriage, that love that God planted there. But of course, now the girl, she is responsible. As to her response, we don't find that Isaac was. Forced upon that Rebecca our. Brother Isaac was forced upon Rebecca. We find that she was given the opportunity to decide. And it was said to her, Wilt thou go with this man? It was her decision. And I am saying this because a girl may or may not feel that the one who is making the advances is the right one. But I believe that. What is the divine plan and. That's why it's so important that we should pray and seek the Lord's mind. And so I believe that in this, there are really seven different things that are brought before us here. And I just like to mention them, these seven things and I'll speak to them briefly. First that the partner is saved, and secondly, that your partner wants to follow the Lord. And thirdly, that you're sure that there is a real deep affection and then that there is a respect. And then that the the boy accepts the place that God has given to him as the man, and that the girl accepts the place that God has given to her as the woman. And then that there is self sacrifice for one another and that there is self sacrifice for others. And I believe that if we look for those kind of things, we will find that which builds a happy home. And if you can look and think of some happy homes that you know about, I think you would say, yes. I, I think I see those seven things in those homes. I think I see they're both saved. They both want to follow the Lord. There's a real love for one another, an enduring love. There is a mutual respect for one another. They make sacrifices for one another, and then together they sacrifice for others. I believe these things are very, very practical. Dear young people, we're living in days when everything is made of the outward appeal. But God would have us to look a little deeper than the outward appeal. He wants us to look into that which is.

Vital and real, the Scripture says. Gracefulness is deceitful and beauty is vain. The woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. And so these are deep moral virtues, same as we have in the New Testament, where it speaks of the hidden man of the heart, and that which is not corruptible, the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God, a great price. Well, I'm just to speak of them one by 10. How often we have seen a boy or a girl. Going on for the Lord. Coming regularly to the meetings, reading their Bible. Then perhaps they see somebody who's not saved all. They say they're such nice people, nicer than anybody I've met in the meeting. So, so nice, so thoughtful, so kind. Let me warn you solemnly, the Bible tells you, be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers what communion hath light. With darkness, what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? To think that you would join yourself for life with someone who's on his or her way to hell while you're on your way to heaven? What a what a tragedy it is, to say the least, to think that a Christian would enter into such a position. And how does it come about? Well, the Bible says keep thy heart. With all diligence, we don't we don't realize our own hearts. One of the verses my father used to give to us as young people constantly when we were still at home. Used to bring that verse before us. He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool. Either trust us in his own heart as a fool. I've seen it happen. Young people will go out and they say, oh, I didn't mean anything by it. It was just a way to spend an evening. But how could you spend an evening with someone who didn't love the Lord and someone whom you knew very well might steal your heart? Oh, I warn you, dear young people, there's many, many tragedies among those who have. And gathered. To the precious name of the Lord Jesus. And then they didn't keep their heart, and they allowed those affections to go out to someone that was not saved. Can we save it? I've often seen it happen that partner got saved afterwards. Thank God

for that. I thank God from the bottom of my heart every time I find out that some Christian married an unbeliever and the unbeliever got saved afterwards. But are we going to presume on the grace of God? Are we going to say that because God overruled our mistakes that therefore we can go ahead and plunge into a path that is disobedient to His Word? And while there are some, and God in His grace has wrought and sometimes saved the partner, why there's a great many. The partner hasn't been saved, and they have dragged the Christian away, and the Christian has lost all fruitfulness in their lives. And while at the end, perhaps God came in. The last years and the sorrows were such that it didn't make it worthwhile. It would have been far better to have waited upon the Lord, far better to have gone on alone through life. You know, there's a very interesting thing because there may be some come from very small meetings and you say, but there aren't any that I can think. And so because I can't find a Christian partner, the only alternative is to have someone who's not saved and hope they will get saved. Well, let's say that you have to disobey God in order to have his blessing, and surely that's not the right thing to do. You know, there's a very interesting thing in connection with the ark. Did you ever notice that all the unclean animals went in two by two? But the clean animals went in by 7. Why was it so that the unclean animals went in two by two? But the clean animals by 7 because that wasn't an even number. I suppose it possibly means that there were three couples and 1 odd one. That is 3 who had a mate and 1 odd one. Well, what about those odd ones? Did you ever find out what happened to them? Well, when they came out of the ark, Noah took all of the clean animals and it says he offered a sacrifice to the Lord.

And I have seen young people that have gone through life alone rather than marry an unbeliever, and their life has been a sacrifice to the Lord. But the Lord's not going to forget that sacrifice. The Lord's going to reward that sacrifice in the coming day. Far better to go on through life alone than to disobey His word and get away from Him. And so I just present this to you, dear young people. Be sure the one whom you think of is truly. The Lords we had a little bit in this morning too. Not just profession, but reality. By their fruits ye shall know them. Don't be satisfied with just a lip profession. Look for reality and look for what is vital and real. Because you know sometimes the partner can say yes in order to please you, in order to get you. I work with a man and he told me himself. He was not saved and he married a Christian girl and he said I went with her to the meetings. I don't know just what group it was because it was over in England. He said I went with her until we were married. And he said after you catch the bird you're free. And that was the rest of his life. And he, he didn't go along. His wife died, I suppose an unhappy person. I never met his wife, but was sad. To think, I talked to that man many times about the Lord, even came out to the meeting and heard the gospel, but as far as I know he died without Christ. But he pretended to please the one whom he married. Don't be satisfied with the pretense. Look for reality, dear young people. And then the next is to follow the Lord. Scripture says how can two walk together except they be agreed? Except they be agreed. I've seen young people and I meet a nice Christian, and a Christian is not seeking to follow the Lord, perhaps even might be in the meeting, but is not really wanting to follow the Lord. So it's a divided home. One wants to follow the Lord, the other doesn't. And there isn't unity. And how can two walk together except they be agreed? It's a wonderful thing to have a partner that really wants to follow the Lord. And when you want to do something for the Lord to be able to talk it over and say let's do this and have a partner who is truly an armor bearer. A help in the in life. When you problems arise, you can turn to the Lord together. You have mutual desires. You want to please Him and so you set out in life to follow the Lord. You read the Word together, you pray together and you make your decisions. You go to meeting together. But oh, how often we've seen, Oh, well, that partner is a Christian. He doesn't. He doesn't really see the path of the truth. But he or she is a real devoted Christian. And I've seen that happen too, so often. And what happens afterwards? Well, either one decides to go the wrong way, or they both decide that they'll choose the more easy path where there won't be any conflict as they think. Oh dear young people. Be sure that the one that you choose is one who wants to follow the Lord. And I say this, when you go out together, what do you talk about? You talk about the Lord. You really share thoughts of His love one with another. You find after you've been together and spent an evening that you were strengthened in the Lord or hindered. You come home feeling refreshed in spirit that you've been with someone who really helped you to follow the Lord. Oh, that's what it means. So. Can I say that is the second thing? And then there needs to be love. No, there has to be a real, deep and abiding love, and it must be. It mustn't be just some kind of infatuation with looks or with personality or something. It has to be something that's a little deeper than that. It's something that you can't altogether define. Love is something that I don't think it's possible to be fine, but I will say this. It isn't handling one another. It isn't that kind of thing. That isn't what love is at all. Love is something.

That you can feel down in your heart. That is very real and it doesn't depend upon. The indulgence of one another's feelings. I I say this to you because I think this is so important. Lots of people. Confuse love and lust. But you know, love is something that's altogether different, something that is abiding, something that goes on. Because you have to share life together, you enter into things together. I've often said in connection with that verse and 1St Thessalonians chapter 5, it says, I pray God, your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved, blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. And I believe, dear young people, that is the order. Spirit means that the intelligent God conscious part of your being. You weigh the thought, you consider it carefully before the Lord. Is this the one? That the Lord has chosen for me. And then not until you have considered that carefully, you'll let your emotions go. That's the soul. And not until the wedding date, you let the body go. So let's remember what love really is. It is something that we feel, something that abides and that carries us through life. You can often see it. In some and my wife and I often after some young couples have been married, we'll say. You can see the sparkle of it and others. It just seems to be lacking. There's something that's real about it, dear young people. And be sure that it's one you love. And then there needs to be respect, and that's an important thing too. We're not all suited to one another. There are some that are nice Christians. There are some that want to follow the Lord. But there isn't a feeling of respect that you could have. And if I could define it in a very simple way, it would be this, that you're pleased to introduce your partner as part of yourself on any occasion and in any kind of company. You're just pleased that that person represents you, is really part of you. I've seen couples and they're ashamed of one another. They really are not part of one another. They find fault with one another, they talk about the failures of their partner. But you know where there's respect, It's something that you feel and I think you need to consider this carefully if you're going to be married. To be pleased to introduce this person who is going to be my partner as part of myself on any occasion, well, this is this is what respect really is and I believe this is important. And then it says and then also mention the place of man and place of woman. You know, that we're living in a day when this is being destroyed in the world. We find that the place of man and the place of woman is trying to be trying to change it and make what they call unisex. You know, God has a place for the man and he has a place for the woman. And I believe it's important if you're going to be married that. The one whom you're going to marry is able to occupy the place of a husband. If it's the man and that you can look up to him and respect him and honor him, you're content to be submissive to him, or that's what the Bible says you should be. And if you don't feel that you can submit to him, you better not enter into marriage if you can't recognize him as the head which God says he is. It isn't a man that has assumed this place in this. Present society people make out that men assumed this place, but they really aren't worthy of it. Well, true, we're not always worthy of it, but God put us in the place and we are responsible to fulfill the place that He has put us in. And it's very important that you should expect that the one whom you marry is one that you can look up to and honor and submit to him and give him the place that God has given to him. And then too, that

the boy should consider as to whether the girl is willing to take the place that God has assigned to her. Is she one who is forever trying to take the lead and make all the decisions and everything? There's something wrong because we're helpers together in decisions. And I don't say the husband's wisdom is always best. God had to say to Abraham on one occasion.

Hearken unto the voice of Sarah thy wife, and all that she saith unto thee. And a man being here doesn't mean that he's always made the right decisions and doesn't need any help from his wife. I thank God for much help that I have received from my wife. And I'm sure that many a man who has had a happy marriage would bless God from his heart that he has a wife who helps him but still honors him in the place where God put him. And so here we have the place that God has assigned to the man and to the woman. And then the next thing we mentioned was self sacrifice for one another. Well, I believe this is important too. It's very, very nice to see that kind of willingness on the part of the husband and the wife to make sacrifices for one another. In other words, not to be selfish. And you'll notice this in little things. There's a lot of little things that you'll discover when you're going together as to whether the one who's going to be your partner is selfish or is willing to make sacrifices to help you. For as one man said to me, he said, he said to me, what I'm trying to do is to make someone else happy. Well, you know, isn't that nice? And that's, that's the real way. Happiness in life. And I say to every boy that's going to be married, don't get married just to thank the girl who's going to make you happy. Get married to make her happy. And in making her happy, you will be happy. The scripture says. The scripture says it's more blessed to give than to receive and unto if if it's a girl that I'm speaking to. Are you willing to try and make your husband happy? I remember reading a. Came to one of the meetings and she got saved and some of the women who were helping in the work told her she should go home and tell her husband that she had been saved. And she said oh I can't do that. If I do, he'll kill me. Hi. He'll be so angry because he has no use for Christianity. This was a number of years back when there wasn't as much established order as there perhaps is even now. And so this Christian man name was Mr. Becker. He said, Well, it says in Peter that they may without the word be 1 by the conversation of the wives. And he spoke to this lady, he said. If you'd like. Like to win your husband? I'd like to ask you a few questions. He said. Who gets the breakfast in your house? Oh, she said he he usually gets up and gets his own breakfast. Well, he said, tomorrow morning you get up and get the breakfast for him. And he said you try and cook food that he likes and she said. Well, no, I guess I'm selfish. I I cook the things I like most myself. He said you start cooking the things that he likes and when he wants to do things, are you willing? Well, she said, I guess I haven't been very cooperative. Well, he said you go home and you make a nice meal for him. You get up tomorrow morning and make the breakfast for him, but don't tell him you've been saved. Just do those things for him. Well, she went home. After a couple of days, he said. Whatever's happened to you? And she said, well, I can't tell you. You'll be angry if I tell you. And so it went on for a few days more. She still was acting this way. And he said, he said, you have to tell me because I like you this way. And she said, well, you may not like what I tell you, but I've taken the Lord as my Savior and that's what's made the difference. Well, this is Mr. Becker told me within two weeks the man was saved and got baptized. Well, it's just a little incident that I tell you. It just shows what can be done when we're willing to follow the precepts of God's Word. Many unhappy homes can be changed altogether if we're only. Willing to follow what God says in his word. When I'm speaking to young people here that I'm asking you to consider these things and then these sacrifices to one another. But then there's also sacrifices for those outside says in the 31St Proverbs. She stretches forth her hands to the needy, and her tongue is the law of kindness. Isn't that beautiful?

Here's one who's not only a white that's. Fulfilling her place in the home of. But here's the outreach to others. And you know that's what a Christian home ought to be. Not just a place where we become selfishly centered in one another, but where we find joy in doing things together for others. Well dear young people, I'm just bringing these few things before you. It says wisdom hath builded your house. He hath hewn out her 7 pillars, and I would beseech of you. Hear you out the seven pillars if you want to have a happy. Home. Think of this before you get married. Talk it over together. And if you're not both prepared to enter marriage with the seven pillars, remember it will not be a feast in the home. It will not be a happy home. And if it hasn't been so, you can still erect the pillars, you can still erect them. Many an unhappy home can be changed into a happy one if we get down before the Lord and ask His help and His grace. And his strength so that we might have one that's for his glory. And I'll add again before I close, and perhaps one of the main reasons why I've said it is it's going to affect the assembly too. It's going to affect the assembly, all the sorrows and the trials that are in the Assemblies of God because. Cause of unhappy homes, because the relationship between husband and wife is not what it should be. The homes at the breaking point. Now there isn't that order in the home and it reflects itself in the assembly. We come there and there's no praise in our hearts. Well, I beseech you, dear young people, consider these things carefully. The Lord wants to bless you. He wants to give you. He wants to bless you. And if he doesn't bring a partner into your life. He can bless you another way and I say again, there are going to be and there will be those whose lives are lives of sacrifice for the Lord. Don't be discouraged if He doesn't. He has something else for you because As for God, His way is perfect. But don't consider anything else in marriage than having us with 7 pillars. Seek that last for you. He's not asking you to accept something that second rate. He wants to give you the best. The best, the best. Blessings He'll provide us. May the Lord grant that we'll seek His mind and His will for our pathway. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

Lawrenceville Conference: 1982, Life of Moses

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I'd like to turn first of all to a verse in Jeremiah chapter 10. Jeremiah chapter 10 and verse 23. O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. And I'd like to turn over to the 11TH of Hebrews. Hebrews, Chapter 11. And verse 23. By faith, Moses, when he was born was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child and they were not afraid of the King's commandment. By faith, Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter. Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, esteeming the reproach of Christ. Greater riches than the treasures in Egypt. For he had respect unto the recompense of the reward by faith He forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith, he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood. Lest he that destroyed the first born should touch them by faith they passed through the Red Sea, as by dry land, which the Egyptians are saying to do, were drowned. Well, the young people, I'd like to speak this afternoon a little bit about the life of Moses. I believe we can learn very many wonderful lessons from the life of this man. In the meeting this morning we were taking up about the Lord Jesus. We know He is the perfect example. He is the one who began and completed the pathway of faith in perfection. There was no one that was perfect but Him, and He is the one that we should. Before us as the object in everything and in every decision that we make. But we do have in this 11TH chapter, those who did walk the path of

faith, not in perfection, but in this way. They're men of like passions with ourselves, and they perhaps help us to understand our own pathway in a better way because of what they had to meet. And having still the flesh in them, we learn. That they needed to learn lessons in the school of God, and we all have to learn in the school of God. In fact, every one of us. The moment we are saved, we enter that school and God has His way with us. There's an individual tuition for each one of us. No two of us are exactly alike, and so the Lord is taking into account. All about your pathway. Moses had no choice where he would be. Born, perhaps if he had had his choice, it wouldn't have been to be born in a position where he was, where there was such persecution against the people of God. He would have chosen to have a perhaps easier and different path. And perhaps some of us here might be sort of. A little bit upset of the circumstances in which we are found, and maybe our home life hasn't been all that we would desire it to be. Maybe in the assembly where we live, there aren't all the situations that we think are the most conducive to Christian growth. But I say again that God has His hand in every circumstance. The way of man is not in himself. There was only one person who could choose where he would be born. And that was the Lord Jesus, and he chose to be born in a Manger. He chose to take the lowest place. He chose to go through this world. As we have been reminded in our meetings, meeting all the situations that we meet only sin apart, We have to meet them. And we're conscious that we still have the flesh within us, but we also have, if truly the Lord's, a new life. Yeah, it's the very life of Christ that. We possess, so we can't say that we're without power because we're we have the life of Christ and we're indwelled by the Spirit of God. We may not be using the power, we may at times allow that fallen nature to act, but God has made full provision for us. And so I just like to look at this life of Moses in the practical way that it can apply to us and some of the things that we too can learn in the pathway of faith. And I believe if we profit by these things, it will be for God's glory and our blessing. It tells us whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might.

Have hope. So everything that's written about Moses was written for me. It was written for me to prophet and for you too. And for each one of us. We can learn something of God's ways, of his patience, of his grace, of the mistakes that we make, and of the patience of God. And so I say, let us look at the life of Moses in this particular way. Someone has said that Moses who lived to be 120 years old, his life was divided into 3 parts and we don't know how long we may be left here. But I suppose whether our life is short or long in some measure, these three parts have a place with every one of us. We may be learning some of the things concurrently, that is together. We may have to learn some of them separately, but we do have to learn those things that it was necessary for Moses to learn. And it seems in general that we seem to have to learn them in much the same way, in the same order. I mean, as Moses did, it has been said in the 1St 40 years of his life, he was learning to be somebody. He was learning. To be an important individual in this world, to fill an important place as he felt, and to do something in this world for himself and perhaps for others. And then the second part of his life, he was in the backside of the desert. And I suppose we would say in those forty years that he spent on the backside of the desert, how they were years when, as a natural man might look at them, they almost seemed like wasted years. What good was he doing to himself or to anyone else minding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, on the backside of the desert? He might have said all these are just wasted years. And there might be some young person here who would say, well, I can understand getting my education and preparing myself for life are very important. But I've sort of come to a standstill and I can't see any good coming out of these years at all. I'm not learning anything and it just seems that I'm humdrumming on through life and nothing is really being accomplished. But those were very necessary years in the life of Moses. 40 years, a long time. But I suppose with most of us, we don't even learn that in 40 years. Well, what did he learn? He learned that he was nothing. And I suppose many of us will admit that as long as we have lived, and I've lived a few years more than 40, I still don't know whether I've learned that lesson very well. So it does take us a long, long time. To even begin to learn that we're really nothing. And then in the last 40 years of his life, he was learning that God was sufficient for every circumstance that it was possible for him to meet individually or God's people collectively. That was perhaps the brightest part of it all. That was the lesson that was really very important if he was going to have that which would be an abiding and useful life. And we have to learn that too. We have to learn, dear young people. People that what really counts in our lives is, as we have this morning, when we give the Lord His rightful place and when we give the Lord His rightful place in connection with all our dealings, not only in connection with our everyday business and affairs, but also in connection with the people of God that. Sometimes seemingly a much harder one because when we set out to do so. Thing and be useful for the people of God. That kind of a life too, is not without its frustrations and disappointments, and Moses experienced that in the last 40 years of his life. Well, I just mentioned this briefly in order that we might think of Moses life in this way and that as I say, we might fit it into our own lives and think of how God is teaching us these things. It says in Job who teacheth like him there is no one else. When I tried to teach my children I was either too harsh or too easy. I wasn't always wise, but you know God.

Always knows. What is just right for us never makes any mistakes, and we can say confidently with the psalmist As for God, his way is perfect. What is really going to count is that we accept the things that God allows and profit by them, as it says in the 8th chapter of Romans. Looking at it in a natural way, it says. We are for thy sake, we are killed all the day long we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. And the next verse says nay, nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Do you feel that all day long you're being killed, that everything seems to be going wrong? He says no, that's not the way it is at all. Those things that seem so killing, so difficult, so upsetting, they are not really intended for that purpose. But the next verse says in all these things we are more than conquerors. We not only find in the Lord the grace to rise above the problems and situations of life, but we can profit by them and we can profit by them for time, and we can profit by them. Eternity. When our lives pass into review, what is really going to count is that which has met with the Lord's approval. Well these 40 years, then the 1St 40 years in Moses life, as I say, he had no choice where he would be born. He didn't have any planning to do, nor do you and I. And have you been placed in a situation that you say, oh I wish that I hadn't been brought up where I am. It's so difficult in the place where I live, the district where we live. The meeting is a hard. For a young person to be well, Moses didn't have any planning to do about that at all. God planned it, and it was in a very, very difficult time. And anything but what he would have desired. Because any person, any man of faith would have desired to be in the land of Canaan, that good land, that land flowing with milk and honey which God had promised to his people. And who of us wouldn't like to be brought? Up in a home where there was plenty and where there wasn't sickness, and where things were favorable, nice father and mother, a pleasant assembly, and all these kind of things, That would be our natural choice, wouldn't it? But when Moses was born, it was at a time when a decree had been passed that all the baby boys who were born were to be thrown into the river. Perhaps we're living in a similar day today. Perhaps we're living at a time when the enemy is making a special attack on our young boys. Because it's God's intention that the boys should take the space, the place of leadership, that they should be the ones who take that place and give the example so that when the time comes, if it's God's will that you should have a home and that you hold that place in love and. And in a way that shows that you are prepared to be a godly leader in your home and two, in the assembly, that you should think about how you perhaps can be someone who would be useful and give that kind of godly leadership that is so necessary. Well, the enemy didn't want these boys to grow up to be anything like that. They didn't want to see somebody grow up to be like Moses, who was. Willing to risk his life in order to help the people of God. Certainly King Pharaoh didn't want anything like that to happen. And I say to you boys. The enemy doesn't want you to present this kind of leadership. He's going to bring everything possible into your life to destroy that so that you

will not be conscious of the place and responsibility that belongs to you as a young man whom God has given that place of responsibility. Well, Moses was born at just a time like this, when it was the plan of the king to throw all these boys into the river. And now perhaps I might just speak a few moments to those who are young parents, because although this is an address to young people, I know that there is some here who allow your marriage. You're perhaps still, if you weren't married, you'd be considered a young person.

So I'm going to just say a few words to you that. But here we're told that when Moses was born, it says that he was hid three months of his parents because they saw that he was a proper child. I speak to young parents here and if you love the Lord and God gives you children. I'm sure that the whole plan, as far as the world is concerned, is how to fit your children into the country where we are, whether it's the United States or Canada, that they would become useful citizens and that they would make their mark in life, that they would climb up to be something. As we look at our children, whom the Lord has given to us, we do have a responsibility in regard to their clothes. We have a responsibility. In regard to their education, their health and many other things, to see that they develop properly and are happy in the home. But I say, have we looked upon our children as being, it says here, a proper child, or as we have in Acts Chapter 7 where we find Stephen addressing the crowd there, he said. That he was exceeding fair, the margin says fair to God. Do we, do we realize that our children, whom God has given to us, are fair to him Now they're born into a wonderful place of privilege. Scripture even speaks of them as being holy, That is, relatively they're not to be brought up just like the world. They're to be brought up as a separated people who belong to the Lord. Do we as young parents realize this? Do we look with real serious? Minds on our. Children, well, this this did a little made it necessary to do a little planning. The decree had gone out that these boys were to be thrown into the river. And so it tells us here that he was hid three months of his parents. In other words, they sought to protect him as long as they could from all those forces that would seek to ruin him. And I say to young parents, there are all these forces at work. Do you and I? Parents try to protect our children against these things. Do we do what they did? They made this little ark of bulrushes and they pitched it within and without with pitch, and they put that little ark in the water and hid it there among the reeds by the river's bank. In other words, they it seemed to me that they recognized that this child was born under a sentence of death, and now they were going to. And see that it was protected because they wanted to recognize that, but they also wanted to recognize that God was above every situation and was able. And we need to be fully aware of the day in which we live are surrounded with everything that marks death. But we see them as brought into this place of privilege and favor. And so they sought to protect their child. Well, you might say it, it was an impossibility. Well, you know, God is a God of impossibilities. With God, nothing shall be impossible. The very person they would have feared the most to come down to the rivers brink. And find that child was the very person who did it. Why, they might have thought some stranger would come down, but Pharaoh's daughter. Why, what a dashing to their hope. Sparrow's daughter to find this child. But the King's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water. He turneth it whithersoever he will do. I hear some parents say it's impossible in a day like this? Oh no, nothing's impossible with God. Maybe the situation and the person you fear the most. Maybe. The very one whom God uses as a means if you count upon him and they counted upon God. We're told here by faith. He was head three months of his parents. And so I would just seek to encourage you that you might have that faith, that confidence that counts upon God. You look at circumstances they see most frustrating and disappointing. But when you know that God is the God of circumstances.

That he's above everything, that nothing happens by chance, and that he is able to make the wrath of man, to praise him and to restrain the remainder of wrath, as the scripture says he's able. And he was able here. And so instead of the child being thrown into the river, it's taken out and given back to its mother to bring up. Oh, how wonderful are the ways of God. And I just say this little word of encouragement to young parents, Don't be discouraged. We're living in dark days. The Lord was brought up in Nazareth, and when Nathanael talked about Nazareth, he said, can any good thing come out of Nazareth? To be brought up in a difficult day and to be brought up at a time when things are very hard doesn't mean that God isn't able. He's above everything, the most high rules in the Kingdom of men and gives it to whomsoever he will. And so a little child is brought up, brought to Pharaoh's court, and the mother is given the privilege of being the nurse. So here again we see the hand of God even behind the child's education, because we were told in another place, and that Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. Now all this might have seemed like a preparation for him. Him to take a place on behalf of God's people, because now he would become a person of influence in Egypt. He was probably in line to be the next Pharaoh. He was probably one who would have had a great deal of influence on behalf of God's people if he had remained in his position. In fact, as another has said, Providence put him in that position, but faith took him out of it. I say that again. Providence put him in that position, but faith took him out of it. Did God want to improve conditions for his people in Egypt? No, He wanted his people to leave Egypt. Does God want us to improve conditions in this world? Is that why he's left us here? No. The Christian camp set the world right. We're not intended to set the world right. We're intended to set individuals. If I can use the expression set them right with God. But we have nothing to do with setting the world system right. The world is under judgment. It's condemned, and you and I have no part in setting it right. As Mr. Darby said, we have no principles to act upon. The world's principles all center around self, and God's principles all center around the glory of His beloved Son. And so we have nothing to do with setting it right. Moses received his education. All you say the children are exposed to terrible things in their education. Well, I think that there must have been the soul with Moses too. It must have been very, very unpleasant situations to which Moses was exposed, living in that dark land. And there certainly would be no influence connected with God or His rights or the Bible or anything like that in the court of Pharaoh where Moses was educated. Was God able to preserve him? Yes, yes, He was. Is he able to preserve us? Is He able to preserve you, dear young people? Oh, indeed He is. He's able. He's able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. And may the Lord encourage you to be faithful. I'm sure as Moses was receiving his education. There were a great many thoughts going through his mind. What am I going to do? When I'm through here, what am I going to be the pharaoh of Egypt or am I going to cast in my lot with these despised people of God? And that's the way it is when we're growing up. We we have all kinds of. Shall I say little individual fights with our own conscience and decisions to be made, and we go through a kind of upheaval as we are looking at things. What are we to do? We can't just live on the example of others. As a matter of fact, Moses had no one on earth really to look to except his parents. But if he was going to be faithful to the Lord, it was going to cost him something. And it always costs something to give the Lord his rightful place. I can't promise you, dear young people, that it's going to be an easy path.

We must through much. Tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God unto you. It is given on the behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake. And as you go through all these turmoils in your mind about just what you're going to do, how you're going to decide to go on in life, may the Lord grant that you will come to the decision that Moses did when he was come to years. Now of course come to years in Moses life. 40 years of age, but he lived a lot longer than most of us could ever expect to. You may come to years. You may come to this decision in your life, perhaps fairly young. You may come when you decide that you have to know what kind of work you're going to follow. What is your choice going to be about, what you're really going to set as your goal in life. Paul set for his goal. The Lord Jesus In the next chapter we're encouraged to set for our goal the Lord Jesus well. Moses had a decision to make and when he was come to years, it says

he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. His first decision was a -1. We usually find it's the same thing. I believe that's why the Bible says cease to do evil and then the next one learn to do well. If you find yourself in a wrong position. If you find yourself in some. Association or some friendship or whatever that you know is wrong. Don't wait and say, well if I can see a way out of this then I'll take it Now cease to do evil. Moses had to come to a decision not knowing how things would work out at all. Refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter could have meant anything for him. He was, I say again, making a negative decision. And at least one thing I know that I'm not the one to be in the position of the pharaoh of Egypt. I belong to God and I belong to his people by association. And this is no place for me. Is there any young person here? And you're just in that spot today. You know that. What you have decided to take up and go along with is not really a position or a path in which you can honor the Lord. And then I say, by God's grace, cease to do evil. Look up to the Lord, make this decision in your mind, and ask the Lord for grace to carry it out, even if you've got away. When Naomi was down in the land of Moab. She had been there about 10 years. God had been speaking to her and to her family, and at last she realized that first of all, she must forsake Moab. That was no place for her to be. And it says she went forth out of the land of Moab. Or is she going to be received in the land of Canaan? She didn't know. He didn't know whether they'd welcome her back or not. And they certainly might be very displeased when she brought Ruth back with her who was a Moabite. Now that would only make her less favorable, as she might have thought. But you see, God is behind everything. He's the God of circumstances. And when they left Moab, then God worked out the rest. ** *** was received very lovingly. When she came back, Ruth was received too. God was able to work out all the problems, but the best thing was to leave MOB when they knew MOB was wrong. And dear young people, if you know the position you're in is wrong, I say to you. This afternoon, cease to do evil. I can think of other people in our own generation and they first of all discovered the position they were in was wrong. They didn't say, well, if something better opens up or if I can see how this will go, I'll take the step. No, cease to do evil. He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He was not that. He was in the light of faith. He belonged to the people of God. Actually, he was the tribe of Levi, the ones whom God had set apart. To be used for him and to approach to him. So we find here that he refuses to be called a son of Pharaohs daughter. And then it says he chose rather. What did he choose?

He refused something, but now he chooses. And what he chooses is not, as we might say, to have a good time with the people of God. Sometimes we hear it brought before young people. Well, you can have a good time following the Lord with God's people. Well, you can. That's very true. And I look back on a very happy life for which I'm thankful to the Lord. But don't make your decision on that basis. Oh no. Because it may be very frustrating and disappointment. You may not have such a good time. There may be a lot more problems than you anticipate. Because God doesn't promise you that it's going to be an easy path. Those who make a decision in Russia to follow Christ don't make a decision on the idea that it's going to be an easy path. They may be banished to Siberia. They may have to suffer in prison for Christ's sake. And who can tell that if you make a decision to follow Christ, it's going to be easy? I say that it may not be, it may be and it may entail a path of suffering, but that was the decision that he made. He chose rather to cast in his lot with the despised people of God. Was read to us this morning. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the Cam bearing his reproach. God doesn't promise that our pathway is going to be an easy one, but in contrast with it, he saw an easier path. He saw pleasure. He saw that there were those that were, so to speak, having a good time, but it was for a season. And that's the way with all the pleasures of sin, they're all for the season. The pleasures of sin are in the act. There's no pleasure afterwards. Many, many young people. People who are trying to indulge in the pleasures of this world are finding out to their own sorrow that they don't satisfy. Don't envy them, dear young people, They haven't got what really satisfies you. And I who know the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we have that which truly satisfies the heart. It may not be an easy path, but as we had in the meeting this morning. There can be joy. The time when the Lord Jesus rejoiced in spirit, we noticed was at the very time when it tells us that Moses that when it tells us that the nation turned away from him and he accepted the rejection of the nation as from the Lord. And sometimes the happiest moments of our lives when we are when we have learned to look up and say. Lord, I accept it from Thee, And the peace with which he floods the soul, the joy that He gives, more than compensates for anything that we might have given up. And so he chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. And then it says he did see something worthwhile living for. Esteeming the reproach of Christ. Greater riches. Than the treasures in Egypt. He refused and he chose, and now he esteemed. He had a proper sense of values, and we all have a sense of values. When I crossed over in the United States, I had to realize that the Canadian dollar wasn't as valuable as the American dollar. We have to get a sense of values. When I go to buy something at home, I give a dollar and it's accepted as a dollar, but not here. It's not the same. And you know, we can. Have a wrong sense of values in spiritual things too. And here we find that he had a proper sense of values. He esteemed the reproach of Christ. Greater riches than the treasures in Egypt. And you and I have to learn this. What do we really esteem worth while? Is it to get along? Is it to be at the top of the class? Is it to be well thought of by all our friends? Is that what we're striving for? Is that the thing that really counts to us? Well, not with Moses. He, it says he esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, to be despised for the name of Christ. Was worthwhile to him, and so isn't it so with us? And if you've never experienced it, you have missed something. There is a joy that the Lord gives in the confession of His name. And when we have a right sense of values, as Paul did to him, he looked at everything as to how it would appear when it was manifested at the judgment seat of Christ. And that's the way we ought to look at the things that we do through the day.

How is this going to look? When it comes out at the judgment seat of Christ. That's why Paul could say we labor that whether present or absent, we may be agreeable to him. How is your life and mine? How are the things we did today? How are the things we did on Thursday and Friday and Saturday going to look in that day when they're manifested in the presence of the one who gave his life to have us with himself? That's what really is going to count how they appear in man's day. Is relatively unimportant, and I was reading about Christopher Columbus, a very notorious name in history, but he ended his life in absolute sorrow and disappointment and disgrace. Was was it worthwhile for him to do all those things? Well, it certainly gave him honors in the beginning, but at the end it was all lost. And if he didn't have Christ as his savior, his life which has. Put his name in the Hall of Fame has been a lost life. And dear young people, I plead with you, live your life for Christ in view of eternity. Esteeming their reproach of Christ. Oh, you say people laugh at me and I just can't take it. I can't take it to have people laugh at me. Ah, but isn't it better to have the Lord's approval in that coming day to have him? Say, Well done, thou good and faithful servant, to know that you did what was pleasing to him, O dear young people, that's what really counts. He had respect under the recompense of the reward. He he counted it what the Lord would recompense as being far better than all the riches of Egypt, and all the pleasures of Egypt, and all the glory of Egypt. And Saul, then he made a final decision. He forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king. How could he do it? He endured as seeing him who is invisible. Now that's where faith comes in. Faith makes real to us what we haven't seen. First verse of this 11TH chapter says now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. That is, faith makes real to us what? We haven't seen, and that's what we need. We need to have those eternal things made real to us, and they're made real by faith. Does God speak the truth? Does he mean what he says? Does it really count? Well, we're going to find out in that coming day. And I've often said, surely any Christian at the end of his life who has followed the Lord will say, I'm certainly glad I did. No one who has chosen the easier path will say, oh, I'm glad I went after

the world. It really got me somewhere. Oh no, it really counts to follow Christ. And to live for him. So it says he refused, he chose, he esteemed, and then he endured, it says. He endured as seeing him who is invisible. And we were talking this morning about endurance. It's that endurance that's going on. Well, Moses now had made his decision. He goes to the backside of the desert and there it seemed like 40 wasted years. He was minding sheep. Oh my, what a what a let down for a man who has learned in all the wisdom of the. A man who had. Tried to deliver God's people, for he had really tried. It says he tried to set them at one when they were quarreling. And now to think that this man has been rejected. But notice what it says about him in Acts. It says he set himself up as a ruler and a judge. And may I just say a little word of precaution? Sometimes when we get overzealous as young people, we set ourselves up as rulers and judges.

And we don't like it when people kind of turn away from us. But perhaps it's the attitude that we have shown Moses. It says he attempted to be a ruler and a judge. He tried to correct things by his own energy. I've seen young people do this. Really well meaning young people and they try to do things in their own wisdom and in their own strength. And Moses now 40 years in Egypt and graduate from the schools of Egypt, learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. He can handle any situation. No, he couldn't. He couldn't handle a smaller situation with the people of God. And I want to tell you, dear young people. All the wisdom of this world will never help you to handle the problems of the Christian life. No, never, much less among God's people. We need the wisdom that comes from above. So they turned against Moses, who tried to be a ruler and a judge. Feeling it's absolutely used to us. He threw up his hands, as it were, and is there some young person and you say I cried. It's no use. I really meant well and the Lord knows my heart. And so there he spends those 40 years now on the backside of the desert. They seemed like wasted years, but they were necessary years because God was emptying him of himself. He was showing Moses that what he required. If he was going to use him, was not all the wisdom of Egypt, not all that zeal that would set himself up as capable to handle any situation. Oh, no one young man who really wanted to serve the Lord. He said he wasn't going to be. He wasn't going to try to be a help. He was going to be a help. Well, he was very frustrated and disappointed before very long. You and I have to learn without me. Can do nothing. Well, back in the backside of the desert, it seems that God passes over those years in comparative silence. He got married back there. He had two children, but he was learning. You can tell by what he named his children. The first one he named a stranger here, and the next one he called. God is my help. Oh, that was nice, wasn't it? A stranger here. Yes. That's all we are in this world. We're strangers here. But God is our help. That's what God was teaching him. And we need to learn this. Dear young people, We're strangers here, Peter says. We're strangers and we're pilgrims, but God is our help. God is our help. And so at the end of those 40 years, the Lord appears to Moses on the backside of the desert and says. Moses I've seen the affliction of my people, which are in Egypt. I think Moses didn't think that God had seen it. Largest act to say he hasn't seen all the problems that I'm having to meet and the way people have acted toward me when I really tried all these things. Surely if God saw them, He would do something for me. And the Lord after 40 years comes to Moses and said, Moses, I've seen it, I've seen it. You didn't think that I had seen it, but I have. I know their sorrows. And I am come down to deliver them. Moses is learning now. That he is nothing and that God is everything. Is there some young person and the Lord is passing you through something like this in your life and you're finding out that you say I tried. I've watched the lives of quite a few young people. I've seen them start out and they've tried too. But you know, God has to show us sooner or later that we can't do anything in our own strength. Without me, you can do nothing. Nothing, and it means nothing. And Moses now. Coming to this point, and the Lord says, Moses, take off the shoes from your feet. The place whereon you stand is holy ground. I've seen what's going on in Egypt, and now Moses, seeing you have learned something of your own nothingness. Now I'm going to send you. And it's interesting what the Lord says, the one who wanted to be a ruler and a judge, the Lord sent to be a ruler and a deliverer. Quite different, isn't it? To be a ruler and a judge of God's people is one thing. To be a ruler and a deliverer? I've been very much struck. I may have mentioned this before, but I think it's been some help to me in my Christian life. A little remark that I read in Mr. Darby. He said Christianity is known by what it brings, not by what it finds.

Just think about that a little bit. You find certain things that are discouraging and disappointing. What do you bring? What do you bring? What did Moses bring? All. He came back, not a person who was going to slay an Egyptian and have a quarrel with one of his brethren, but he was going to come back now to be useful because God had shown him that he couldn't do anything, but God could do everything. He could. Undertake their 'cause he didn't need to have, he didn't need to have. Moses as the next Pharaoh to deliver them. Oh no, he was going to use them. He was going to use his own power. And if Moses was content to be nothing, then he could use him too. And so we find that God uses Moses now. He has been emptied of himself, and you notice when God calls him. This same man who had been mighty in words and deeds, after 40 years in the school of God, he says, Lord, I can't even talk. He said. I'm a man that's slow of speech. He wasn't that way when he came out of the school of Egypt. He was mighty in words and deeds. If you'd been listening to him, you'd say that's an accomplished young man, he's got a good future ahead of him. But after the school of God, a man that can't talk, No, you can't talk unless the Lord gives you something to say. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God. Let us learn that, brethren, that we can't say anything right unless God gives us even the very words to say. He teaches us entire dependence upon Him. And so now Moses is picked up and used of God. God uses him to show in the land of Egypt those mighty signs and wonders. And we find how that king Pharaoh did his very best. Now to keep those people in Egypt, he used different attempts to try and keep them there. He first suggested that they would worship in the land, and then he suggested that they wouldn't go very far away. And then he suggested that they would go. And. Just the man would go and leave the mothers and children back there. But Moses said now we're going to go that every bit of us, we're going to go ourselves and our children. We're going to take our flocks with us all to your young people. We belong to Christ. If you get married, be sure you marry a Christian. Bring up your family for the Lord, and don't enter any business where you can honor the Lord. We must. If we're going to be happy Christians, we must acknowledge His claims over everything. And so we find here. That Moses here is used of God to lead the people out and lead them through the Red Sea. It's very interesting what it says here about Moses. It says in the 28th verse, through faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood. To me that's very interesting little comment. Was Moses better than the rest of the people? Now he needed the blood on his door just as much as any Israelite. And I only stand here because I'm redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, not because I'm any better than anybody else. I needed the shelter from the judgment myself, and every individual needs it. And Moses needed to remember that. And now he leads the people out. And now what is he going to learn in the wilderness? He had realized his own emptiness on the backside of the desert. Now he's beginning to see that God is everything. And now he leads the people through the Red Sea. Surely now, after he's learned these things in the school of God, things are going to go comparatively smoothly for him. Did they? Did they? If you set out to follow the Lord Jesus, am I telling you that it's going to be a path where you'll be accepted and everybody will appreciate you and really value you and what you do? Oh no. Moses had to learn that if he was going to be used among the people of God. He had to be gone very humbly. He had to realize that things were not going to be easy. True, when they crossed the Red Sea, they all sang together. Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, saying, The Lord hath triumphed gloriously, the horse and the rider hath he thrown into the sea. But it wasn't very long until.

They were complaining and blaming Moses and. When they came to Marrow, where the waters were bitter, and when they came to the place where there was no bread and no water, they began to get blamed. They began to blame Moses. Well, you say I tried and they blamed me. Even the things I tried to do, I got blamed. Instead of being, instead of being appreciated, I got blamed. So what did Moses do? Did he say, oh, it's no use? I know it's no use to set things right in each Egypt, but it's not. Before you was trying among the people of God, either the Lord, he came to the Lord and he said, Lord, what shall I do? These people are ready to stone me. What stone the man whom God is now using. Yes, you may face that too. You may not be appreciated, but the Lord said to Moses, go on before the people, go on. And I want to say to you. Go on, I say to some of the young people who are getting a little older. Go on. Seek to be a help. You may get discouraged at times because you may not always be appreciated, but remember to have the Lord before you and to be doing what's pleasing to Him is what really counts. Then later on the people fell into the worship of the golden calf and the Lord said Moses, I'll destroy these people and I'll take you and your family, and I'll make of them a nation. Oh no, Moses. Said please don't take these people. I love them. I want them to be brought into. Sometimes we can become very selfish even in the things of God, and Moses is learning these things where he's learning that God is everything. He's seeing that God is teaching him even in the wilderness, and that there are joys and there are sorrows in seeking to serve him and follow Him. And then we find too, that. They rose up against him on different occasions, and we find that Moses turned to the Lord and said, the Lord said Moses, you lead the people through the wilderness and bring them into the land. Moses said, I can't do it unless thy presence go with me. Carry us not up thence all dear young people, These are some of the things that the Lord is seeking to teach us. And as I look down. On the young people that are here, maybe the Lord will come before you get very much older, but he may leave us a little while. And oh, what I desire as I look into your faces, is that you would seek to go on for the Lord. And I'm sure that these things that Moses learned, every one of us are going to have to learn if we're going to in any way. Be useful to the Lord. Let me say them again. We're. We're perhaps going to try and be somebody great in this world and do things in our own strength, and we're going to be frustrated. And then perhaps the Lord will show us that we're really nothing. He'll bring us right down. He'll bring us to the point where we realize that without Him we can do nothing. And then we'll have to learn. And we still need to keep on learning. That he loves his people. He loves them to the end. Never give up. When the Lord said to Moses, Moses just go on before the people and it's lovely to see young people just go on steadily growing in grace, seeking to live to please the Lord. I know that some of you are placed in assemblies where they're very small. Some things have happened in the assembly that are hard to take, but it's nice to see young people at seat to go on, have the Lord before them. Realize that to have. His approval and to please Him is what really counts. Well, may the Lord encourage you dear young people. The path may not be easy, but I am sure of this, that at the end when we look into the face of our blessed Savior and see Him face to face, the things that will really count are not those things that may seem very important here in this world. It's those things that have his approval and surely if there ever was a need. Among the people of God it is today. There's a need in the city where you live. There's a need in the school where you go. There's a need in the assembly. May each one of us be desirous to be used in some little way for the Lord and for His glory in the little time that remains to us. I say there's one who walked the path of faith perfectly, but I believe we can learn as we read of these others.

That which would encourage us. Because we fail. We're like Moses, but we have an unfailing captain, the captain of our salvation, the Lord Jesus. May we keep our eyes upon him and press on. So we sing that little hymn, 312. Lead on, Almighty Lord, lead on to victory. Encouraged by thy blessed word, with joy we follow thee, 312.

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